

## **Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**

2400 Arcola Ave, 2nd Floor, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Members Present:** Bill Jelen, Chair; Omar Lazo, William Moore, Leah Haygood, Mirza Donegan, Mariela Garcia-Colberg, Stuart Amos, Crystal Myers

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

**Guests:** Richard Cisneros, LEDC; Michael Paylor, MCDOT; Neil Greenberger, MCPIO; Keith Compton, MCDOT; Mark Melmed(Jeff Waldstreicher), John Meyers(Al Carr), Marcus Ervin, HOC; Maria Peredo, Kantutas; Goyer Roberts, Duffie Companies; Laura-Leigh Palmer, ASAP Graphics; Chris Farrell, KHCA; Carmine Leggett, Pete Wilson, Mike Feigenson, Kimblynn Persuad, Yonas Araya, residents.

**Call To Order:** 6:37pm by Chair Jelen. He introduced two new WUDAC members, Crystal Myers and James Mensah (not present). He announced that this was our final meeting of the term. Next meeting will be in September

**Meeting Minutes Review:** The June meeting minutes draft was discussed. A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes without changes.

**Community Concerns:** Kim Persuad, resident, expressed concerns about pedestrian barriers along Georgia Ave. Chair Jelen responded that it was on tonight's agenda

### **Reports:**

**-Chamber of Commerce:** William Moore, on behalf of the Wheaton/Kensington CC, shared that Jerome Fletcher, MC Asst. Administrative Officer, attended their monthly meeting earlier today to speak to them about the County's plans for helping small business.

The Chamber also co-sponsored a Wheaton Arts Evening Open House at the WAP gallery at Westfield. There was a great turnout to meet and greet the artists and sponsors of the Arts Parade and Festival.

There is an upcoming meet and greet on July 24th at a new venue for arts and crafts in Wheaton, FAsMarketplace. In addition, the Chamber will be participating in the Kensington Labor Day parade by riding in a convertible and with an information booth.

**-Mid-County RSC/Wheaton Urban District:** RSC Director Luisa Montero-Diaz announced that the Arts Center feasibility study is finished and can be found online on [montgomerycountymd.gov](http://montgomerycountymd.gov). Next step needed is a complete program of requirements. WUDAC will need to continue advocating for this facility. Jim Epstein is our WUDAC liaison. Luisa also noted that there was a topping out ceremony for the new Park and Planning building on the Triangle.

The Wheaton Urban district partnered with Arts on the Block on the façade of the Clock Tower.

In addition to the recent lowering of speed limits on Georgia in the WUD, new parking spaces and meters have been added.

New transit update: The Flex Bus program pilot has started. Available around the Metro stations in Rockville, Wheaton and Glenmont. Cost: \$2.00. In addition, the subway has ended turnbacks. All trains

will continue through to Glenmont. WMATA has also opened a Trip Mobile Commuter store at Westfield. It will be open on Mondays.

Street Outreach Network hosts their Summer of Peace Kickoff July 19<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm at the Wheaton-Pembridge Apts. The Street Outreach network provides programs, activities and resources for youth and their families. There will be food, games, music, face painting and giveaways at the event.

Luisa also shared that the Summer Concert Series starts this Friday at Veteran's Park. The first performers will be the Nighthawks.

Lastly, Neighborhood Grant Matching funds are now available.

**Wheaton Revitalization Project-Traffic Flow:** Michael Paylor, Chief of Traffic Engineering, MCDOT, led a discussion of proposed traffic flow around the new development in the Triangle area. He shared the history and results from a 2015 study and a 2017 revision necessitated by a change in that development. With a slide presentation and a handout to WUDAC members, Mr. Paylor shared both ongoing, proposed and completed projects. Recent updates included exclusive/permissive through and turn lanes on Grandview Ave. and narrowed lane markings and lower speed limits on Georgia Ave, with construction of a non-traversable median there imminent. Member discussion, questions and comments followed.

#### **Old Business & Action Item Updates:**

**-Wheaton Sunday/Funday Event:** Chair Jelen led a quick debriefing on the event. He thanked all who participated. It was well attended and festive. One take-away though is the need for dedicated funding for events like this and more volunteers.

**-New Member Recruitment:** Luisa noted that we have an opening for a small business representative. Leah, Omar and Bill are on the interview committee.

**-Wheaton Safety Walk Follow up:** Mariela presented a handout to recap the Safety Walk event. She stated that now we need to figure out how to follow up. WUDAC will write a joint letter with PBTSAC

**Wheaton Gateway Project:** Marcus Ervin from HOC and Goyer Roberts of the Duffie Companies updated WUDAC on developments on the Gateway project slated to occupy the old Ambassador Apt/Lindsay Ford site. With a slide presentation, they shared their project vision and goals and also the development timeline. They envision that demolition will begin this Summer with Phase I construction to begin in 2023. The project will encompass both mixed housing and commercial, with a food hall and market as well as integrated culinary training and a workforce development program. Goals include that the project be walkable with quality public spaces, and that construction will be LEED, Energy Star certified. Member discussion followed.

#### **New Business:**

##### **-Election of Officers:**

The WUDAC officers for the 2019/2020 term are as follows:

William Jelen, Chair

Chelsea Johnson, Vice Chair

William Moore, Secretary

**-Presentation of Certificate:**

William Moore was presented a certificate for his 9 years of service to WUDAC. He will continue service in 2020.

Mirza Donegan received a certificate for her service. Her term has expired. WUDAC members presented her with a card and Chair Jelen thanked her for her service.

**Adjourn: 8:32pm**