



**FRIENDS OF WHITE OAK**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**5-7-19 at 7pm**

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

- Pete welcomed everyone and noted the new exhibit with an enlarged version of the Board’s priorities.
- Minutes
  - Approved by email for April 4, 2019.
  - The Agenda and Minutes were made available to the public and posted on the website.
- From the Board
  - Dave gave a briefing on his findings for a Food Forum/Innovation District. He was recently appointed to the County’s Food Council and has been working with the director, Heather Bruskin on ideas for White Oak. The Food Council would like to co-host an event with FOWO. This half day event would have speakers and would need a small funding source(s).
    - Shana commented that from responses on the next-door listserv (Dave shared responses from his online interaction), it appears people want actual food establishments, so maybe a food truck night is a better event to get started. Ken requested the benefits for the community and Dave noted bringing people together, employment possibilities, press for White Oak and how it fit into several of the Board’s priorities. June mentioned how successful Mid-Atlantic Seafood was and maybe White Oak needed a location to which Shane reminded the Board of his available 6K sq. ft. coming to Hillandale. June also mentioned the co-op system in Takoma Park. Brian was curious about the title of “innovation” and Dave said it was up to the Board to decide what the “innovation” focus of the district would or could be.
    - The Board blessed further research by Dave and more details for a possible 2020 forum. In the meantime, FOWO would like to establish a farmers’ market and/or have a food truck event. Pete is to investigate both.

- Barry's arrival was delayed, so Pete gave an overview of the White Oak Clean-up Day that was held on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-five volunteers helped pick up over 1000lbs of trash.
- Hillandale Gateway Project Overview by Shane
  - Shane reminded the Board of why FOWO was created: to advocate for the master plan projects and transportation improvements. Shane included comments regarding the LATIP process and his urging FOWO remain involved as the LATIP discussion continues related to Hillandale Gateway. He then shared Duffie family history and the projects they are focused on in White Oak. Hotel opened in April and it is designed to achieve a LEED Platinum certification. The joint effort between The Duffie Companies and the Housing Opportunities Commission will be Hillandale Gateway (mixed use with a 25% MPDU target). It is in the planning stages and the goal is for one building to be a net-zero project. Renderings were shared. The Duffie Companies anticipates submitting for Site Plan and Preliminary Plan approval in the coming weeks. They hope to earn approval in 2019.
  - Board members asked general questions but were very supportive and enthusiastic.
- Comments by Pete
  - Letter to the Executive and County Council was sent. Pete requested FOWO send in individual letters of support as well as from their communities/organizations. Also, Rachael was able to get a letter of support from the State Delegation to the Council.
  - The next meeting will be June 11<sup>th</sup> and Pete will send out a Doodle Poll for the July and September meetings.
  - The Planning Board has a vacancy and Pete noted some to the names on the applicant list. He encourages the Board to advocate for a candidate who is master plan friendly and to send in letters of support.
- From the Public
  - No comment
- Meeting adjourned