

City of Takoma Park, Maryland
Board of Elections

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
7:30pm - Third Floor Council Conference Room
Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Arthur David Olson, Beatriz York, Greg Lebel, Brian Ernst, Marilyn Abbott, Lori Grazio

1. **Call to Order:** 7:36pm
2. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Approved with additional item in Other Business.
3. **Approval of Minutes (February 21, 2017):** Approved.
4. **Board Business:** The board added two members and there are no remaining vacancies.
5. **Status report on synchronization:**
 - a. Public hearing on April 1: The city council held a public hearing on the election date change on April 1. Of the residents who provided comment, there were some concerns over running two elections one year apart and the increased costs, but overall the members of the public split along supporting or disapproving the change.
 - b. Charter Amendment: The current charter amendment changes the city council terms from two years to one year for the term starting 2017. It also moves to have the mayor and council members take office after the election a few days later than the current timeline after the election. It moves the nominating caucus a few weeks earlier in the year, and extends the time for the vote count. The first hearing on the amendment is April 5, the first reading of the charter amendment is scheduled for April 12, and the second reading is April 26, and then the amendment takes effect 50 days later.
 - c. MOU: The MOU between Takoma Park and the county is under consideration at the county staff level.
6. **Preparing for 2017 elections:**
 - a. The board discussed the new hand count procedures using colored ballots. With practice ballots, the board held a first practice run in sorting and counting the ballots.
7. **Other Business:** Celebrate Takoma is upcoming on May 20, the board will have a table at the event. March 28 there is a Rockville event and four staff will be attending. Marilyn is drafting an annual report for the Council and will circulate among the board members.

8. **Confirm Members' Availability for Next Meeting:** April 18th
9. **Adjournment:** 9:03pm