

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

Wheaton Rescue Squad, 2400 Arcola Ave, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday October 10, 2017

Members Present: Leah Haygood, Chair; Tami Axelrod, William Moore, Mirza Donegan, Dan Thompson

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

Guests: Keith Compton, Project Manager, MCDOT; Neil Greenberger, MCPIO; Craig Wilson, aide to Councilmember Navarro, Andrew Rollo, resident

Call To Order: 6:40pm by Chair Haygood

Community Concerns: Dan Thompson recapped the Wheaton Arts Parade. The parade exceeded expectations especially for a first time event. There are videos posted on the Parade website. They have submitted a proposal to AHMC for next year but the community needs to mobilize to make it happen. The parade wouldn't have happened without grants from the Recreation Dept, Arts and Humanities Council and Wheaton Neighborhood matching funds. In the future he hopes that WUDAC would participate in the Parade. Luisa and Joe were invaluable to pulling off the event. Total monetary contributions were \$44000. **In the future Dan hopes that Westfield will be involved in some way.** Currently the floats involved in the parade are on display at Westfield Wheaton and one of the participating artists is giving a demonstration on painting mannequins there this weekend.

Leah Haygood suggested that WUDAC send a thank you letter to the various agencies involved.

Revitalization Update: Project Manager Keith Compton shared a slide presentation of the construction progress. Excavation should wrap up in January 2018. Asbestos has been found in the Regional Center building and this will delay demolition until December. Groundwater continues to be pumped out, geothermal wells are at 650 ft and will provide 30% of energy needs. They are cognizant of the dust and are working to control it. More info and updates are available at www.wheatonproject.com. Construction should be complete in April 2020. Keith noted that the cage walkway to WMATA from the amphitheater did not make the final cut. He then took questions from WUDAC members.

Neil Greenberger from the Public Information Office briefed members on signage being placed around the area to help customers patronize Triangle businesses.

Council Report: Craig Wilson, aide to Councilmember Navarro, shared that the Council is actively monitoring construction and stands ready to help mitigate any business concerns as they arise.

Chamber of Commerce Report: William Moore reported on discussions the Chamber had on Minimum Wage Legislation and also updated members on a presentation sponsored by the Chamber on Wage & Hour Employment Standards Regulations with speakers from the Montgomery County Human Rights Dept. and the Maryland Dept. of Labor. William also mentioned that the Chamber has started preparing for a Business Expo to be held in January.

Director's Report: Luisa Montero-Diaz announced that Lindsay Ford has announced a move from Wheaton to the BAE site in Aspen Hill.

The Private development agreement with the Bozzuto Group fell through and the property on the north side of Lot 13 is again available. The County Executive is interested in community input. He is also awaiting the consultant report on a feasibility study. William Moore shared that the County Executive and Councilmember Navarro announced that the new Town Square would be named in honor of Marian Fryer.

Westfield Wheaton is also studying the possibility of expanding residential housing on their property in the future.

A Vision Zero report has been finalized. It will be released to the public in the next month or two. The goal is to eliminate fatalities and severe injuries on County roadways.

Luisa mentioned that members should check out the Art at Westfield including the Fitzgerald wrapped car. She also mentioned that there was discussion of an Art contest, possibly sponsored by the Dept of Environmental Protection, to paint 6 or 7 storm drains in Wheaton.

The Wheaton Film Festival is coming up November 10th. The Wheaton Jazz Festival which was held on Sept. 30th was a success with an estimated 50-70 people attending. They hope to make it an annual event.

Members also received handouts concerning area organizations seeking donations and also one concerning a meeting on October 23rd on a zoning amendment for small cell towers.

Business and Action Items: Tami Axelrod shared a slideshow presentation and led a discussion on her research on "Wheaton as a Destination".

New Business: Chair Haygood announced that our retreat would be November 4th from 11am-2pm. She is seeking one or two volunteers to help work on the agenda. **Tami volunteered.**

She also announced that we have six applicants to interview for our openings for resident representatives to WUDAC

Adjourn: 8:30pm