

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee
2400 Arcola Avenue, 2nd Floor, Wheaton, MD 20920

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Members Present: Leah Haygood, Chair; Ali Oliver-Krueger; Vice Chair; Mirza Donegan; Dan Thompson; Omar Lazo; Chelsea Johnson; Megan Remo

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

Guests: Keith Compton, Justin Stone, Richard Cisneros, Michael Ibrinke

- I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Leah Haygood. Review of minutes from the June meeting was tabled until quorum was reached.
- II. Minutes: The quorum having been reached, the minutes for the June meeting was reviewed. A motion was made and passed to approve those minutes.
- III. Community Concerns: No community concerns were voiced.
- IV. Wheaton Revitalization project
 - a. Keith Compton, MCDOT:
 - i. The geothermal is in. We've had three major concrete pours so far. The contractor is trying to do two pours per week. The foundation is 50% complete and should be completed within the next four weeks. They'll then continue to come vertically out of the hole. The next major milestone is reaching street level in December 2018. This was in August at one point. The substantial completion date holds at April 2020. The utility work, while disruptive, is going very well. The conduit work for PEPCO is 80% completed, and will be completed in a few weeks. The Verizon underground work will begin in two weeks, and will be completed in a few weeks. The underground work will be disruptive, and is slated to happen overnight. Other utility work will follow. Keith will enumerate these points more specifically in a Powerpoint presentation to WUDAC come fall.
 - ii. Montgomery County has reached out to a commercial leasing company to determine what sort of retail would be best for the building. Keith does not know the timeline for the process, but will seek out the answers. WUDAC members commented that it would be good for residents and community members to have input into the process. Keith has said he will look to get the answers on these questions and information about the process and the timeline in time for the forum on July 18.
 - b. Justin Stone, SBAP, Department of Finance:
 - i. Regarding disbursements, 22 applications have been submitted; and have learned that 5 or 6 applications are about to be submitted. 19 disbursements have been made to 13 recipients, and two more about to be made. Their budget for FY2018 was \$200,000, which they exceeded by \$65,000.00. The budget for FY2019 is \$250,000, which they expect to exceed as well. The

disbursements are for minimum one quarter; some have been for 2 quarters Average is \$15,000.00. The smallest disbursement was \$1,608.00; the largest was \$68,000.00.

- ii. Richard Cisneros, LEDC, discussed some of the different ways in which they are supporting local businesses, especially restaurants. Discussion ensued among members as to additional strategies that might be applied, and some of the challenges small businesses may be having implementing these strategies.

V. Reports:

- a. County Council Update – Councilmember Nancy Navarro’s Office: No representative from Councilmember Navarro’s office was in attendance to give an update.
- b. Chamber of Commerce: Mirza Donegan reported that the Chamber of Commerce met today. The current board is staying on for the upcoming year. The Chamber is going to be sponsoring the Network Reception for the forum. The hosting part will be 6:00 – 6:30. There is no event in August, but we will participate in the Labor Day Festival parade.
- c. Mid-County RSC/Wheaton Urban District - Luisa Montero
 - i. Stuart Amos is the new manager of Westfield Wheaton. He has just started last week, so Luisa has not met him yet, but she has invited him to the forum.
 - ii. Montgomery Green had their gala at Brookside Gardens on June 26. They created an annual award called the Marian Fryer Communitarian Award; it was awarded to Ike Leggett, and will be an ongoing award.
 - iii. Ana Mendez had their graduation. We’re going to use their space for the forum, and they have worked very hard to maneuver things around so we can use that space.
 - iv. Starting the end of July, our Clean Team will be moving from a five-day schedule to a six day schedule.
 - v. The third gateway sign is moving forward, to be placed Georgia and Arcola. A new sidewalk may need to be put in to allow for that; the possibility of reconfiguring the sidewalk is being investigated.

VI. Business and Action Item Updates

- a. Wheaton Talking Tour Planning:
 - i. Invitations have gone out. A press release will go out tomorrow or the next day. The District 18 candidates will not be able to attend because the Speaker of the House (state) has called a caucus meeting and so they’ll be in Annapolis. They may be able to send representatives. An issue paper and a list of invitees was circulated among members. The order of the agenda was discussed. We’ve received more than 350 responses to the survey; the survey will be closed on Thursday, July 12. The final results will be made available. Bill’s presentation includes these final results; there were a lot of good comments and strong support for many of the issues raised. It will be challenging to get through all of the agenda and to orchestrate the discussion. Bill will be MC. There was discussion for the need of timekeeper; Ali has volunteered for this role and will connect with Bill.

- ii. WUDAC members can be helpful by coming at 6 to mingle with people. Luisa will have name badges for everyone. There will be a sign-in table, at which WUDAC members can sign people in, hand out name badges/materials, and help direct people where they need to go. There was also discussion about possibly collecting questions.
 - iii. Members discussed the necessity for a Spanish translator/interpreter. Luisa commented that it is a short lead time, but will reach out to PIO to try to get a translator/interpreter. Further logistics and supply needs were discussed.
 - b. Officer Nominations and Election:
 - i. Bill Jelen has been nominated as Chair, and has accepted the nomination.
 - ii. William Moore has been nominated as Secretary; he has not had an opportunity to accept.
 - iii. Ali Oliver-Krueger indicated that she is likely to be ineligible to continue as a member of WUDAC in the fall, and therefore cannot be elected as Vice-Chair. Luisa and Ali shared that Ali could be deployed to focus on the Arts & Entertainment District as a member of the to-be-created A & E task force.
 - iv. Chelsea Johnson was nominated for Vice-Chair. She accepted the nomination.
 - v. The above slate of officers was elected.
- VII. New Business:
 - a. Members signed a card of sympathy for William Moore, whose mother has passed away.
 - b. Dan Thompson was presented with a certificate recognizing his service as a member of WUDAC.
- VIII. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.