

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday March 13, 2018

Members Present: Leah Haygood, Chair; Ali Oliver-Krueger, Vice Chair; Omar Lazo, Mirza Donegan, William Jelen, Chelsea Johnson, William Moore, Dan Thompson, Ron Franks

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

Guests: Keith Compton, Project Manager, Wheaton Revitalization; Neil Greenberger, MOCO PIO; Ronnie Warner, Chief, Office of Planning and Development; Richard Cisneros, LEDC; Jane Mahaffie, Stonebridge Carras; Pete McGinnity, Dept. Of Finance, MOCO. Jim Epstein, MJ Jordaneh, Wheaton Hills Civic Association; Jeannette Feldner, resident; Bertha Flores, aide to Councilmember Navarro; various residents.

Call to Order: 6:37pm by Chair Haygood. Discussion of February Meeting Minutes draft followed. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes with changes regarding the feasibility study and a drafted letter.

Community Concerns: None

Wheaton Arts/Cultural Facility Feasibility Study: Ronnie Warner, Chief, Office of Planning and Development, DGS, updated WUDAC on the upcoming activities of the newly hired consultant, Victor Gotesman. The consultant will come to the May WUDAC meeting. In the coming months the consultant will tour facilities in the area to see what we have. He will meet with officials in other A&E areas and review their operations and then come up with a plan for Wheaton. Ms. Warner then briefed us on the budgeting process that will then take place. The study will determine what we should build, then we will determine where. Member discussion followed.

Wheaton Revitalization Project: Keith Compton, Project Manager, updated members with a slide presentation on the progress of the Redevelopment in the triangle area. The project is 26% complete and scheduled to be finished in May 2020 and move in Summer 2020. Roof on, Aug. 2019. Closed in, Oct.2019. Interior build out, Aug, 2019 to Spring 2020. When utility lines are being installed on Grandview this process will be disruptive for a period of time. Most work will be at night to minimize disruption to businesses.

Jane Mahaffie from Stonebridge Carras then continued the slide presentation. Georgia Ave is 15 ft higher than the Town square. She outlined design plans to get people down to the square and the connection to WMATA. She noted the sustainability features of the project, the benches, trees and water feature incorporated in, and the walkways connecting the plaza with WMATA and Westfield. Some concerns expressed by members included the size of the stage and lighting and safety issues.

Council Update: Bertha Flores, aide to Councilmember Navarro, noted that the proposed budget from the County Executive will be delivered this Thursday to the Council. There will be public hearings April 10-12, 2018.

There will be a grand re-opening of Wheaton-Claridge Park in Wheaton on April 14th.

Chamber of Commerce Report: None

Mid-County RSC/Wheaton Urban District: Director Montero-Diaz briefed WUDAC members that Councilmember Navarro will be a guest at MCCAB next Thursday evening to be held at Queensguard Road.

We need nominations for the WUDAC awards to be presented at the Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Dinner on April 25th. We will vote at the April meeting.

On April 5th the County Executive will meet with representatives from all Boards and Committees in the auditorium at the Executive Office Building in Rockville from 7-9:30pm.

Luisa introduced Vicky Campos as her new office assistant.

Business & Action Item Updates

Wheaton Talking Tour Planning: Leah Haygood led a discussion of the upcoming Talking Tour. She met with William, Dan, and Luisa. In April or May meeting they will have a draft list of issues. In June they will get public input from WUDAC members and guests. In July they will present in a forum.

Adjourn: 8:25pm