

City of Takoma Park
Takoma Junction Community Consultation Process Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2016

The Takoma Junction Community Consultation Process Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park Maryland.

Members Present: Laura Barclay, Tony Camilli, Shera Higgs-Thompson, Deepak Marwah, Vineda Myers

Members Absent: Ameer Bearn, Talisha Searcy

NDC Staff Present: Diarra McKinney, Django Broer-Hellermann

Staff Present: Roz Grigsby

Visitors: Robert Anderson, Susan Schreiber

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Two members, Shera Higgs-Thompson and Vineda Myers, joined in via conference call, as did Diarra McKinney.

2. Meeting dates

The meeting began with McKinney suggesting postponing the date of the first community meeting, which had been tentatively scheduled for October 18th. He felt that NDC needed to have some agreement with the Co-op on the loading and parking issues, which will impact the site plan, before NDC can proceed with seeking community input.

Committee members asked NDC about the timeframe for an agreement between NDC and the Co-op. McKinney explained that the development agreement requires NDC to have a signed Letter of Intent with the Co-op by November 29. If that doesn't happen, the City Council has three options: grant an additional 30 days for negotiation; authorize NDC to seek a new anchor tenant; or back out of the development agreement. The committee discussed the possibility of delaying the first meeting until November and the impact on the rest of the schedule. They recognized the need for a signed LOI before seeking public input and the difficulty of holding community meetings near the holidays.

Camilli asked McKinney about the impact of delaying community meetings on NDC's work. McKinney acknowledged that it would delay the project, which is committed to incorporating community feedback, and would require City approval of a revised project schedule.

Committee Action: Marwah moved, and Barclay seconded, a motion to postpone the community meetings until the LOI is signed. The motion passed.

3. Placemaking

Barclay mentioned that she was approached by Welmoed Laanstra, a local resident, who is interested in a placemaking exercise based on the work of Candy Chang: "I wish this was" Laanstra proposed setting up a board in the Co-op for people to write their ideas of what might happen at the Junction. The committee expressed concerns about this proposal: Council has already committed to the redevelopment of the City-owned lot; the committee is holding off on community input until the LOI is in place in order to ensure that input is meaningful; the location excludes people in other parts of Takoma Park who

do not shop at the Co-op. Some ideas are no longer options and managing community expectations is important. Staff will follow up to see where the idea stands.

4. Next Steps

McKinney said they will consult with their architects and come back to the committee with proposals about the formats for the meeting topics and new dates when there is progress on the LOI. The committee and staff will need lead time to arrange meeting details, child care, translation services and outreach. McKinney will be in touch with staff to reach out to the committee about timing and future activity.

Respectfully submitted:
Rosalind Grigsby
Community Development Manager