

Minutes of the Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee

City Hall, 7:30 pm, Tuesday, June 5, 2012

In attendance: Jay Levy (chair), Rob Rini, Polly Kanazaki, Julie Boddy, Paul Gunter(minutes) and a member of the public from Takoma Park. Presenting were Alvaro Calabia and Sue Silber.

Takoma Park City TV Offer

The meeting began with a presentation by Alvaro Calabia, Takoma Park City TV staff, to discuss closer work with the NFTP (the committee) to produce televised community events for cable access on the nuclear issue, possibly with a focus on the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear power plant accident in Japan for Takoma Park residents.

The committee responded enthusiastically with a number of brainstorm ideas for televising issue focused community events including speakers, debates and a film series. Takoma Park has a number of resident nationally and internationally recognized experts that would make excellent speakers on the Fukushima issue and other nuclear concerns. The committee will continue its caucus by e-mail and the next meeting to discuss a specific agenda of proposed activities to present to the community through a collaboration with Takoma Park City TV.

The committee initiated a brief discussion of one such event. The committee will book the City Hall auditorium for the evening of Sunday, December 2, 2012 for a public presentation by a panel of such local renown experts (TBD) to discuss the still unresolved international nuclear waste issue in context the 70th year commemoration of the first sustained critical atomic chain reaction at "Chicago Pile-1" under Stagg Field, University of Chicago and the first man-made creation of nuclear waste in conjunction of the manufacture of the first atomic bombs of the Manhattan Project.

Discussion of Amending the Nuclear Free Takoma Park Ordinance with City Attorney Sue Silber

The City Attorney Sue Silber initiated a discussion with the committee with regard to possibly amending the Takoma Park Nuclear-Free Zone Act of 1983. In specific, Attorney Silber was interested in hearing from the committee on whether or not the current guidance document that lists nuclear weapons manufacturers and service contractors is sufficient or needed to be recertified given that it is no longer nationally updated and centrally published due to national security issues arising out of the September 11, 2001 attacks on American interests. The committee noted that the guidance document is further supported by the "self-certification" process required of all city contractors and vendors to disclose any business that furthers the nuclear weapons complex.

After significant discussion, the committee expressed unanimously support for the continued use of the guidance document as a basic reference and self-certification process and further expressed its finding that there is no need to amend the Act for this purpose.

The committee further requested that the City provide the committee with more timely notice for review of contractors and vendors being scrutinized under the nuclear free ordinance or request for a

waiver from the ordinance. Thirty days advance notice was deemed adequate advance notice for the volunteer committee to conduct a review.

Waiver Request for Purchase of Hewlitt Packard Computers for the City Library Senior Computer Center

Hewlitt Packard Corporation is one of the committee's listed corporations that conducts business in conjunction with the development, deployment, protection and utilization of the nuclear weapons and therefore any business with the City of Takoma Park requires a waiver from "The Takoma Park Nuclear-Free Act of 1983."

Updated research indicates that Hewlitt Packard (HP) continues to conduct business with the "Department of Defense and other federal agencies" for "cloud services" capable of the development, deployment, security and utilization of nuclear weapons. ("HP Awarded US Army Contract for Enterprise Cloud Computing Services," April 11, 2012, <http://www.defencetalk.com/hp-us-army-contract-enterprise-cloud-computing-services-41528/>)

The committee further discussed the City Library's request of a waiver from "The Takoma Park Nuclear-Free Act of 1983" for the purchase of Hewlitt Packard computers for the library's Senior Center computer room. After further deliberations and largely based on an unanswered and unaddressed request from the committee to the City Library for additional information, as well as public comment presented to committee members by a Takoma Park resident who is a user of the city library computer system but who does not support the waiver request, the committee is advising that the City Council not issue a waiver. The committee is composing and attaching its memo to the City Council advising that the waiver not be approved.