

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday November 14, 2017

Members Present: Ali Oliver-Krueger, Vice Chair; Omar Lazo, William Moore, Dan Thompson, Mirza Donegan

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

Guests: Brenda Sandberg, Program Manager, Mont. County Dept of Parks; Christina Sasaki, Planner Coordinator, Mont. County Dept. of Parks; Marquette Rodgers, Wheaton Hills Civic Association

Call To Order: 6:38pm by Vice Chair Oliver-Krueger. In the absence of a quorum the October Meeting Minutes draft was not brought forward for consideration

Wheaton Revitalization: Director Montero-Diaz updated WUDAC in the absence of Project Manager Keith Compton. They recently had a meeting with Triangle businesses on issues about the ongoing revitalization. There are still concerns with parking but disagreement on whether there is too much or too little enforcement. One problem that came up was the lighting in the area. Now that the Mid-County Center is closed the area is very dark at night. Keith is working with the developer to have more lights installed. Keith and Neil Greenberger of the Public Information Office are collaborating on creation of a mailing list to inform residents on patronizing the businesses and where to park. 15000 are planned to be mailed out and additional will be going to current customers identified by the businesses.

Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan: Brenda Sandberg and Cristina Sasaki from the Montgomery County Department of Parks led a discussion with WUDAC on a plan being developed to address open space needs in the County and create outdoor spaces where people of all ages can meet, play, relax, exercise and enjoy nature. The goal is to create welcoming spaces for social gathering and recreation that are no more than a ten minute walk from an identified population area thus eliminating the additional car traffic that people have used to access traditional recreation and entertainment areas. They presented a slide show on their work on developing the plan. This plan is now in front of the Montgomery County Council and is scheduled for a hearing on January 16th. They are asking for WUDAC's assistance in spreading the word and in sending a letter of support to the Council and possible testimony. Member discussion followed and topics included the connectivity issues associated with Brookside Gardens and issues concerning an identity for Veterans Park and Reddie Drive bisecting the new Town Square.

Community Concerns: Marquette Rogers introduced himself as a new officer in the Wheaton Hills Civic Association. He is concerned about walkability issues and is enthused about the Energized Public Spaces Plan presented earlier. Luisa informed all that the plot of land next to the new fire station now owned by SHA will revert back to County use and anyone interested can be proactive in expressing their wishes for it.

Ali Oliver-Krueger updated WUDAC on the upcoming African Dance program for the Wheaton Family Theater at 11am this Saturday at Glenallen Elementary School

County Council: No report

Chamber of Commerce: William Moore reported that they discussed the new minimum wage law and their upcoming Business Expo at their meeting today. They also heard a presentation on the Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan that was presented here tonight. William also announced that the Chamber has started collected donations for its Holiday on Duty meal program for first-responders.

Director's Report: 17 businesses have submitted financial aid forms for Impact Assistance. 4 have qualified and 2 have not qualified.

Luisa mentioned a recent Coffee with a Cop program at Ana Mendez University and a trash cleanup at Glenallen stream near Reddie and Bucknell that removed 70 pounds of trash.

She reported that the process to fill two resident vacancies on WUDAC was still ongoing and the vacancy created by Tami Axelrod's resignation will have to be advertised to start that process. William Moore asked all WUDAC members to try harder to attend meetings otherwise we would have trouble getting a quorum.

Old Business: Due to a lack of a quorum WUDAC was only able to discuss but not vote on a Thank You letter concerning the Wheaton Arts Parade.

New Business: Dan Thompson will draft a letter to the County Council concerning the Energized Public Spaces Master Plan but will also mention the issues of Brookside Gardens, Reddie Drive and Veteran's Park discussed earlier.

In December we will discuss a long anticipated A&E letter.

In January we will discuss the strategic plan and A&E annual report.

Retreat Review: A discussion was held concerning our recent retreat. We agreed to eliminate subcommittees and go with ad hoc groups as tasks warranted. A handout was presented containing retreat notes for review. Member discussion followed on how best to outreach to stakeholders in our community.

Adjourn: 8:07pm