



FRIENDS OF WHITE OAK
Meeting Minutes
4-4-19 at 7pm

Members present were June, Ken, Rachael, Dave, Brian, Elisse, Chris, Shane and Pete (staff). Fatmata, Barry, Shana, and Kim were necessarily absent.

- Pete welcomed everyone and did introductions for new Board Members.
- Minutes
 - Approved by email from March 14, 2019.
 - The Agenda and Minutes were made available to the public and posted on the website.
- From the Board
 - Dave introduced his placemaking/identity idea of using food as a tool for economic development. The concept is to identify White Oak as a destination for great food while capitalizing on the FDA and unique cultures in White Oak. Dave has spoken with the Food Council, Adventist Hospital, and other possible stakeholders. A mix of ideas such as a farmers' market, food incubator, and food festival were noted.
 - Brian requested clarification. Rachel gave some background.
 - Shane said he was working with the HOC on a food incubator in Wheaton and the bigger issue for White Oak would be finding the right space along with capital resources.
 - June thought a community garden off Lockwood might mix well. And suggested flower pots at key intersections; maybe even grow vegetables as food theme.
 - Pete mentioned the concept fits well with the FOWO priorities, gave an example of a successful restaurateur born from the Kensington Farmers' Market. Also noted the White Oak Rec Center has the perfect and underused kitchen facility.
 - Shane also reminded FOWO of the three nodes of the Master Plan (Life Sciences, White Oak and Hillandale) and suggested placing the effort into filling the 6K sq. ft. retail space coming to Hillandale Gateway with a unique restaurant.
 - Rachael and Pete suggested Jackie's, Blacks or Pacci's Trattoria.
 - The Board gave their blessing for Dave to continue researching.

- Comments by Pete
 - Letter to County officials requesting continued funding for the White Oak marketing is ready, but Pete is waiting for the final Plan from Sharp & Co.
 - Commander Montgomery has assigned Lieutenant Bruce Cole to the FOWO meetings and Pete suggested the Board assign an official seat on FOWO for Cole. It was agreed.
 - Barry has organized another White Oak Clean-Up and it will be on Saturday, May 4th from 10am to 1pm. Chris requested the flyer be sent around again.
 - Adventist Hospital is to open this August 2019.
 - A successful training for business owners was held last week in White Oak for the Summer Rise Program; which mentors students for future careers.
 - Barry (by email) suggested FOWO have someone from the Silver Spring Innovation Center be a future guest speaker. Pete suggested the meeting could also be with the business community like the March marketing meeting.

- From the Public
 - No comment

- Moving Forward – 2019 Priorities for FOWO
 - Dave led the discussion the priorities exercise in March and Pete has now placed the results into a PowerPoint pyramid format which he shared.
 - The Master Plan is at the top, followed by activities to create a sense of place, transportation network, and more amenities as the top four.
 - Pete suggested the Board start following development proposals more closely and advocate by testifying and writing letters to the Planning Board.
 - The Board discussed the 7th priority (interacting with schools) to possibly focus on making the proposed elementary school in Viva White Oak a special science and tech facility. There is an effort being led by Charise Scott, VP of the local PTA.

- Shane discussed the April 11th opening of the Hilton Home2 Suites. The new hospitality location is aiming for a LEED Platinum designation from the U.S. Green Building Council, has additional conference room space and an indoor pool. Board would like a tour of hotel as well as a presentation of the proposed Hillandale Gateway project adjacent to the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) campus. Maybe for our May meeting.

- Meeting adjourned