

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday December 8, 2020

Online meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Chelsea Andrews, Chair; Mariela Garcia-Colberg, Vice Chair; William Moore, James Mensah, Chris Pyon, Bill Jelen, Leah Haygood, Crystal Myers, Jim Epstein, Stuart Amos, Omar Lazo

Staff Present: Luisa Montero-Diaz, Mid-County RSC Director; Shawn Morris, Aide; Jake Adler, Community Projects Coordinator; Kevin Simpson, Community and Economic Coordinator; Justin Stone, SBAP Coordinator; Amanda Harris, Chief of Unit to End/Prevent Homelessness

Guests: Cheryl Jackson, Molly Rollo, Zoezi

Call to Order: 6:32pm by Chair Andrews

November Minutes Review: A motion was made and passed to approve the November Meeting Minutes without changes.

PRESENTATION

Amanda Harris, Chair

DHHS/Services to End and Prevent Homelessness
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

- Presented the mission, outreach, and results of the organization.
- Big picture - goal is to end homelessness by 2023.
- Good news there are currently empty beds in the shelters.
- \$21 Million in eviction/homeless prevention from COVID relief funds.
- Studies predict homelessness could increase around 40%
- 2 new outreach workers for SS and Wheaton. They will work with both people who are homeless and the business community.
- Homeless Info Hotline 240-907-2688
- WUD indicated they will be installing giant holiday decorations to discourage homelessness.
- Committed to report quarterly to WUD and/or WUDAC

Reports

- Chamber of Commerce:** No meeting this month. Omar Lazo gave a general update that businesses continue to struggle, especially this past month.
- Small Business Assistance Program:** Justin Stone
Timeframe eligibility for impact for SBAP grant closed in October 2020. This was extended. Businesses can still submit applications but only for expenses incurred through October 2020. A total of \$1.3 Million has been disbursed. Grants ranged from \$1200 to \$125,000 with the average being \$24K.
- Mid-County RSC:** RSC Director Luisa Montero-Diaz shared the following:
 - Consolidated service hubs (Wheaton/Glenmont local at Hughes Memorial Church) Food distribution, Covid testing.
 - Arts organizations will be meeting next week.

- Town plaza Dedication canceled. New date TBD
- Business Loyalty program is happening, many businesses chose not to participate. New RideOn bus posters!
- Non transvers able barrier on Georgia Ave is up
- Neighborhood grant matching funds are available to better community connections.

d. Veirs Mill BRT Advisory Committee: No update

e. Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan Update: Next Meeting January 21, 2021

f. Wheaton Gateway: Bill Jelen gave update from the community presentation from December 3rd, 2020. Luisa added comments from letter submitted to County Executive by residents of Wheaton Hills. WUDAC has agreed to reach out to Duffie Companies to find out timing of comments on sketch plan submittal. Developer will be invited back to WUDAC meeting early in the new year.

Old Business and Action Item Updates

a. Sub-Committee Reports:

-COVID Recovery: Stuart indicated businesses are in mitigation and unfortunately, no longer in recovery.

-WUDAC Communications and Messaging: Work with Sidney as she communicates, pushes messages out via Next door, web site etc.

b. Town Plaza Issues: Jim gave update on lighting meeting/Luisa will follow up. WUDAC needs to continue pressure.

c. Pedestrian Traffic Committee, Jim E. reports Michael Paylor will be invited to our January meeting. It has been indicated that there should be money for modifications to Grandview/Blueridge and light at Price.

Recruitment Update

Small business rep member is needed and recruitment is in process. Ali Oliver-Krueger will be moving into Chamber Rep position

New Business

Wheaton Gateway Sub-Committee formed to delve into the sketch plan more thoroughly and advise the full Committee, with Bill J. Mariela, Luisa, Jim, and Leah

Chelsea will be leading the scheduling of a planning mini retreat to scope out the rest of the year. To be scheduled in the first quarter of 2021. Staff will send out a doodle survey.

Other Announcements

Sad news. Joe Calloway is retiring....WUDAC would like to recognize him and will work on options before January meeting

Adjourn: 8:30pm