



Regional Services Center | Wheaton Urban District

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Luisa F. Cardona
Director

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, Tuesday May 10, 2022

Online Via Zoom

Members Present: Jim Epstein, Chair; Mariela Garcia-Colberg, Vice Chair; William Moore, James Mensah, Chris Pyon, Chelsea Andrews, Bill Jelen

Staff Present: Luisa Cardona, Mid-County RSC Director, Crystal Ruiz, Wheaton Urban District Operations Manager, Jake Adler, Community Projects Manager

Guests: Captain Nopadon McKee, WMATA; Charlie Scott, Sr.Gov't Relations Officer, Maryland, WMATA

Call To Order: 7:03pm by Chair Jim Epstein

Review Minutes: After a review of the April Meeting Minutes draft, a motion was made and passed to approve the minutes without changes

Community Concerns: Chair Epstein announced a Wheaton Hills Candidate Forum at Highland Elementary on Wednesday May 25th, 7:00pm

Reports:

W&K Chamber of Commerce: William Moore noted the Chamber's Community Awards Program will be online Wed. June 29th, 6:30-8pm

MCCAB: Rob Fox reported that their last meeting was more like a Town Hall with HHS

Wheaton Urban District: WUD Operations Manager Crystal Ruiz updated WUDAC members on the installation later this month of a Sound and Light package for the Town Plaza. She also noted that they are currently installing the summer flowers. RSC Director Luisa Cardona went to the County Council to speak of funding for Town Plaza/WUD and more support for the Wheaton Arts Parade.

Crystal also stated that people are using the recycle containers around the Urban District and noted the efforts of the Clean and Safe Team to clean up an area behind Westfield near the walking path to Stephen Knolls School.

RSC Director Luisa Cardona also mentioned her push for more funding for the Wheaton Arts Parade and assistance for groups to rent the meeting space/plaza space.

In response to questions from a small business meeting held several weeks earlier Luisa clarified exactly how programs and operations are funded by the County. She noted that the General Fund will also fund 3 staffers for CUPF at the outset but eventually CUPF will be self-funded through fees generated. The fee program has yet to be defined. She will provide info to WUDAC members when available.

Luisa shared that she requested \$75000 for the Community fee assistance program. She noted that the Wheaton Urban District will receive an additional staff member for FY23.

Presentation:

WMATA, Safety, Cleanliness, Community: Charlie Scott and Captain Nopadon McKee from WMATA made a joint presentation to WUDAC on the state of affairs within the transit system and their efforts to improve safety and cleanliness in our community. After a brief background introduction they launched into a slide presentation. Some highlights included an update on Capital Improvements and the use of Federal relief funds in 2023 to balance the budget. Those Federal Funds will end in 2024. They provided info on the status of the investigation into the 7000-series rail cars and plans to put back more 6000-series cars to improve service. They noted upcoming programs to bring back riders and details of repairs to the WMATA parking garage at Westfield. The County is funding cameras in the garage. Completion of those repairs is expected in October 2022. They also highlighted future joint development opportunities for their properties in Wheaton. Wheaton is identified in Group 3-Future Solicitations, which means nothing is ready but it is being looked at. An update was also given on a previously owned WMATA property at 11507 Georgia Ave. in Wheaton. It was sold to the County in June 2020. A Planning Board resolution cites a plan for a future Wheaton Urban Recreational Park.

Lastly, they went over crime statistics in their system. Crime is relatively low with Glenmont being the only station in MoCo with high crime. Metro Transit Police have launched new community policing and safety initiatives including a QR code featuring MTPD's text tip number. Captain McKee also reported on his Homeless Outreach Project. Member discussion ensued on the exact roles of the various jurisdictions when it comes to reporting and handling of criminal activity.

Jim Epstein asked about the pedestrian bridge over Veirs Mill. Yes it is open. WMATA stated that it would be cleaned on a regular schedule.

Adjourn: 8:36pm