

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

Wheaton Rescue Squad Building, 2400 Arcola Ave 2nd Floor, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday May 08, 2018

Members Present: Leah Haygood, Chair; Megan Remo, Dan Thompson, Ron Franks, Mirza Donegan, William Moore, Omar Lazo, William Jelen

Staff Present: Luisa Montero-Diaz, Director Mid-County Regional Center

Guests: Richard Cisneros, LEDC; Pete McGinnity, SBAP, MC Dept. of Finance, Andrew Bossi, MCDOT; Rose Hacking, Aide to Councilmember Navarro

Call To Order: 6:38pm. The April Meeting Minutes draft was discussed. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes without changes.

Wheaton Revitalization: Pete McGinnity updated WUDAC members on the progress of the Small Business Impact Program. Things are moving more rapidly since Justin Stone was brought on board. 21 applications have been submitted. 2 showed no impact so the businesses received no payment. 7 applications are still pending. So far \$32610 has been dispensed, \$18756 is in process and \$80000 is still available. They have enough to cover till the end of the year. The County Executive has proposed \$250000 as a line item in FY 2019 budget. WUDAC member William More expressed concern about the bagging of meters on Ennalls and felt businesses were not properly informed. Bags were left on meters even when no work was being done, thus increasing an already difficult parking situation. Luisa Montero-Diaz responded that Joe Callaway is monitoring the situation and she would inform Keith Compton about this issue. She recommended everyone check the website for updated information.

Community Concerns: Omar Lazo, on behalf of his business Los Chorros, expressed concern about AVA charging their residents for parking. This leads to people parking all night on the public lot and taking all the spaces that are used by his patrons. Member discussion followed and a motion was made and passed to contact MCDOT about the situation.

William Moore, on behalf of his business IHOP, noted his concerns about what he thinks might be an illegal Church operating next door to Elbe's. They are doing construction and drawing crowds possibly without permits, and their patrons are parking illegally on his lot. Pete McGinnity recommended calling Permitting Services.

Montgomery County & Maryland State Highway Adm: Andrew Bossi, MCDOT Senior Engineer, led a discussion of the roles of the State Highway Administration and County DOT. He gave an overview of their operations. He is a liaison, having worked for both agencies. The issue of signal timing came up. He stated that the county is installing cameras to monitor traffic flow and they will be used in the future to adjust signal length. Members also inquired about the availability of written plans to improve intersections and about whether there was ever any joint meetings between the two departments. Another inquiry was made about the process for setting speed limits on various roads. Mr. Bossi was asked to convey WUDAC's concerns to SHA.

County Council Report: Rose Hacking, aide to Councilmember Navarro, updated WUDAC on Council activities. They are in the middle of budget discussions. Nancy Navarro pushed a resolution that all legislation has an analysis on equity so no interest groups would be shortchanged for the interests of another. Luisa mentioned that there is a \$21 million gap on the reconciliation list to close. Rose stated

they are going through the consent items to pare it down. Luisa also noted that land use decisions will be delayed until new Council members are seated.

Chamber of Commerce Report: William Moore announced two upcoming events, a ribbon cutting at Kensington Jewelers on May 18th and a County Executive candidates forum to be held May 22nd at the Holiday Park Senior Center

Mid-County RSC/WUD Report: Director Montero-Diaz updated WUDAC members on issues of the Wheaton Urban District.

- 37 volunteers painted 6 storm drains around Ennalls, Grandview and Veteran's Park.
- The consultants conducting the Arts/Cultural Center Feasibility Study completed interviews and Town Hall meetings and toured some County facilities. They will return in the near future.
- The Summer Concert Series will be at Veteran's Park starting June 21st through August 9th.
- Taste of Wheaton is June 3rd. We need to decide if WUDAC will have a table. Leah stated that we need a table to publicize input for talking tour items.
- MCCAB meeting is next Tuesday. Lily Qi, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, County Executive's Office, will discuss economic development in Montgomery County.
- The Georgia Avenue/Randolph Rd intersection construction is scheduled to be complete by August
- The Public Safety task Force will meet at the 4th District Police station on May 14th at 6:30pm

Business & Action Item Updates:

Wheaton Talking Tour Planning: Chair Haygood passed out a couple of handouts and directed planning discussion for the Talking Tour. Dan, Bill, Leah, Omar and Luisa have been working on the Issues List. Possible dates were discussed. July 18th seems likely. We went over candidates to invite and also concerns on the format that the questioning would take, who would moderate and the structure of the program so that it would fit into a two hour time limit.

Adjourn: 8:48pm