

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

Mid-County Regional Center, 2424 Reedy Drive, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes Tuesday December 13, 2016

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

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

Guests: Andrew Rollo, resident; Chris Gillis, aide to Councilmember Leventhal; Kyle Vaughan, aide to Del. Al Carr.

Call to Order: 6:36pm by Chair Haygood. A motion was made and passed to approve the November Meeting Minutes without changes.

Community Concerns:

Andrew Rollo, Wheaton resident, asked about a logo for the Wheaton District. Luisa updated him on the development of the Wheaton Urban District logo and the work being done on a logo for the A&E District.

Tami Axelrod, WUDAC member, highlighted a need for volunteers to wrap gifts for the Angels for Children Toy Drive and volunteers to help distribute them on Christmas Eve.

Dan Thompson, WUDAC member, informed members that the Wheaton Arts Parade was awarded a \$10,000 grant by the Arts and Humanities Council. He also announced that they have chosen a winner in the contest to design a logo for the Parade.

County Council Update:

Chris Gillis, aide to Councilmember Leventhal, briefed WUDAC on several actions of the Council. The Transportation Committee held a session devoted to BRT a week ago. He believes they are leaning towards Option 2 at a cost of \$66 million for the Veirs Mill to Rockville segment.

Also noted was a Landlord/Tenant Bill that passed unanimously 2-3 weeks ago and approval of a zoning text amendment allowing up to 4 signs on a building. Also covered was the Council's actions on Minimum wage legislation and passage of a bill to establish a Micro Lending Fund.

Chamber of Commerce Update:

William Moore, Chamber President and WUDAC member, reported on business mixers sponsored by the Chamber, one dealing with energy efficiency at Hollywood East, and another an open house highlighting member Mire Yoga. They also held a mixer to launch the Angels for Children Toy Drive at Los Chorros with Toy Drive partners MHP and the Wheaton Rescue Squad. He also shared news of an upcoming Business Networking Expo they are sponsoring with the Bethesda Chamber and Town of Kensington to be held on January 25th at the Kensington Town Hall.

Business and Action Items Update:

Devala Janardan handed out a draft letter to the County Council concerning BRT. Discussion followed. WUDAC voted to send the letter with edits.

Director's Report:

Luisa Montero-Diaz reported on the MCCAB retreat. Their main issues were transportation, economic development and affordable housing. She also noted that there was a county wide meeting of citizens advisory boards and that these three priorities are aligned.

The Wheaton Urban District is working with MCDOT and Stonebridge Karras on signage for fencing around the construction area on Lot 13 to alert customers that businesses are open and also where to park during the construction.

Director Montero-Diaz updated WUDAC on Park and Planning's work with a series of meeting concerning the interior design on the new building for Lot 13.

Other news that she shared included:

There were some tax concerns for the new AMC Theater at Westfield. These are being addressed by the Maryland State Comptroller's office.

The Clean & Safe team will be moving to the old Wheaton Rescue Squad building at Blueridge and Grandview in January.

The new mosaic on the clock tower will be dedicated on Dec. 17th at 3pm.

There will be a Budget forum Jan. 18th at the Mid-County Community Rec Center on Queensguard Road. She also mentioned that the Urban District will experienced budget cuts, as are all other County programs, in FY18.

There was a fire at the Dickerson Incinerator Plant.

An email was sent to WUDAC members concerning training for Open Meetings. Everyone must complete the 2 ½ hour online course.

Luisa also updated WUDAC on developments concerning Buzutto's agreement with the County concerning construction of a private apartment building on Lot 13.

New Business:

Devala Janardan led a discussion on a draft letter to the County Executive concerning Redevelopment. A motion was made and approved to send the letter when edits are made.

Leah Haygood led a follow up discussion on WUDAC's retreat.

Adjourn: 8:05pm