

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

2400 Arcola Ave, 2nd floor, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday November 13, 2018

Members Present: William Jelen, Chair; Chelsea Johnson, Vice Chair; Omar Lazo, William Moore, Mirza Donegan, Mariela Garcia-Goldberg, Jim Epstein, Leah Haygood, Ron Franks, Megan Remo

Staff Present: Luisa Montero-Diaz, Mid-County RSC Director; Kevin Jackson, Aide

Guests: Matt Johnson, AICP, BiPPA Project Manager MCDOT; Keith Compton, MCDOT; Neil Greenberger, MC PIO; Laura-Leigh Palmer, resident; Justin Stone, SBAP, Dept. of Finance

Call To Order: 6:39pm by Chair Jelen. He welcomed new members, Jim Epstein and Mariela Garcia-Goldberg. Luisa mentioned that they had just been confirmed that morning. Jim and Mariela gave WUDAC a brief background on themselves.

Review Minutes: Due to a lack of quorum at last month's meeting, the Meeting Minutes drafts from September and October were reviewed. Motions were made and passed to approve both sets of Minutes without changes.

Wheaton Revitalization Project:

a. Keith Compton, Revitalization Project Manager, MCDOT, updated WUDAC on the progress of the Lot 13 development. They continue to track to a May 2020 finish. Now it is 40% complete. In December they will reach street level with 4 garage levels complete; ready to begin bottom floor with a new floor completed every 14 days. A top out of the building is projected June-July 2019. He reviewed the progress of the utility upgrades in the area. The utility poles will be removed in January. At that time the contractors will also begin work on the site of the old regional center. Members raised concerns about Reddie Drive and issues concerning damage to Triangle business property. Keith will follow up on these concerns.

b. Justin Stone, SBAP Manager, Dept. of Finance, reviewed the status of the assistance program. Councilmember Navarro sponsored the addition of \$200,000 to the program and the County Council unanimously approved. There have been 30 disbursements to 16 applicants. LEDC has been helpful in working with Triangle businesses to submit paperwork. Luisa mentioned that 3 businesses had testified that the money was a lifesaver for them.

c. Neil Greenberger from the MC Public Information Office reviewed their efforts to promote the Triangle businesses. He will soon be taking more responsibility at MCDOT and this project. Right now everything is on hold awaiting the priorities of the new Administration. He noted that County Executive-Elect Elrich will be holding Listening Sessions around the County and he urged everyone to attend to make your concerns heard.

Community Concerns: None

Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan/Wheaton Impact: Matt Johnson BiPPA project Manager, MCDOT, shared the history of this Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas program which was created in 2015. Thirty areas have been identified in the County. The first five BiPPA areas considered for evaluation and construction as funds become available are Silver Spring, Grosvenor, Wheaton,

Glenmont, and Randolph/Veirs Mill. Wheaton is now funded for planning but not yet construction but they have been working on small projects. They will be starting one on Amherst shortly. They would love to get WUDAC feedback on what should be a priority. Member discussion followed with concerns about median fencing and allowing Right Turn on Red at intersections. Members expressed a desire to invite SHA to a meeting. If needed, Megan and Bill will formulate a letter to SHA about fence options.

Reports:

a. County Council: Luisa mentioned that Councilmember Navarro wrote a letter to Governor Hogan on the recent pedestrian fatalities in the area. The SHA was called to a Council hearing. Greg Slater, Administrator of the MD State Highway Administration, appeared. Some issues discussed were traffic calming measures, speed, striping, lane width, pedestrian safety audits and pathways to funding, bus stops and signals. Mr. Slater stated that SHA will work with the County on these issues.

Luisa noted that Councilmember Navarro mentioned a letter by former WUDAC member Dan Thompson during the hearing. The council will create a task force.

b. Chamber of Commerce: William Moore, on behalf of the Chamber, shared that the Chamber BOD is working on a survey to send to members to solicit areas of concern. He also shared news of a mixer that was held at AVA Wheaton. They also are co-sponsoring a Friendsgiving event this Thursday with Kensington Park Senior Living where they will be collecting canned food for donation to Manna. They will be kicking off their Angels for Children Toy Drive in partnership with MHP at Los Chorros on Wednesday Dec. 5th. In addition, they are currently accepting donations for their Holiday on Duty program to provide meals to first responders during the upcoming holidays when many restaurants are closed.

c. Mid-County RSC/Wheaton Urban District Report: Luisa reported that the nomination of Stuart Amos of Westfield to join WUDAC is on the November 27 Council agenda. The 3rd annual Wheaton Film Festival at Chuck Levins has sold out. The Feasibility Study group will be back this week to report to the Council and other stakeholders. Luisa also noted that she was updating contact info on members to share amongst themselves and wanted to know if anyone objected.

Business & Action item Updates:

a. Planning Retreat/Wheaton Forum Next Steps: Chair Jelen handed out the agenda for the upcoming retreat. Member discussion followed. Bill requested that members take the lead on specific topics to steer discussion during the retreat.

New Business:

a. Meeting with Casey Anderson: Chair Jelen briefly mentioned a meeting he attended with Casey Anderson. Not many takeaways but he noted Mr. Anderson supported the idea of Pop-Ups.

Adjourn: 8:30pm