

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

2400 Arcola Avenue, 2nd Floor, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 9th, 2019

Members Present: Bill Jelen, Chair; William Moore, Jim Epstein, Ron Franks

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

Guests: John Doherty, Aide to Del. Carr; MD Delegate Jared Solomon; Kristy Daphnis, PBTSAC; James Mensah, State Farm; Margaret Rifkin, Daniel Maron

Call To Order: 6:35pm by Chair Jelen

Review March Minutes: No review of March minutes due to lack of a quorum

Community Concerns: Jim Epstein on behalf of Wheaton Hills, Glenmont Forest and Conn. Ave Estates noted that postcards were mailed notifying residents in those areas of a Spring cleanup

Luisa asked WUDAC members to spread the word about the Greenfest event at Brookside Gardens

Reports:

a. County Council: Luisa reported on Council work on Accessory Dwelling Unit legislation and Budget workshops

b. Chamber of Commerce: William Moore reminded members of the upcoming Community Awards Dinner on April 24, 6-9pm

c. Mid-County RSC/Wheaton Urban District: RSC Director Montero-Diaz reported that the SBAP assistance cap has been raised to \$125000 from \$75000 with close to \$600000 disbursed so far

There will be a daycare provider at the new P&P building when it opens

There are façade, parking lot and stormwater improvements underway at Glenmont Shopping Center. Pedestrian safety and flow are incorporated into the plan. No information on what company will replace the Shoppers Food Warehouse.

As part of the effort to reduce pedestrian deaths, the speed limit on Georgia Ave through the Urban District has been reduced to 25mph.

Plans for the HOC property have been delayed. Lindsay Ford sold the Vitro Property, where they originally planned to move, to Kaiser Permanente but that will not affect HOC plans

There is a budget forum at the Mid-County Rec Center on Queensguard Road on May 20

On 5-13, 7-8:30pm at the Gilchrist Center, CE Elrich and Councilmember Katz will hold a listening session, 4Business; Benchmarking To Be the Best For Business, on making MOCO more business friendly

Business & Action Item Updates:

a. Wheaton Walking Tour Update: Kristy Daphnis led a discussion of the upcoming Wheaton Walking Tour. The theme will be "Make Wheaton Walkable Again". It will be May 18th, starting at 10am at the corner of Blueridge and Grandview. Council member Nancy Navarro is planning to attend. They hope to

start with remarks by elected officials and then break into groups. The exact routes are still being worked on but they have identified hot spots. Delegate Solomon hoped for a high turnout from the community to impress SHA's administrator, Greg Slater, and recommended having someone designated for every hotspot. Member discussion followed.

b. Pop-up Event Update: Jim Epstein shared the progress of ideas his committee is working on. They hope to have two events this year. The first will be a proposed "Wheaton Sunday Funday". Partnering with the Park's Department the event will take place Sunday June 30th 1-5pm at Veteran's Park. The Park's Dept. will provide games. They will do a site visit next week. They will be responsible for the set up and tear down. Our WUDAC committee has not made the higher logistical decision's yet, like the scope of it, food vendors, performances or sound system. Luisa noted that the cultural grants were just awarded so maybe one of the awardees could do something there. Member discussion followed.

c. Safety Discussion with WMATA, MCDOT, MCPD, Westfield: Luisa led a discussion of her efforts to get all the stakeholders to the table to coordinate efforts on improving safety. Some issues discussed were the inclusion of the pedestrian bridge in the talks and \$1.5 million in County money that is earmarked for garage safety. Delegate Solomon stated his office would like to get involved.

New Business:

a. Budget Recommendations for FY20 Operating Budget: Chair Jelen led a discussion of the Urban District's budget needs. Members were presented with a copy of a letter that we sent to the County Executive in regards to our future staffing needs in light of the pending completion of the new P&P building and Town Square, promotion of our A&E designation, and branding of Wheaton. Discussion centered on whether to send this same letter to the County Council or draft a new letter. After noting suggested cuts for FY20 it was recommended to send the same letter that was sent to the CE to the Council but with a cover letter stipulating that we support the CE budget recommendation for FY20 on the condition that the FY21 budget needs to be significantly higher to support the needs of the Wheaton revitalization.

b. WUDAC/Chamber Awards vote: WUDAC Award for Business Leader of the Year: Filippo Leo.

WUDAC Award for Best Property Improvement: All Eco Design Center

Other: There was a request to invite the A&E Feasibility Study Consultants to WUDAC when they come back to town in May. Luisa stated that they may be ready to present their work in June or July.

Adjourn: 8:02pm