

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

Wheaton Rescue Squad Building, 2400 Arcola Ave 2nd Floor, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 10, 2018

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

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

Guests: Pete McGinnity & Justin Stone, MOCO Dept. of Finance; Jim Epstein, Glenmont Forest Neighbors Civic Association; Keith Compton, Project Manager, Wheaton Revitalization; Victor Gotesman, Teresa Koberstein, Performing Arts facility Consulting; Neil Greenberger, MOCO PIO, Amy Donin, DGS Program Manager; Jenny Gallagher; Anna M.; Ami; Luis Ortiz, Wheaton Urban District.

Call to Order: 6:40pm by Chair Haygood. Discussion of the March Meeting Minutes draft followed. A motion was made and passed to approve those Minutes without changes.

Community Concerns: Ali Oliver-Krueger, on behalf of Interact Story Theatre, shared that they will be hosting a Capoeira Angola program this Saturday at Glenallan Elementary School. This Afro-Brazilian art form will be performed by Shker Brown and the Dancing Warriors. She noted that you should come early as Interact had 265 people attend their children's opera at Highland Elementary School in March.

Dan Thompson mentioned that the Town of Kensington will host The Day of the Book Festival on April 22 and they have invited the Wheaton Arts Parade. They will have a couple of floats there and some kid's activities.

Wheaton Revitalization Project Update: Keith Compton, Project Manager, briefed WUDAC on the progress of the redevelopment on Lot 13. They are installing the horizontal plumbing at the bottom of the hole. They are on track to be at grade by August. Over the next 4 months they will be doing utility work. PEPCO will be putting the existing power lines underground during that time. The communication lines along Triangle Lane will also be put underground.

Pete McGinnity, SBAP, MOCO Dept. of Finance, introduced Justin Stone, the new Manager for the Small Business Assistance Program. Justin then shared the breakdown on where businesses stand in the process. Four businesses have received funds, 2 more have been approved and 3 more are pending approval while 9 are still being evaluated. He hopes to have all eligible businesses signed up in the coming months. Justin shared that LEDC has been a big help. Fifty% of the funds approved for FY 2018 have been used. If the rest in the pipeline get approved they will have used up 100% of the funds.

Neil Greenberger from the Public Information Office noted that they have issued a news release on the assistance payments going out. They are also installing more informational signs this week in the construction area. A resident asked about parking and Neil responded that it may be difficult to park in front of a business but there is plenty of parking within walking distance.

Wheaton Arts/Cultural Facility Feasibility Study: Victor Gotesman and Teresa Koberstein from Performing Arts Facility Consulting shared a slide presentation with WUDAC members. They discussed their background and qualifications and information on other successful projects that they have been involved in and then went over the methodology of their study, the timeline in which they hope to offer recommendations, and then where it will go from there. Member discussion followed.

Reports:

a. County Council: No report

b. Chamber of Commerce: William Moore, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, noted that they had their monthly meeting earlier that day at Kantutas restaurant. He reported on a successful mixer that they held in March featuring a speaker from the Montgomery County Green Bank. During their meeting today they continued to prepare for the Awards dinner to be held April 25. All those who wish to attend should get their ticket by Friday for a \$40 price. From April 14-24 it will be \$45 and \$50 at the door. There will be two surprise awards at the dinner, a President's Award and an Appreciation Award.

c. Mid-County RSC/Wheaton Urban District: Luisa Montero-Diaz, Director, updated WUDAC on several upcoming events. Wheaton Claridge Park will have a Grand Re-Opening celebration on April 14th. The County Executive will be there.

Olney Days will be April 27-29 with a Parade on April 29th.

Taste of Wheaton is June 3rd. It will be at Fern and Price Streets. They are not going to use Veteran's Park.

The Gilchrist Center and Proyecto Salud had Grand Re-Opening Open Houses this past weekend to celebrate their new homes on the 5th and 7th floors respectively in the Westfield South Building. MUM has also relocated there on the 7th floor.

Montgomery County Green Fest will be May 5th from 11am-4pm at Jesup Blair Park.

MCCAB is working on recommendations for the FY19 budget. They are also looking at a couple of Bills before the Council concerning moderately priced dwelling usage to see if they would like to make recommendations.

We still have a couple of hundred dollars left from the Neighborhood Matching Grants. Please help get the word out to interested parties.

There will be a paper shredding and Electronics recycling event to be held at Signal Financial on April 21st.

Brookside Gardens will host an Earth Day festival April 22.

Sweep the Creek will be April 22.

Business & Action Item Updates

a. Wheaton Walking Tour Planning: Chair Haygood updated members on the planning progress for the Talking Tour. Leah, Luisa, Omar and Bill met with Luis Estrada, Park and Planning planner for the Wheaton sector. They spent time gathering information and understanding of the Master Plan for the area. In June they will publicize their findings and get community input to finalize an agenda.

b. Briefing on Annual County Executive's Meeting: Omar Lazo attended the event on behalf of WUDAC. He stated that he brought to the County Executive's attention that Wheaton is being hurt disproportionately compared to other Urban Districts by the budget cuts due to the way our revenue is generated. He also thanked him for the investment in Wheaton's redevelopment but urged them to not stop there because we need continued attention to move Wheaton forward.

New Business:

Wheaton/Kensington Chamber Award Voting: Ballots were handed out for members to vote for our Outstanding Business Leader of the Year award and Best Property Improvement of the Year award. In addition to the nominees listed, William Moore nominated AVA Wheaton from the floor as a write-in. Results of the voting to be announced.

Adjourn: 8:40pm