

## **Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Online via Zoom

**Members Present:** Jim Epstein, Chair; Ali Oliver-Krueger, William Moore, Rob Fox, James Mensah, Pedro Matamoros

**Staff Present:** Luisa Cardona, Mid-County RSC Director; Crystal Ruiz, WUD Operations Manager; Carmen Kaarid, Sr. Exec. Adm. Aide

**Guests:** Nina Koltnow, Wheaton Regional Park Neighborhood Assoc; Karen Cordry, KHCA; Adam Roberts, Bethesda Green; Gavin Omwega, WSSC; Brandon Stewart, WSSC; Wendy Howard, OMG; Valerie Cothran, Chip Py, Leah Haygood

**Call To Order:** 7:03pm by Chair Epstein. He shared the meeting protocols.

**Minutes Review:** A draft of the June Meeting Minutes was reviewed. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes without changes.

**Community Concerns:** WUDAC member William Moore shared the concerns of resident Jeannette Feldner about trash buildup in the early morning in the area of the Town Plaza. She wasn't sure if it was just because of the holiday weekend but it looks unsightly and not the image we want for Wheaton. It was noted that the Clean and Safe Team maintains the area. A review of the cleaning times will be undertaken.

**Reports: a. Elected officials:** None

**b. Chamber of Commerce:** Member Ali Oliver-Krueger, on behalf of the Chamber, shared that the annual Community Awards event was a success with over 240 views online. WUDAC member Pedro Matamoros was an award winner and tonight's presenter, Wendy Howard, won two awards. Next Chamber event will be with the Wheaton Arts Parade at their gallery at Westfield on July 23, 5-7pm

**c. MCCAB:** Rob Fox shared details from the June 16<sup>th</sup> MCCAB meeting. They received a Safety update from Lt. Douglas Miller, 4<sup>th</sup> District MCPD. They are towing abandoned vehicles from the Glenmont Shopping Center! Next was a review of Air Quality Assessment with DEP. They shared a possible move to mobile air quality monitoring.

Montgomery Planning shared a slide presentation. It included an overview of who they are and what they do. They discussed Thrive Montgomery and how it fits into the Master Plan. They shared recent initiatives such as the University Blvd Corridor Plan and the Wheaton Downtown Study. Members shared their concern that those Downtown Wheaton meetings were not being recorded.

**d. Wheaton Urban District/Mid-County:** RSC Director Luisa Cardona updated WUDAC.

Ride-On fares go to \$1 starting September 1<sup>st</sup>. Parking Permits will be \$132 a month. They are not vehicle specific.

Luisa announced a new Façade Improvement Program. Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs will cover 50% of improvements. Some concerns shared by WUDAC members centered on property owner's permission for improvements and franchise owners contracted obligations to use materials mandated by the franchisor.

The Summer Concert series has begun. Next concert is July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There is an upcoming deadline, July 21<sup>st</sup>, to comment on the Amherst Ave. Bikeway Project.

SHA is resurfacing University Blvd. Lanes will be narrowed from 11 to 10 feet to calm traffic and new crosswalks are being marked while leaving space for future projects.

WUD Operations Manager Crystal Ruiz updated conditions of the Town Plaza. We survived the storm! Additional furniture has been ordered. The Stage Lighting has been fixed. New Bollards are on order for the ones damaged and electricians will fix any remaining electrical issues. We are working on a procurement for Checker Tables for the Streeter, Town Plaza and Veteran's Park.

A member asked about the deteriorating condition of the Wheaton Gateway signs. The bricks are falling off. Crystal stated that she will need to get a procurement since it is happening to all the signs and water is getting in and those signs need replacement.

Lastly, a member noted that trash trucks at Safeway leave a pile of trash when they pull away. We need to work with Safeway on this issue. They may need a bigger dumpster or more dumps during the week. If no cooperation then maybe Health Department may need to get involved.

#### **Presentations:**

**a. One Montgomery Green:** Wendy Howard, One Montgomery Green, along with Adam Roberts, Bethesda Green, presented a slide presentation. They shared background on themselves and the goals of their organization. They received a \$200,000 prize during the Inclusive Energy Innovation Competition from the Department of Energy. They will hire a Community Manager and form a community advisory team. Their goal is to create an equitable and actionable carbon reduction plan, increase B corp businesses (green business certified), promote Green Bank for financing green projects, clean energy transportation, solar and more. They wish to develop and expand entrepreneurial programs and access to resources for the community in and around Wheaton. They are asking WUDAC for help in reaching out to residents and business for a good sample for their advisory committee.

**b. WSSC Sewer Replacement on Elkins and Fern:** Gavin Omwega and Brandon Stewart from the WSSC presented a slide presentation on the Sligo Creek Basin Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation Project. Part of that project will require work at Elkin and Fern. They shared info on all involved in the project and their method for rehabilitating the sewer pipes and manholes. This will be trenchless. Construction is 9am to 3pm and will take one to two days. Any pipe or manhole found to be in poor condition may require trenching

**New Business:** Chair Epstein stated that we need to determine the future venue of our meetings for the new term in September. Should we meet in person, via Zoom or Hybrid? Secretary William Moore noted that if it's going to be a hybrid then the sound will have to be vastly improved over the last attempt. Online participants could not hear those in person. James Mensah stated that he liked having options.

CUPF rates for Town Plaza will be set by ICB on 9-27-2022. Should we testify?

**Other:** A reminder from Chair Epstein that early voting lasts through Thursday, 7am-8pm at any early voting center. On Tuesday you will have to vote at your designated voting center.

Our next meeting will be about A & E.

**Adjourn:** 8:46pm

