

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

11701 Georgia Ave, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday October 08, 2019

Members Present: Bill Jelen, Chair; James Mensah, Jim Epstein, William Moore, Chris Pyon, Stuart Amos, Omar Lazo, Crystal Myers

Staff Present: Luisa Montero-Diaz, Mid-County RSC Director

Guests: Javier Rivas, Alexandra J., LEDC; Justin Stone, Manager, MD SBAP; Luke Borwegan, aide to Del. Shetty; Dave Dildine, Karen Cordry, Rob Fox, Suzie Raven, Minh Dang, Abbe Kaufmann, residents; Eden Durbin, aide to Delegate Jared Solomon

Call to Order: 6:36pm by Chair Jelen. He introduced our new member Chris Pyon of Moby Dick seafood. Chris will represent small business.

Review Minutes: A draft of the September minutes was discussed. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes without changes.

Community Concerns:

Some areas of concern expressed by guests included: The Filipino Market closing after 21 years, Bike lanes available at Forest Glen and Glenmont but not here, and the issues with the Reedie Drive traffic changes.

Reports:

a. Chamber of Commerce: William Moore, on behalf of the WK Chamber, stated that they held their monthly Board meeting earlier that afternoon and spent the majority of the session discussing how they could add value to their members and working on a member survey. He also noted the great turnout at their booth during the Wheaton Arts Festival on September 22 and also at an Economic Development mixer they held on September 25th that featured guest speakers from Montgomery County government, Ash Shetty, Daniel Koroma, Grace Denno and Jerome Fletcher.

Upcoming events for the Chamber include: A "Why Local" Networking Lunch event at FAsMarketplace on October 30th with CE Marc Elrich and other County officials, Friendsgiving on November 21st with Kensington Park Senior Living and the Angels for Children Toy Drive Kickoff Mixer with MHP at Los Chorros on December 4th.

b. Mid-County RSC/Wheaton Urban District: Luisa Montero-Diaz updated WUDAC on the pace of the Revitalization project. It is 76% complete with a May 2020 completion date.

She briefly noted the work of the Mid-County Complete Count Committee that met to discuss the 2020 Census count. Their mission is to make sure all residents are counted.

Last night was the first 2020 Budget Forum hearing. WUDAC was well represented by Bill, Jim and Omar.

The new Library is attracting 2000-3000 visitors a day. Programs like Pottery and those for Seniors start in January.

WUDAC will be partnering with Montgomery Parks for another Sunday Funday on November 3rd from 12-4.

c. Wheaton Small Business Assistance Program: Justin Stone, manager, MC SBAP, introduced Javier Rivas and Alexandra Sanmaniego, as the new programming team for LEDC in Wheaton, replacing Richard Cisneros and Johanna Amaya. Justin then updated WUDAC on the SBAP. There have been 13 new disbursements and 1 new application. \$271,000 has been disbursed in the last three months. He estimates that total expenditures will reach \$1 million by Christmas. Total to date is \$879,827. Member discussion followed.

Old Business & Action Item Updates:

a. Letter re: WUD FY21: Jim Epstein led a discussion on a letter concerning the WUD FY 2021 operating budget. Leah, Stuart and Jim are taking the lead on Budget requests. They met on September 25th to discuss the draft budget requests distributed at the September meeting. They handed out a recap to WUDAC members that focused on money for Town Plaza infrastructure improvements, staffing, and support services. Last night was the first of a half dozen Forums. The Budget process has changed. Budgets will be on a 2 year cycle and programs must be justified. We are making requests because Luisa and Joe Callaway will have additional responsibilities with Veteran's Park and the Town Square. Jim stated they are recommending buying equipment for the stage rather than renting, and adding another employee on staff or by contract. Member discussion followed. Jim stated that his committee will draft a letter for next meeting. Stuart requested Luisa and Joe join them so that they don't duplicate efforts.

b. Wheaton Safety Walk Follow Up Letter:

Chair Jelen stated that he couldn't provide an update on the Safety letter since it is unknown if PBTA has voted on it yet. He thinks that Vision Zero funding should be included in budget requests to keep the momentum from the Walk going. Discussion followed

New Business:

a. Annual Retreat: A tentative date for the WUDAC retreat was set for October 19th, 10:30am-1pm at FAsMarketplace. Discussion on Agenda followed.

b. November Pop-up Event: Luisa noted a flyer detailing the events for the Pop-Up event. Sidney still needs volunteers but Luisa noted that Montgomery Parks staff will be present for the entire event.

Other Business:

William Moore mentioned that State Delegate Jared Solomon will hold a JAVA With Jared meet and greet at IHOP Wheaton on November 13th, 8:30am-10am

Eden Durbin, aide to Delegate Solomon, also mentioned a couple more upcoming Events for Jared.

Adjourn: 8:30pm