

## **Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**

Wheaton Rescue Squad Building, 2400 Arcola Ave 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday December 12, 2017

**Members Present:** Leah Haygood, Chair; Ali Oliver-Krueger, Vice Chair; Mirza Donegan, William Moore, Megan Remo, Dan Thompson, Ron Franks, William Jelen

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

**Guests:** Pete McGinnity, Manager, Finance Dept. MOCO; Javier Solis, Maria Solis, Los Taxes; Neil Greenberger, MOCO PIO, Craig Wilson, Aide to Councilmember Navarro, Michael Darling, MCDOT

**Call to Order:** 6:41pm by Chair Haygood. She introduced William Jelen, a new member representing residents. William gave a brief background on himself. A motion was made and passed to approve the November 2017 meeting minutes without changes.

**Community Concerns:** Ali Oliver-Krueger, on behalf of Interact Story Theatre, reported that they are sharing office space with Tania Lazo at the Farmers Insurance Building, which is in the A&E District.

Javier Solis from Los Taxes shared his concerns about the confusion and inefficiencies surrounding the Small Business Assistance program administered by the County. Pete McGinnity responded on behalf of the County. Javier asked WUDAC to draft a letter to the Council concerning the way the Impact program is structured.

**Wheaton Revitalization:** Michael Darling, substituting for Project Manager Keith Compton, updated WUDAC on the construction progress. Next week the busses will be rerouted. Tiebacks will be complete by end of December and excavation will finish by end of December. The Regional building is scheduled to be demolished Jan.15. A South Tower crane will be erected weekend of Jan. 06 and North Tower weekend of Jan.27. This may necessitate temporary closing of Reddie Drive. Triangle Lane will remain open. Final design of the building will be finished by the end of March. Leah Haygood asked for WUDAC to be briefed on design changes. There is an upcoming meeting on design this Thursday with Park and Planning. Dan Thompson suggested connectivity to Mall and WMATA should be part of review and that WUDAC would like to know what happened to armature over connecting walkway

Neil Greenberger reported on the work of the Public Information Office regarding this project. They are investigating ways to make the construction site look better. Last week they mailed out 8000 letters in English and Spanish with information and a map of Triangle businesses. They will put up informational signs in the construction area. They will put a wrap around the project area to control dust and this wrap will also have info. He will issue a news release about bus route changes.

Pete McGinnity briefed WUDAC on the Small Business Assistance Program. So far there are 17 applications for assistance. 7 are complete and 2 did not qualify at this time. They have hired a bi-lingual manager to work full-time on the financial assistance program.

**Council Report:** No report, but Craig Wilson, aide to Councilmember Navarro, responded to a member question on commercial lease legislation to say the legislation died.

**Chamber of Commerce:** William Moore briefed WUDAC on the Angels for Children Toy Drive kickoff held at Los Chorros on December 6<sup>th</sup>. They partner with MHP and the Wheaton Rescue Squad to collect

toys to be distributed Christmas Eve at MHP properties in Wheaton. He also reported on the grand opening celebration earlier that day at Signs by Tomorrow, a business opening on Howard Avenue in Kensington. They had been displaced by the Purple Line at their old location in Silver Spring.

**Director's Report:** Director Montero-Diaz reported that a thank you letter went out concerning the Wheaton Arts Parade. She also asked WUDAC members for a response to a County survey.

**Business and Action Item Updates:** A draft letter to the Montgomery County Council on the Montgomery Parks Master Plan concerning Energized Public Spaces was presented to members for discussion. Letter was edited by members.

**New Business:** Discussion was held about the need for a Walking Tour to be held in May or June before the Primary. It was suggested that WUDAC hold a forum instead of a Walking Tour. An adhoc committee was formed to explore this.

Mirza Donegan agreed to work on organizing a presentation on Dockless Bikes

Ali Oliver-Krueger asked members to keep in mind that Westfield has been sold.

A motion was made and passed to approve the edited letter to the Council concerning support for Energized Public Spaces.

**Adjourn:** 8:43pm