



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – June 8, 2016 Agenda Item 4

### **Work Session**

Discussion of the Draft Streetscape Manual

### **Recommended Council Action**

Discuss the Draft Streetscape Manual and draft resolution.

### **Context with Key Issues**

Development of the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual has been underway since late 2014. The manual provides a mapped inventory of all streetscape elements in the public right-of-way, with specifications on procurement and installation, to ensure consistency of replacement and future installations throughout the city. The Streetscape Manual is both a management tool for City staff and a communications tool for public and private stakeholders with an interest or responsibility in the betterment and maintenance of public rights-of-way.

A draft document was released in advance of the February 17, 2016 City Council Work Session on the item. City staff received public comments on the document in February as well as at the April 20, 2016 Public Hearing. Community input contributed to substantive revisions to the Streetscape Manual, including the addition of a “Guiding Principles” section at the beginning of the document. A revised draft of the Streetscape Manual was posted to the City website on May 20, 2016.

### **Council Priority**

A Livable Community for All; Fiscally Sustainable Government; Environmentally Sustainable Community; Engaged, Responsive & Service-oriented Government; Advance Economic Development Efforts

### **Environmental Impact of Action**

Ongoing use of the Streetscape Manual is intended to encourage the purchase of street furniture that is more durable and easier to maintain, while reducing “visual clutter” in the public realm. The Streetscape Manual identifies fixtures and methods that conform to the City’s environmental goals and green procurement policy.

### **Fiscal Impact of Action**

The Streetscape Manual was developed in-house with public input and will be updated and expanded in future years by City staff. Streetscape items to be purchased or installed in the future are subject to the City’s procurement policies. The costs for replacement and maintenance of items identified in the document are covered in existing areas of the adopted budget.

### **Attachments and Links**

- Streetscape Manual Project Page: [takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/streetscape-manual](http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/streetscape-manual)
- Draft Resolution Adopting the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**Resolution No. 2016-**

**Resolution Adopting the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual**

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park installs and maintains hundreds of pieces of furniture, lighting, wayfinding signs, bike racks, etc. on public right-of-way in residential neighborhoods and commercial districts; and

WHEREAS, functional, accessible, and well maintained public spaces improve quality of life in Takoma Park by fostering community, enhancing business vitality, and supporting environmental and economic sustainability, and

WHEREAS, the City has made efforts in recent years to design and improve residential and commercial streetscapes with intentionality and creativity, using high quality products and treatments that are both functional and communicate the City's unique identity; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2012, the Takoma Park City Council adopted by Resolution 2012-56 the New Ave Streetscape Standards, developed to guide streetscape improvements along New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard resulting from both private redevelopment and public infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2013, the Takoma Park City Council appointed five residents to the Residential Streetscape Task Force, to develop a residential streetscape policy and design guidelines for review; and

WHEREAS, the Residential Streetscape Task Force presented a final report to the City Council on April 20, 2015 outlining recommendations to establish a policy statement on streetscapes in the community, greater inter-departmental coordination on streetscape improvements, the development of a streetscape style manual, and special consideration to distinct neighborhoods like the historic district; and

WHEREAS, City staff developed the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual that provides a mapped inventory of all streetscape elements installed by the City in public rights-of-way to ensure consistency of installation and replacement in specified locations of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual incorporates the New Ave Streetscape Standards and addresses many recommendations in the Residential Streetscape Task Force final report; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual is a city-wide document applicable to both City and State maintained rights-of-way, with discrete guidance for Flower Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue, the Takoma Park Historic District, and residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual is intended to be used by all City staff and City-appointed boards, commissions, and committees, when proposing, reviewing, installing, and replacing streetscape elements in the public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual will be published on the City's website and updated annually by City staff.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland hereby adopts the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

Attest:

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Jessie Carpenter  
City Clerk