

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 13, 2021

Online via Zoom

Members Present: William Moore, Pedro Matamoros, Chris Pyon, Ali Oliver-Krueger, Jim Epstein, Crystal Myers, James Mensah, Bill Jelen, Stuart Amos

Staff Present: Luisa Montero-Diaz, Mid-County RSC Director; Shawn Morris, Aide; Crystal Ruiz, WUD Operations Manager; Jake Adler, Community Projects Coordinator; Kevin Simpson, Community and Economic Coordinator

Guests: Rozina Adhanom, DHHS; Patrick Constanza, Pathways DC; Kristy Daphnis, Peter Gray, Alison Gillespie, Shared Streets Initiative; Alan Felsen, KMCA; Omar Lazo, Los Chorros; Margaret Rifkin, Rob Fox, Adele Berlin, Christine Halpin, Daniel Marcin, Andrew Rollo, David Helms, Andy Wexler, Larry Jaffe, Barbara Marcus, Sean Emerson, Peter Reiger, Marcus Ervin, Jane Lyons, Joe Reinhard, Sewell Johnson, Heidi Coleman, Sanjida Rangwala, Will Rabinovich, Maurice Pittman, Louis Deutsch, Joe Mogues., SHA

Call To Order: 6:33pm by RSC Director Luisa Montero-Diaz in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Minutes Review: After review a motion was made and passed to approve the March Minutes without changes

Presentation:

a. Pathways to Housing: Patrick Constanzo from Pathways and Rozina Adhanom, DHHS, led a discussion on a cooperative program to alleviate homelessness in the WUD. They meet the clients where they are. Some services include wellness checks, cold weather gear, emergency assessments, counseling and shelter assistance. What makes them unique is that they help clients but also report back to the community. Member discussion followed. Patrick stated that they are developing a flyer that will answer many questions. Patrick noted that they count on community relations to help point to where potential clients may be.

b. Shared Streets Initiative: Kristy Daphnis opened the presentation with a brief introduction of herself. She is a co-leader of Open Streets Montgomery and is working with the County and State on a variety of open street projects. Her Partners Peter Gray and Alison Gillespie then introduced themselves and shared their background. Peter gave a detailed overview of this project. With a state grant they are funding a pilot program to close one lane east and west bound on University Blvd and make it available to cyclists and pedestrians. This is for a limited time and will be evaluated. Some main goals of the initiative include enhanced Pedestrian safety and improved connectivity and safety for cyclists. If successful they hope to expand this to other locations. This will be a limited time due to its being funded by a grant.

FY22 Operating Budget Recommendations:

Luisa updated members on the FY22 Budget. There are no changes, we are still funded and getting the same amount as FY21. If we think we are short we can always go back for a supplemental. Jim Epstein asked whether the stage sound and lighting and skate guards are CIP money. Luisa responded that the skate guards are here and sound, light and benches are part of the punch list. Other topics of discussion

were about funds for a cultural arts center and money for traffic improvements previously noted by Traffic Chief Michael Paylor and the need to advocate for those funds for FY22

Reports:

a. Chamber of Commerce: William Moore, on behalf of the Wheaton & Kensington Chamber of Commerce, reported that they held their monthly BOD meeting that afternoon. Kristy Daphnis and her team presented the Shared Streets Initiative to them during the meeting.

b. Mid-County: Luisa shared the County's progress fighting the Covid pandemic. 42% of County residents have had their first dose and 22% are fully vaccinated. A new mass vaccination site has opened in Germantown. They are able to do 3000 doses a day. The CoVid committee is meeting weekly. Luisa briefly noted the works of the social service Hubs in the area and also announced the winner of the Mural Contest

Community Concerns:

Pedro Matamoros noted his continued concerns about the poor lighting on Lot 13. Alison Gillespie asked about joining the Covid Committee and noted that Costco asks for insurance info before administering a Covid shot.

Bill Jelen inquired about the next steps concerning the Gateway Project

Adjourn: 8:33pm