

Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee 11/15/2022 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Victor Thuronyi, Jay Levy, Julie Boddy, Paul Gunter

The committee approved the October 2022 meeting minutes.

The committee discussed setting up introductory meetings in 2023 with the newly elected Mayor and City Councilors. Victor will review the Maryland “Open Meeting” provisions and report back to the committee on whether the introductory meetings will need to be publicly posted. No dates or agendas were discussed or scheduled.

The committee discussed new committee members. Adam Frank, who was solicited by Jay, has submitted his request and application to the City for their vetting and approval. Adam is a Takoma Park resident and practicing immigration lawyer. He has previously served on the NFTPAC for ten years. He recently retired from the TPSS Coop Board. The new Mayor and Council are anticipated to review Adam’s appointment to the committee in January 2023.

The committee discussed its participation in the Takoma Park Street Festival. The committee shared a portion of the City’s assigned table. Beyond Nuclear provided literature. The committee provided its flyer briefly explaining the committee’s mission, responsibilities and duties. The committee had a sign-up sheet where residents could provide contact information to receive notification of committee news and events. Alvaro from Takoma Park Cable Network stopped by the table and chatted with Paul about his interest and willingness to set up some media events on the cable network. No specific events were discussed or scheduled. Committee discussion and follow-up is warranted.

The committee discussed community postings on the NFTPAC page of the City website and the Takoma Park Facebook page. Topics included the Russia-Ukraine war and the wider threat that military conflict presents as the 15 nuclear power stations represent vulnerable and strategic critical infrastructure along with large stockpiles of high-level nuclear waste. The committee briefly discussed a national nuclear waste status report by the committee per the City’s Nuclear Free Zone Act. Paul is preparing a draft for committee review before submittal to City and posting to the committee page of the City website.

With Jay's agreement, Julie proposed ending the report on a note of agency and hope by noting the growing international movement for divestment from nuclear weapons financing. In recent years the Takoma Park City Council has twice given its approval to divesting from both banking and investment programs with city funds, though the approval has yet to be implemented by City financial officers. Residents can contact their Ward Representatives for an update on the status of implementation, and all of us can consult the Don't bank on the Bomb website to see how our personal banks, credit cards and investment agencies may be involved. The Nuclear Free Committee has information on how to make changes.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2022, at 7:30 to 9:00 pm ET by the City’s Zoom.