

City of Takoma Park
Takoma Junction Community Consultation Process Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2016

The Takoma Junction Community Consultation Process Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park Maryland.

Members Present: Laura Barclay, Tony Camilli, Talisha Searcy

Members Absent: Ameer Bearn, Shera Higgs-Thompson, Deepak Marwah, Vineda Myers

NDC Staff Present: Diarra McKinney, Django Broer-Hellermann

Staff Present: Roz Grigsby

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

2. Meeting Topics and Formats

The meeting began with Broer-Hellermann and McKinney discussing the possible meeting topics and formats. Neighborhood Development Company has been working with StreetSense to develop the topics and consider possible ways to get feedback. The identified topics are form and character; public realm; access and mobility; and retail and market considerations.

One option NDC is considering is holding two sets of identical meetings, with paired topics, in order to encourage engagement and avoid meeting fatigue. With this idea, one meeting might include facades and retail, and be held twice, on a week night and a weekend time. A second set of meetings with the other topics would be held in a similar manner. Then a resident who wanted to participate in all the topic discussions would only need to attend two meetings. Of course, there is overlap between the topics, for instance parking would be relevant to retail as well as access.

3. Community Meeting Dates and Venues

The community meetings will probably be in February and March, NDC hopes to come to the next committee meeting with proposed dates. The committee discussed ways to make it easier for residents to participate. One important option is to hold meetings in both the Takoma Park Community Center on Maple Avenue and the Takoma Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue. Also, holding identical meetings on a week night and a weekend gives people more options to participate.

Dates to avoid: President's Day weekend (February 20), Spring Break (week of April 9) and Easter weekend (April 16).

4. Support Services

By giving people alternatives with the meetings on a week night or a weekend, the constraints of child care seem eased and the committee felt that it wasn't necessary to provide that service. Likewise, translation services seemed unnecessary, given that the City doesn't provide that for other meetings or Council meetings. Meeting materials could be presented in English, Spanish and Amharic in advance.

The committee discussed the importance of using an on-line survey tool to collect feedback and community input through additional means. A tool like Survey Monkey allows a broader group of people to participate and expands the discussion. With the ability to upload pictures, the survey could ask for input on various options, rank choices, and possibly offer the survey in multiple languages.

5. Next Steps

The next committee meeting will be Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the Takoma Park Community Center. At that time the committee and NDC will determine additional meetings for the committee regarding preparations for the broad community meetings.

Respectfully submitted:
Rosalind Grigsby
Community Development Manager