



FRIENDS OF WHITE OAK

Meeting Minutes

1-29-18 at 7pm

Members present were Barry Wides, Elisse Wright Barnes, Brian Downie, Fizie Haleem, Shane Pollin, Shana Davis-Cook and Pete Fosselman (staff). June Henderson and Richard Romer were necessarily absent. Two members of the community joined as well.

- Introductions for those not at the first meeting were given.
- Extra maps, ULI Homework list, vacancy stats and minutes were made available to the public.
- Pete reviewed the Board's new policy of only members at the table; and only members speak. The meetings are open to the public and minutes are made public. Board agreed to suggestion of a section on the agendas entitled "From the Public" or "Community Input".
- General updates were given by Pete.
 - A meeting requested by members of the African Immigrant community was conducted by Pete on the 25th; staff from DOT, MCEDEC, WorkSource and DHCA were present; about 65-70 people attended.
- Purpose and role of the Board were reviewed; a simplified hybrid between prior statement and Richard's suggestion was formed:
 - "The Friends of White Oak are advocates dedicated to ensuring the current success and developing the future potential of the White Oak Science Gateway for all who live, work and visit the area."
 - Board decided to not take on the duty of plan review for proposals in White Oak to avoid adding yet another layer to the development process; suggestion was made for the FOWO to host all developer proposal meetings at the Recreation Center (parking and bus access); also noted FOWO has a better network; FOWO should be on the Planning Board notices.
- Board would like to have staff from SHA, DGS and DPS as the first guest speakers at the March meeting; subject would be curb appeal (trash, vegetation, sign pollution) of the main thoroughfares.
- Office vacancy stats were reviewed from County Stat with no major comments.
- Board members were encouraged to participate in the Google Doc Project List online that Pete created; thus far only Barry has added to the list.
- Marketing

- MCEDC's brochure about White Oak is still not complete; expected by February.
- Elisse presented her idea of a *Places of Worship Tour* for the New Hampshire Avenue ("Highway to Heaven") corridor of White Oak and beyond; event could take place at holiday time with participation from the churches, mosques and temples; Pete to talk to Kelly Groff and Kasey Mansfield.
- Pete is working with DOT on a task order contract for marketing (branding, signage, placemaking) with a \$75K budget.
- Board suggested a central website be created for White Oak by the group brought into market.
- Pete to place the Board on the public notice list from the Planning Department for White Oak projects.
- Shane gave an update on the new Hilton Home2 Suites and the Hillandale Gateway projects.
 - Hotel is Targeting LEED NC Platinum; Aiming for 40% less energy than a code minimum building; will be open by the end of 2018.
 - A design Charrette was held in November for the Gateway; Investigating both Passive House (European standard) and Zero Net Energy Options in addition to LEED NC; Estimated Site Plan submission is July 2018.
- Next Steps
 - Pete to send around another Doodle Poll to determine next meeting in February 2018.
 - Board Member Criteria
 - Consideration of additional Board Members