

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee (WUDAC)
Tuesday | February 11, 2024 | 7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Hybrid Meeting

In Attendance:

Call to Order:	Tanya Baskin, Chair				Respectfully Submitted by: Nina Koltnow
Date/ Time:	7 PM Tuesday, February 11, 2025				
Attendees:	X	Ali Oliver-Krueger (Vice Chair)	X	Nina Koltnow (Secretary)	X Tanya Baskin
	X	Dave Jarrett	X	Pedro Matamoros	
	X	Andrea Hernandez	X	Phillip Daley	
	X	William Cotter	X	Riana Cole	
	X	Kit Wood		Rob Fox	
Staff:	Luisa Cardona, Talia Beaulieu-Hains, Crystal Ruiz, Sydney Cooper				
Guests:	1. Marta Martinez, Program Specialist, Wheaton Urban District				

Guests: Kathia Chévez (Office of Natali Fani-González)

Public: Jim Epstein, Marta Martinez, Luis Estrada, Iamofficialdadon,

I. 7:00 pm Call to Order - Tanya Baskin, Chair

II. 7:03 pm Review and Approve January Minutes - Approved
Approve agenda - Approved

III. 7:05 pm Community Concerns - None

IV. 7:08 Elected representatives in attendance -

Kathia Chévez for Council Member Fani-González -

Spring will be busy: 2/24 town hall regarding state restaurant regulations, 10AM - noon in the Parks and Planning building.

Housing N.O.W. proposal introduced; community engagement 2/27 6 PM
Wheaton HS and virtual 3/3, 3/5, 3/20. The plan proposes a 5-step approach to homeownership for working residents “in the middle.”

<https://councilmemberfanigonzalez.com/newsletter/upcoming-town-halls-on-housing-and-restaurants/>.

The U-Visa bill is for victims or witnesses of crime; they may get a visa in exchange for helping law enforcement solve the crime.

V. Presentations - 7:13 PM -

1. Wheaton Rental Report

Marta Martinez, Program Specialist, Wheaton Urban District

(See slide presentation on this website.)

Facility reservations (CUPF: Community Use of Public Facilities) for Wheaton are coordinated with/through the county. See <https://www.wheatonmd.org/book-a-venue>. They include Marian Fryer Plaza, Wheaton Veterans Park, and Community Use Conference room.

Wheaton Community Access Program - there are county funds available to help community groups reduce costs for renting space in Wheaton. About \$15,000 have been awarded so far this year. There are about \$60,000 left.

Marketing is a challenge; working with Sydney on this. Parking is a challenge. Goal of the program is not clear: revenue or community access? There is a desire for gated/ticketed spaces, a warming kitchen for private events. WUD does not have private event venues. Is there a way to modify the Plaza to keep it more private?

Revenue vs community access: the \$75,000 in grants only covers renting the space, not paying staff. It is not all getting used. Why not allow those funds to also cover staff for a few years until Wheaton becomes better popularized? Maybe we could do that and cap the amount per grant. Perhaps WUDAC can address this at our next executive session with more quantitative information from Luisa and Marta.

Can we charge other agencies to hold events in Wheaton? The County agencies are not charged to use space, only for staff time if event is after hours. Our space is unique: we hold county meetings in a building owned by Parks and Planning, so there is more coordination required. Question remains: should we charge government agencies some portion of rental fee for use?

Highlights: The users are highly supported, and always come back. Event organizers are linked with local businesses for catering and dining. The experience is community-oriented, very purposefully. Marta's office is very responsive. Social media is utilized as feedback to amplify these programs.

Is there a brochure? Not much yet. All info is available on line through CUPF website. If you google "Wheaton Spaces," you will get to this. We will be working on more marketing material in the spring (including paper brochures). wheatonmd.org is a great gateway to all Wheaton resources.

Can the "Hold your next event in Wheaton" feature in the mid-county newsletter be more lively and inviting?

VI. Reports and Updates

1. Wheaton & Kensington Chamber of Commerce - Ali

1. Chamber will meet next week.
2. Speed networking event at Dish and Dram, Thursday, April 10 @ 5:30pm.
3. Business Expo at Kensington town hall in May.

2. Committee Reports -

- *Business and Economic Development: Ali, Kit, Pedro - No report*
- *Public Safety (Youth Crisis): Nina, Rob, Philip, David - No report*
- *Outreach And Communications: Tanya, Riana, Andrea, Will - no report*

Committees were recently reconfigured and set priorities for this year. Now is the time for committees to meet, choose a chair, and proceed to address these priorities.

3. Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) - Rob Fox - sick

4. Mid-County Regional Services Center/ Urban District Report - Luisa Cardona

Working on advocating for WUD's budget submissions. It is an extremely tight budget year. Conversations with County Executive and OMB went well. State and Federal budgets are currently heavily impacted.

Sidney Cooper - "I Love Wheaton" campaign on social media. Please follow us and tell us what you love about Wheaton. Comment, share! Come on into the

planning building and take a photo! We are publicizing the work of the Clean and Safe Team.

A Planning Board Public Hearing for the University Boulevard Corridor Plan has been scheduled for Thursday, February 27th at 6 pm at M-NCPPC's Wheaton Headquarters, Second Floor Auditorium, 2425 Reedy Drive, Wheaton.

Crystal Ruiz - During snow events, the Wheaton Clean and Safe Team spends the night in the building to be available ASAP to remove snow from sidewalks in high pedestrian corridors. Residents and business owners are required to clear their own sidewalks within 24 hours of an event. The Team partners with WMATA and Westfield and educates property managers in WUD. Now snow equipment is 90% electric, so very green.

VII. Adjourn 8:18 pm

NEXT WUDAC MEETING: Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 - 8:30