

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee (WUDAC)
Tuesday, April 9 | 2024 | 7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Hybrid Meeting - Minutes

WUDAC in attendance: Jim Epstein, Riana Cole, Rob Fox, Ali Oliver-Krueger, Nina Koltnow, Philip Daley, Tanya Baskin, Kit Wood, Pedro Matamoros, David Jarrett, Luisa Cardona, Sidney Cooper

GUESTS: Kathia Chávez (Office of Council Member Fani-Gonzalez), Joseph Gelula (Office of Council Member Styles), James LeBlanc (Director of Community Impact, WorkSource Montgomery), Ruth Pineda (Bilingual Community Impact Coordinator, WorkSource Montgomery) Greg Ossont (Deputy Director of Dept of General Services),

PUBLIC: Leslie Liao, Ken (last name withheld)

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| I. | Call to order | 7:00 pm |
| II. | Review/Approve minutes - approved | 7:04 pm |
| III. | Community Concerns - none | 7:05 pm |
| IV. | Reports/Updates | 7:15 pm |
| | <i>a.</i> Elected representatives in attendance | |

Council Member Fani-Gonzalez's Office: It's operating budget season. We encourage constituents to write in and submit testimony. They can do it via this link: [here](#). April 24 6PM CM Fani-Gonzalez and DGS will host a meeting about the Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center at the Wheaton Rec Center. For more information, [click here](#).

b. Kensington/Wheaton Chamber of Commerce report -

The Chamber held a successful Business Networking Expo on March 27.

c. Committee Reports

Economic Development: no report

Youth Crisis and Public Safety: there is hope to have a town hall in June.

Arts and Entertainment: see notes elsewhere in these minutes. As part of efforts to brand Wheaton A&E District, the decision has been made to create a non-profit. The temporary board is currently seeking members of a Nominating Committee to nominate those who might serve on the permanent board of the non-profit. Nominations for the nominating committee are being accepted in CM Fani-Gonzalez's office through April 12th.

Transportation: There will be a pedestrian and bicycle safety walk around Westfield Wheaton later in April, led by CM Fani-Gonzalez. The question was raised as to whether a representative of MoCo DOT will attend. They will.

Outreach and Communications: had small business meeting today to put together resources for WUD businesses to create content to promote themselves, kicking off with the Taste of Wheaton. It is in a cut-and-paste format for ease of use. This committee is striving to create a content library for each business in Wheaton to elevate their brands.

They will also share a DMV events calendar for the information of the businesses in WUD.

d. MCCAB, *Rob Fox*

Transportation presentation regarding University Blvd. red lane bus pilot program.

Vision Zero update and State Highways update. Forest Glen/16th St corridor programs are taking some time due to utility concerns, etc.

Office established for determining use of Opioid Abatement Funds.

e. Mid-County Regional Services Center, *Luisa Cardona*

Sidney Cooper: planning for Taste of Wheaton. Still seeking vendors of all types, not just food. The RSC provides help via HHS for food vending requirements. Pricing for restaurants has been opened up so restaurants can decide their own pricing. The first 10 x10 booth is free. Businesses only need to buy a \$70 food license. Please apply! Sooner is better. The county will have teen volunteers there as helpers.

Citizens, please encourage your favorite businesses to apply. It is very well attended by people from all over the DMV. For more information on the Taste, [click here](#).

TGIF will return to Marion Fryer Plaza this summer, starting July 12 and going through August. Chuck Levins will again participate, though not to the extent of last year. There will again be a Spanish heritage event or events in Wheaton as a whole Montgomery County event.

Luisa: This Tuesday Mid County Regional Services is going before the Council to advocate for additional funds. Costs for producing events have doubled. They need more for street scaping, supporting artists. Piloting the idea of sponsorships for businesses to increase visibility.

Pedestrian safety barriers are in fabrication to replace ones that have been knocked down, but they will be knocked down again. This is not financially sustainable.

V. Presentation 7:40 pm

a. Greg Ossont (Deputy Director of Dept of General Services) -

Town Hall 4/24 at 6 PM regarding Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, beyond the base building (which is provided by MHP; a first floor) - County will build out the Center. Base building currently being designed. DGS will hire an arts consultant to help run the discussion about building the space out. There will be other opportunities for input. Waiting for response from (Federal Dept) regarding grant money for build. Should hear in May. End of 2024 or start of 2025 building should begin. The County Council has approved (straw vote, not final) the capital project that will provide the DGS funding for the program as part of CIP. The project is very popular.

See Project Page for WACC: montgomerycountymd.gov/DGS/OPD/WheatonArtsandCulturalCenter.html. DGC is meeting with MHP frequently (using Grimm and Parker) as architect; DGS has worked with them a lot in the past.

Also, council members appear in favor of funding improvements to retail space on 1st floor of Park and Planning Building. Need to build it out in order to attract tenants. It is typical for a landlord to incentivize good tenants; the Council has tentatively approved up to \$4 million to build out the space once a user is identified. Concepts for the space are numerous, though no specific use has gelled. (It comprises 11,500sf, which could be configured any number of ways.)

We do not know who will use it, but it will NOT be used as a new Police Department; it could include governmental departments. Goal: to put foot traffic in the Triangle. Please bring your proposals.

Could it be combined with the WACC as part of an “arts campus?”

b. James LeBlanc (Director of Community Impact, WorkSource Montgomery), Ruth Pineda (Bilingual Community Impact Coordinator, WorkSource Montgomery)

WorkSource Montgomery has 7 locations. They provide employment and training services to local job seekers and help local employers meet their current and future hiring needs. <https://worksourcemontergy.com/home/community-impact/community-asset-map/> .

In Wheaton there is also an American Job Center, particularly aiming to help the Latino community. They also have a Justice Empowerment Center in Wheaton for people affected by the Justice System in addition to a WorkSource Montgomery branch at the local jail and a mobile job center.

They urge employers, health care providers, housing to get on their asset map.

The Community Impact Department educates the public about what is provided. They are getting increased traction.

Job seekers receive personalized career and training services. WFM continue case management for 12 months after placement.

They provide resources for businesses, particularly to train and onboard worker.

They have career advisors in the MS and HS's now. They have a separate program for 16 - 24 year olds not in school, to help them get stipended work experience.

Go to info@worksourcemontergy.com to sign up for their newsletter.

VI. New Business 8:10 pm

Next meeting will be on May 21, not the 2nd Tuesday as usual. May 14 is election day, and early voting takes place the week before that. The drop boxes are open. They may appear locked, but they are not: try the flap above the lock.

From Kathia Chévez: Edison HS hosts a financial literacy program for younger students. Junior Finance Park at Thomas Edison School of Technology: [click here](#). To volunteer for this and other Junior Achievement programs, [use this link](#).

VII. Adjourn 8:12 pm

NEXT WUDAC MEETING: May 21, 2024