

**Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee  
Minutes, 7:30 to 9:00 PM, Tuesday, August 9, 2022,  
Takoma Park Community Center**

In attendance: Jay Levy, Julie Boddy, Victor Thuronyi, Paul Gunter  
By Zoom Link: Mahfuz Salih (public observer)

**1. Agenda Review**

Added item for discussion /email to NFTPC from Irma Nalvarte, Assistant City Clerk

**2. Brief introduction of attendees**

- Julie Boddy (Ward 1), reappointed by City to another term, expires June 30, 2024
- Victor Thuronyi (Ward 1), newly appointed by City, expires June 30, 2024
- Jay Levy (Ward 1), June 30, 2023
- Paul Gunter (Ward 1), June 30, 2023
- Mahfuz Salih, member of public, resident, Montgomery Blair High School student

**3. Update on Council's ongoing assistance in new appointments and next steps;**

- Victor attended City Council meeting that announced appointments to NFTPC and reported that the City will resume search for new committee members and appointments in the Fall 2022.
- Jay has been in touch with a city resident and previous NFTPC member, Adam Frank. Jay will follow-up with Mr. Frank.
- Paul and Victor spoke with city resident Jeff Abramson (Ward 3), who had previously expressed his concern that the Committee should not be discontinued and was referred by Councilmember Kasey Kostiuik as a possible new committee member. Jeff is active and employed in an arms control group in Washington, DC. Victor invited Jeff to this meeting.
- Committee will continue to work with City Council on membership outreach.
- Julie advocated for outreach to emphasize women and youth candidates.

**4. Committee officers**

- Victor reviewed City regulations on committees and reports that committee chair term limits are restricted to only two consecutive years. Jay has been the NFTPC Chair for much longer than that. Discussion followed and Jay volunteered to resign as Chair.
- Victor noted that City regulations additionally provide that committees should have a Vice Chair and Secretary.

---The Committee voted to appoint Victor Thuronyi the Chair, Jay Levy the Vice Chair and Paul Gunter the Secretary, with back-up by Julie Boddy for the Secretary role.

#### 5. Other business and discussion

---The committee reviewed a recent email to the NFTPC from Irma Nalvarte, Assistant City Clerk. Ms. Nalvarte is requesting minutes of previous NFTPC meetings for 2022. Discussion followed. Jay commented that he has submitted some minutes that have not been posted to the website. Julie commented that she had contacted the City Library to inquire about web postings of committee meetings and was informed that the website contents were still being updated. Paul commented that the City Council Subcommittee on City Boards and Committees recommended in 2021 to eliminate the NFTPC from city committees. The City froze the committee's membership application process and suspended acceptance of new members with only three serving members on the committee. With the committee's existence in doubt, the committee froze its planning process. The City Council empaneled a task force on Sustainable Banking and Investment, one of its tasks being to make recommendations on the future of the committee. Committee member Paul Gunter served on the Task Force as the committee representative. The committee meetings were devoted to discussion and updates on the progress of the Task Force. No decisions were made by the reduced committee members on the task force report. With the Task Force recommendation to maintain the NFTPC as a standing committee and the City Council resumption of the acceptance of new committee members, the committee is better prepared to carry out its duties, including the regular submittal of minutes. Paul volunteered to directly communicate with the Assistant City Clerk with this update.

---The committee took up a discussion of Councilmember Kostiuk's email to the committee regarding the observance of the "United Nations International Day Against Nuclear Testing" on August 29, 2022 and "United Nations International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons" on September 26, 2022. Paul volunteered to post announcements in advance and on the day to include the Takoma Park FaceBook Page.

---On Julie's suggested that the committee put together a Takoma Park City candidates questionnaire on the City Nuclear Free Zone. Discussion followed that it might not be appropriate for a city committee to sponsor something like this for city elections. However, committee members could encourage some other group (e.g., Takoma Park MOB, Progressive Neighbors) to sponsor a questionnaire.

---Jay commented that he was tasked at the last meeting to look into the possibility of the NFTPC making regularly scheduled announcements on Takoma Park Cable TV's "We Are Takoma" show. He is still in discussion and will report back at the September committee meeting.

---Julie suggested that the committee initiate a discussion at the Climate Coffee Zoom. Discussion followed on what would be the topic. Paul suggested that in follow up to the City Council query to the Task Force on Sustainable Banking and Financial Investment on the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act current inclusion of redirecting city resources from “nuclear weapons and nuclear power” that went unaddressed, the NFTPC could pick up that broader community discussion starting with the Climate Coffee Zoom. The Inflation Reduction Act 2022 signed by President Biden on August 16, 2022 amends the federal tax code with a complicated formula for generating tens of billions of dollars in production and investment tax credits to incentivize new “advanced” reactor development. The Act similarly formulates production tax credits to keep dozens of existing, uneconomical operating reactors that would otherwise permanently close that analysts have estimated will amount to at least \$30 billion over the next nine years. A simple discussion question could be “What should the role of nuclear power be on climate?” Paul will prepare an outline for introducing as a discussion item to the Climate Coffee Zoom and Takoma Park FaceBook page.

--Next committee meeting

The NFTPC will next meet at 7:30-9:00 p.m, Tuesday, September 13, 2022.