

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee (WUDAC)
Tuesday | September 10, 2024 | 7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Hybrid Meeting

In Attendance:

		Ali Oliver-Krueger (Vice Chair)	X	Nina Koltnow (Secretary)	X	Tanya Baskin (Chair)
	X	Dave Jarrett		Pedro Matamoros		
	X	Andrea Hernandez	X	Phillip Daley		
		William Cotter				
	X	Kit Wood	X	Rob Fox		

County Officials: Mid-County Regional Services Director Luisa Cardona: WUD Operations Manager Crystal Ruiz; Community Projects Manager for Mid-County Regional Services, Talia Beaulieu-Hains; Public Relations Specialist Sidney Cooper.

Guests: Kathia Chévez (Office of Natali Fani-González); Jessica McVary, Montgomery Planning; Dave Janna; May Amoyaw, Arts and Humanities Council; Larissa Johnson, Department of Energy

Public: Dave Jana

- I. 7:04 pm Call to Order - Tanya Baskin, Chair
- II. 7:06 pm Review and Approve February Minutes and today's agenda - Approved
- III. 7:05 pm Community Concerns - none

IV. 7:11 Elected representatives in attendance -

Kathia Chévez for Council Member Fani-González -

Budget season on the Council. It should be finalized next Thursday.

There will be an event this Friday, May 16 at 4 PM Elkin and Price (Streeter corner) to celebrate Creative Wheaton. Please come!

How can WUDAC support the Council Member in terms of the budget? Nothing for right now. The process is almost finished.

V. Presentations - 7:12 PM -

1. Montgomery County Cultural Plan

May Adobea Amoyaw, Consultant, Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County

Montgomery County Cultural Plan -

Used to identify priorities, guide investment, and inform local policies regarding arts and culture integration into everyday lives in the county. Belonging, Cultural Resilience, and Intersectionality have risen to the top of priorities of residents. As the County becomes more diverse, how do we incorporate that diversity into the cultural vitality of the county?

How do we get links to learn about and support these efforts?

See presentation linked to this site.

2. Residential Energy Programs

Larissa Johnson, Residential Energy Program Manager, Department of Environmental Protection montgomeryenergyconnection.org

This is an effort to educate residents about electricity. Montgomery Energy Connection is a county program to disburse this information.

Best way to save on energy is to use less! Get a free Quick Home Energy Check Up for free, or Pay \$100 for a \$400 Home Performance Audit, which is very thorough and will end up saving you a lot in energy; comes with rebates for some of the bigger fixes. Check out the Utility marketplace for below market cost efficient products. Also check out Montgomery County Energy Efficiency Tax Credit (\$250).

Best way to move away from fossil fuels is to electrify your home. Check out “Electrify MC” for financial incentives. Check out “Switch Together” program to go solar at about 30% less - it is a government sponsored coop.

3. Wheaton Placemaking

Jessica McVary, Planning Supervisor, Montgomery County Planning

Department - Update on **Wheels in Wheaton** event May 31(12-8) - June 1 (11 - 7).

Objectives: Improve connectivity and safety, repurpose underutilized public space, showcase possibilities for future improvements and investments, support Wheaton's sense of place.

Community wants more spaces to gather casually, food/entertainment outdoors, enhanced safety, enhanced small businesses.

Wheels in Wheaton will feature a pop-up roller rink and live mural painting in the surface parking lot (Lot 13) in the triangle. There will be games, cafe seating, beer garden, DJ, chalk plaza, and skateboarding instruction.

Challenge: how to retain some of the benefits of these events. There will be materials that can be reused and a toolbox of strategies for this kind of initiative.

montgomeryplanning.org/wheaton-placemaking

They would like volunteers and RSVPs.

See presentation linked to this site.

Lots of very positive reaction. Also ideas about publicizing the event.

The Placemaking team won an award for an event in Damascus. Congrats!

The team is hoping people will use the staircase to the Triangle from Georgia Av.

VI. Reports and Updates 8:23

1. Wheaton & Kensington Chamber of Commerce - Ali - absent

2. Committee Reports -

- *Economic Development: Ali, Kit, Pedro* - Want to help publicize Taste of Wheaton. Restaurant Week was very successful. They are looking at how to engage nail salons in more events - other businesses, too - auto mechanics and other small businesses. Working on how to highlight them. Work with the Chambers of Commerce. Taste is gearing up.
- *Public Safety (Youth Crisis): Nina, Rob, Philip, David* - Looking for a time to meet about the Crime Youth Crisis. Sponsored the Lighting Walk. From Crystal: After Lighting Walk, she met with DOT, PEPCO, and CIP to prioritize what to address first. Some lights can be upgraded with higher wattage. Will use current year funds to address. PEPCO is on

board with adding fixtures and upgrading others. She will get us a complete report on locations and nature of approved improvements by our next meeting.

- *Outreach And Communications (Social Media Presence): Tanya, Andrea, Will* - Hoping to highlight one business per month on social media, and also creating a tool kit to help them. Will collaborate with Sidney Cooper

3. Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) - Rob Fox

March meeting: More Housing NOW update and report from WSSC. Charter Review Commission.

4. Mid-County Regional Services Center/ Urban District Report -

Wheaton Streeter Block Party - every 3rd Saturday 2-5, starting May 15 through October. Programming by WUD and OMG. Free ice cream, seating, DJ, face painting, and more.

Taste of Wheaton is Sunday, June 1; instead of kids rides there will be the pop-up roller skating rink. There will be a beer garden, performances, artisans. Very robust response. Garage will be closed, allowing Taste to close Grandview. Media advertising will be robust, including drone footage, banners, yard signs and radio spots. Skating rink and beer garden will also be in operation Saturday, May 31.

Old Business: 8:50

Just saw the Wheaton Plaza fair going up.

VII. Adjourn 8:51 pm

NEXT WUDAC MEETING: Tuesday, June 10