

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday September 13, 2016

Members Present: Devala Janardan(Chair), Omar Lazo (Vice Chair), Derry Goberdhansingh, Leah Haygood, Dan Thompson, Ali Oliver-Krueger, William Moore

Staff Present: Luisa Montero-Diaz, Director Mid-County Regional Center; Elise Perkins, EP Communications

Guests: Marian Fryer, Wheaton Coalition; Chris Gillis, aide to Councilmember Leventhal; Andrew Rollo, resident

Call to Order: 6:37pm by Chair Janardan, who then made brief remarks about leadership issues and the need for the future Vice-Chair to prepare to advance to Chair. He then turned the meeting over to Leah Haygood as a “test drive” for her possible promotion to Chair. Members and guests were introduced and a motion was made and passed to approve without changes the July Meeting Minutes.

Community Concerns: Member Ali Oliver-Krueger talked about upcoming shows for Interact Story Theatre and their desire to offer a discount to Wheaton residents to introduce them to the program and also spoke of issues with Westfield on trying to secure a space for future productions.

Reports:

a. Director WUD: Director Montero-Diaz reported on continued efforts of LEDC to work with Triangle businesses, having hired additional help and signed a contract with UMD Small Business Development Center. She also shared news that next Friday is International Park(ing) Day and there would be a fun event hosted with DOT and Green Wheaton in parking lot 13. In addition, we have new seating furniture in Veteran’s Park and next Tuesday at 5:30, there will be a gathering with free ice cream. Bar Louie has opened at Westfield but The Tilted Kilt opening has been delayed. Still no news on the Theater opening.

Director Montero-Diaz also mentioned a grants preparation workshop that member Dan Thompson had attended that day and an upcoming Chamber of Commerce mixer where Judy Stephenson would share results of the 700+ responses to a business survey that was sent out. Lastly she noted that the BRT Corridor Report is out and outlined the work that she, Sidney, and Elise are doing on a digital campaign to promote Wheaton. Elise then led a discussion on the campaign with members.

b. Chamber of Commerce: William Moore handed out copies of the new Community Guide to members and guests. He then briefly spoke on the success of the Labor Day Parade and mentioned that the Montgomery Arts Association is looking for a new home.

c. County Council: Chris Gillis, aide to Councilmember Leventhal, briefed members on recent Council action on issues concerning minimum wage and signs in right-of-ways. Also discussed were issues with homeless people in libraries and the closing of Hermitage Ave. Nancy Floreen has introduced a bill to streamline the approval of cell towers in residential neighborhoods and Mark Elrich has sponsored a Landlord-Tenant bill which outlined new responsibilities in the landlord/tenant relationship (handout).

Action Items: Members were given a handout of a draft letter to the County Executive requesting WUD director be given the authority to assemble an A&E working committee. Discussion followed.

Dan Thompson discussed his work on an Arts Parade for Wheaton. He and Luisa walked a potential parade route(handout). They have a tentative date of 9-24-2017.

New Business: Chair Janardan led a discussion on WUDAC leadership issues. Leah Haygood was nominated and elected as WUDAC Chair. Ali Oliver-Krueger was nominated and elected as Vice Chair.

An agreement was reached to poll members on a future date for the WUDAC Retreat

Adjourn: 8:00pm