



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 12, 2018 Agenda Item 3

Voting Session

Resolution Commenting on the Takoma Park Middle School Addition

Recommended Council Action

Vote on the Resolution

Context with Key Issues

Due to increasing enrollment, Montgomery County Public Schools is constructing an addition to Takoma Park Middle School, located at 7611 Piney Branch Road in the City of Takoma Park. Preliminary Plans for the expansion of Takoma Park Middle School were presented by Montgomery County Public Schools officials to Council on September 5, 2018. Changes to buildings, facilities, and properties owned by public entities are subject to the Mandatory Referral process.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Takoma Park and the Montgomery County Planning Board establishes a coordinated review process for site plan applications in Takoma Park. The City Council communicates with the Planning Board via resolution. The Council may elect not to take any action on a specific plan or proceed with the adoption of a resolution to recommend approval of the plan as presented, approval of the plan with conditions, or disapproval of the plan.

Lee Jordan Field, adjacent to the middle school, is a valuable playfield for school and community use that is managed by the City of Takoma Park pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County Public Schools. A portion of the field is proposed to be used for construction staging, greatly reducing its usability during this time.

The resolution providing Council comment on the planned expansion will be presented for the record at the Planning Board hearing on September 13, 2018.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All
Engaged, Responsive, and Service Oriented Government

Environmental Considerations

The Takoma Park Middle School addition will be designed and constructed with a focus on environmental sustainability. This will be accomplished through a variety of measures including using recycled and regionally constructed construction materials, installing water conserving plumbing features, and managing stormwater run-off.

The site design aims to minimize impacts to the layout of the current site to preserve as many trees as possible, and maintain a portion of the existing hillside along the back of the school; however some trees will be lost.

Fiscal Considerations

Fiscal impacts include reduced revenue from use of Lee Jordan Field of approximately \$3,000. While there will be reduced expenditures for landscaping maintenance and water usage on Lee Jordan

Field during construction, other City fields will receive greater use during that time, increasing maintenance costs for those fields.

Racial Equity Considerations

Takoma Park Middle School demographic characteristics for students enrolled during the 2017-2018 academic year were 31.7% African American, 29.6% White, 17.7% Asian, 15.5% Hispanic, and 5.4% two or more races. Expansion of the school's facilities can better serve Takoma Middle School's diverse student body and accommodate the school's future enrollment.

Attachments and Links

- Draft Resolution
- City of Takoma Park Project Page [Takoma Middle School Expansion](#)
- Montgomery County Public Schools [Project Page](#)
- City of Takoma Park [Development Review](#)

Introduced by: Councilmember

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Resolution No. 2018-

**Providing Comment on the Proposed Takoma Park Middle School Addition
(7611 Piney Branch Road)**

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is proposing to construct an addition to Takoma Park Middle School located at 7611 Piney Branch Road within the City of Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, architects and officials from Montgomery County Public Schools presented preliminary plans for the expansion to Council on September 5, 2018; and

WHEREAS, changes to buildings, facilities, and properties owned by public entities are subject to the Mandatory Referral process; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council plays an important role in the review of development applications in the City by considering the intent and potential impacts on the community and formally commenting on these impacts to the Montgomery County Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports the expansion of Takoma Park Middle School to better serve the increasing student population; and

WHEREAS, Lee Jordan Field located adjacent to the Takoma Park Middle School site is a highly used and valuable community amenity that is permitted and managed by the City of Takoma Park via a Memorandum of Agreement with Montgomery County Public Schools but is proposed to be used as a staging area for construction activities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Takoma Park, supports the Takoma Park Middle School addition with the conditions that access to a usable portion of Lee Jordan Field and associated equipment storage be maintained during construction, and that the field irrigation system and landscaping be fully restored after construction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Montgomery County Public Schools staff continue to work with the City on issues involving stormwater management and the development of a tree protection plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT negative construction impacts be minimized to the extent possible for students and staff at the school as well as residents of surrounding properties.

Adopted this day of , 2018.