

## **Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday October 09, 2018

**Members Present:** Bill Jelen, Chair; Chelsea Johnson, Vice Chair; Leah Haygood, William Moore, Omar Lazo

**Staff Present:** Luisa Montero-Diaz, Director MCRSC; Kevin Jackson, Aide MCRSC

**Guests:** Kristy Daphnis, PBTSAC; Pete McGinnity, MC Dept. of Finance; Neil Greenberger, MCPIO; Micheal and Sarah Feigenson, residents

**Call To Order:** 6:39pm by Chair Jelen

**Review Meeting Minutes:** Due to lack of quorum the Sept. meeting minutes draft was not reviewed

**Community Concerns:** Resident Micheal Feigenson asked about the reason for cancellation of the Jazz Festival. Director Montero-Diaz replied that the Jazz Festival is put on by an outside organization. Even though the WUD helps with logistics, it is the call of that organization's festival head not WUD and they cancelled due to forecasted weather.

Leah Haygood, on behalf of One Montgomery Green, noted that they would hold an event on 10-27 at Crossways Community Center. They will offer electronics recycling and paper shredding, and be accepting clothing to benefit a Wider Circle and collecting food donations for MUM

**Wheaton Revitalization Project:** Pete McGinnity, MC Dept of Finance, updated WUDAC members on the Small Business Assistance program. They are disbursing funds faster than expected. They had a budget of \$200,000 in FY2018 but dispersed \$264,000. The excess funds came from other programs. In FY2019 they have dispersed \$174,000 and will need a supplemental appropriation after the elections. They have enough money for now. \$31,000 is approved waiting for disbursement with \$250,000 budgeted in FY2019. They have disbursed \$439,000 since start of the SBAP. There was a request to make public the names of businesses receiving aid.

Neil Greenberger, MCPIO, updated WUDAC on his department's work to promote small business and events and also update the public on the progress of the revitalization. They are providing the news that the Gazette used to do. They sent a news release on September 28 to 10,000 people. They tried hard to promote the Jazz Parade and the Wheaton Arts Parade. They are putting out info on the revitalization and noted that construction is finishing up on the garage spaces now and will be at street level by December.

Neil continued that County departments are already planning their move to the new office building. We will need to start planning the publicity campaign soon. Bill Jelen asked about a communication plan. Neil replied that there hasn't been long range planning due to the change of administrations. Luisa stated that LEDC has surveyed Triangle businesses and some had mentioned that they wouldn't be in business without the assistance.

**PBTSAC:** Kristy Daphnis, Chair of the PBTSAC, updated WUDAC. She explained the work of the committee. They are leading discussions with the County on their two year plan for Vision Zero. They are advocating for a 10 year plan, pushing improvements on Veirs Mill and other roads. She applauds WUDAC efforts to bring the County and State DOT together to work on solutions. Their committee includes all key players. They had their first community meeting in Wheaton last month. Unfortunately

both the MCDOT and SHA reps were not there due to illness. Several people gave presentations and they passed a resolution to make Veirs Mill Rd the first priority of Vision Zero. They also discussed Georgia Ave, specifically the area of the Price crosswalk. After a discussion of Veirs Mill, two Planning Board members questioned why we need to wait through this process to make changes. Kristy mentioned working with administrators from Newport, Einstein and Highland to put out safety recommendations and hope to work with WUDAC on recommendations for the CBD.

Member discussion followed.

**Reports:**

a. County Council and Mid-County RSC: Luisa reviewed recent Council actions regarding a Public Forum on Community grants, a Client Mobilization report, Farm wineries, Zoning text amendments and wireless infrastructure.

The Arts Study consultants are returning in November for Stakeholder-Decision maker meetings. Info may be available by the time of our retreat.

Matt Johnson from MCDOT has been invited to talk to WUDAC for a Bikepath presentation. They are looking at Amherst.

The paving project on Veirs Mill Rd is done. Georgia Ave is in progress and should be completed by Fall.

The County Executive is reviewing new WUDAC member nominations and should soon send to the Council for approval. Westfield manager Stuart Amos has agreed to be a Large Business representative.

Keith Compton has been out on leave but will be returning soon to update WUDAC on the Revitalization Project and hopes to give WUDAC a tour of the site.

Luisa is following up on the AVA parking situation on Lot 14. Joe Callaway has documented traffic flow at various hours. Lot is full for much of the day. Same problem exists at the Lot behind The Exchange.

Brief discussion followed about a grass maintenance issue behind the Firestone business and also arranging meetings with Stonebridge/Carras and Casey Anderson on various issues

b. Chamber of Commerce: William Moore, on behalf of the Chamber, briefed WUDAC on a joint sponsorship with One Montgomery Green for a presentation of options for solar energy held on September 27 at Los Chorros. They also have an upcoming event on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the AVA Wheaton Apartments. It is a meet and greet with a tour of the new building

**Talking Tour Update:** Bill Jelen led a followup discussion about the Tour. There was a handout to members for review.

A draft was presented of a letter to decision makers. The draft will be revised and voted by email, so it can be sent before the end of October.

**Retreat:** The retreat will be held November 17 from 11am-2pm. Member discussion followed on the agenda. It was noted that we missed commenting this year on the budget so we need to work on a calendar of processes and timelines

**Other:** Luisa mentioned a Halloween night at Westfield and a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration

**Adjourn:** 8:30pm

