

## **Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**

Wheaton Rescue Squad Building, 2400 Arcola Ave 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday February 13, 2018

**Members Present:** Leah Haygood, Chair; Ali Oliver-Krueger, Vice Chair; William Jelen, Mirza Donegan, Ron Franks, Megan Remo, William Moore, Omar Lazo, Chelsea Johnson, Dan Thompson

**Staff Present:** Luisa Montero-Diaz, Director, Mid-County Regional Center; Joe Callaway, Operations Manager, Wheaton Urban District

**Guests:** Keith Compton, Project Manager, Wheaton Revitalization; Neil Greenberger, MOCO PIO; Anne Root, Bikeshare Program Manager; Gary Erenrich, MCDOT; Rose Hacking, Aide to Councilmember Navarro

**Call to Order:** 6:37pm by Chair Haygood

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

**Revitalization Update:** Project Manager Keith Compton updated members on the progress of the construction. We are approximately 20% complete, time wise and budget wise. We are on budget! The Geothermal is installed and power cranes erected. They are working now in the bottom of the hole and should be at ground level in August. The demolition of the old Regional Center has begun. They are using a hydraulic excavator to claw it apart. We have debris screens protecting surrounding buildings. WMATA has approved this. The amphitheater design is being completed. They have 25 workers in the bottom of the hole and this leaves limited opportunity for them to patronize surrounding businesses. When they reach ground level there will be more opportunity for them to leave site to get lunch. Later there will be several hundred workers there. Keith then took questions from WUDAC members.

**Wheaton Urban District FY19 Budget Update:** Joe Callaway led a discussion of our current budget woes. After distributing a handout he noted that we will have to cover a \$72000 shortfall. Wheaton is disproportionately hurt compared to other districts because the bulk of our revenue does not come from parking, it comes from the General Fund. Member discussion followed. Dan Thompson suggested we write a letter to the County Executive to amend this so that budget cuts are equitable. A motion was made and passed to send a letter.

**Bikeshare Update:** Bikeshare Program Manager Anne Root briefed WUDAC members on the Bikeshare Program through a Powerpoint presentation and two handouts. She gave a brief history of the program and updated WUDAC on a new station at Dennis Ave. No money is budgeted for Bikeshare. They rely on grants. They are about to hit 20 million trips for the whole system and ridership in Wheaton is building. If they get more grant money they would like to install more stations south of Windham and Amherst. Gary Erenrich, MCDOT, then shared his knowledge on the Dockless Bike Program and answered member concerns and questions

**Marketing/Promotion for Revitalization:** Neil Greenberger, MOCO PIO, updated members on his office's work to incorporate more info in Spanish for the communication channels. They hope to have

directional signs at Metro and on busses. Member William Jelen suggested that the PIO use the Next Door App to get information out to more people. Neil said he would look into it.

**Reports:**

a. County Council: Rose Hacking, Aide to Councilmember Navarro, shared that the Council will be working on the Capital Improvement Program in April. You can testify at a public hearings.

She stated that the Wheaton Library should be completed in Spring 2019. A consultant has been hired for the feasibility study for a Wheaton Cultural Arts Center which Council approved in the CIP last year.

b. Chamber of Commerce: William Moore reported that the January Chamber Business Expo at the Kensington Town Center was a success, attracting 37 businesses

There is an upcoming lunch mixer at the Crossways Community Center on February 27 from 12:30pm-2pm. The topic will be Montgomery County development in the 1950's

We had a meeting earlier today where we discussed the Community Awards Banquet.

c. Wheaton Urban District: Director Montero-Diaz shared that the Art Storm Drain Contest deadline is this week. DEP may ask a couple of WUDAC members to serve as judges.

The Clock Tower has new lettering. Arts On The Block will add designs.

The tenants who were at the Regional Center are now at the Westfield South Building and she needs WUDAC members to help get the word out.

Urban Artistry has moved into the old Curacion space on Grandview. They will have an open house this Sunday

The Budget Forum on January 24 was well attended. The Wheaton Safety Task Force met and Luisa will have an update later

**Business and Action Item Updates:**

a. Response to A&E District Support Letter: Luisa reported that she shared our letter with MCCAB and they incorporated points into their letter. County Executive is crafting a response now.

b. Wheaton Talking Tour Planning: Leah led a discussion and shared a handout with the proposed agenda

**New Business:**

a. Wheaton/Kensington Chamber Award Nominations: Members received a handout of the criteria to be used to select the nominees for the WUDAC awards. Winners will be chosen from nominees at next meeting

**Adjourn:** 8:58pm