



City of Takoma Park
City Council Meeting

Update on Committee Review January 15, 2020

January 15, 2020

Update on Committee Review: January 15, 2020

Council Priority: Engaged, Responsive & Service Oriented Government

Improve and Formalize Systems for Council-Appointed Committees

- Review existing structure, appointment processes, and practices for Council-appointed committees, and make changes to increase efficiency and effectiveness, and attract new members; explore innovative ways to engage residents

Desired Outcome: Diverse, engaged, productive and rewarding committee membership.



Update on Committee Review

Council/Staff Working Group on Committees

Activities:

- Review of committee structures
- Survey of current and recent committee members
- Study practices in other communities
- Develop ideas for further discussion and consideration



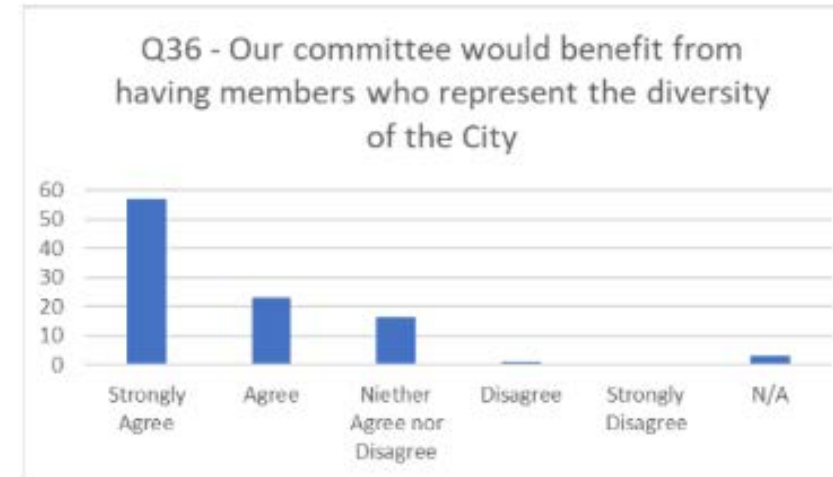
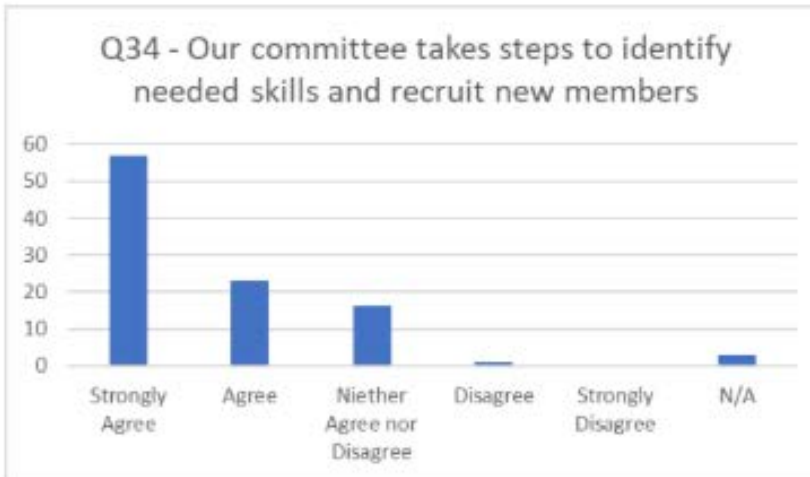
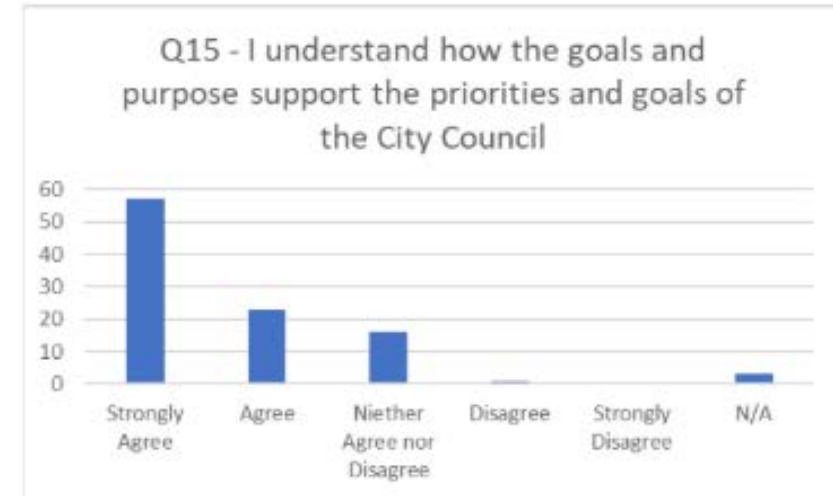
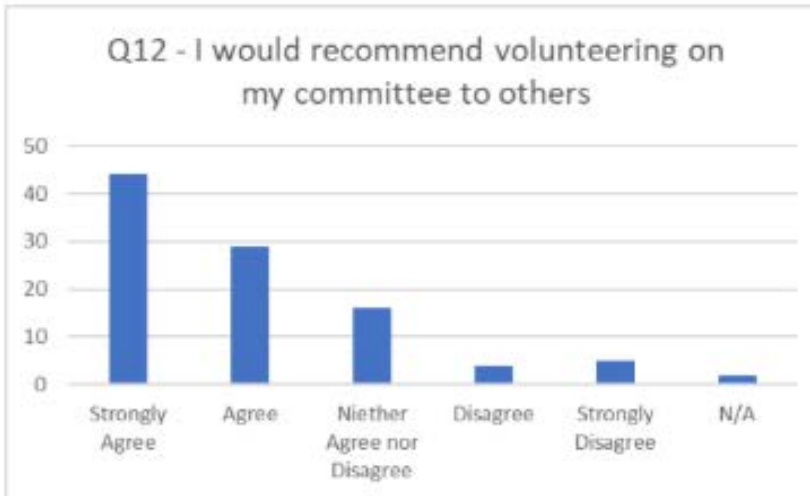
Update on Committee Review

Status of Council-Appointed Committees

- 16 standing committees with occasional short-term committees
- 143 members currently serving
- 30 current vacancies on committees or 17 percent
- Largest committees: Recreation, Committee on the Environment, Arts and Humanities – 15 members each
- Smallest committee: Tree Commission – 5 members



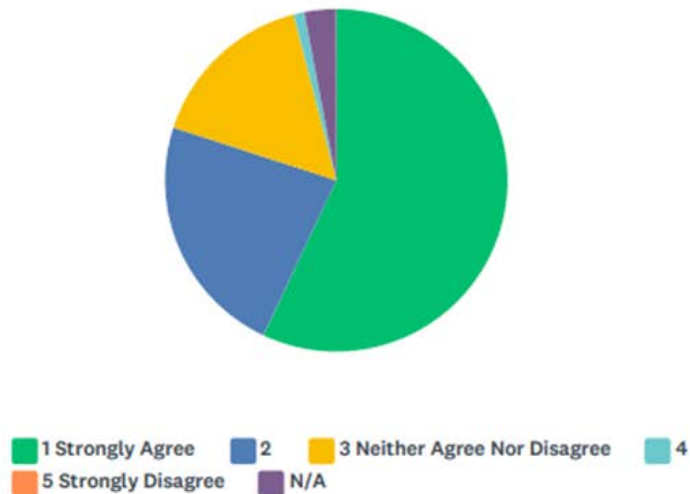
Committee Survey Results



Committee Survey Results

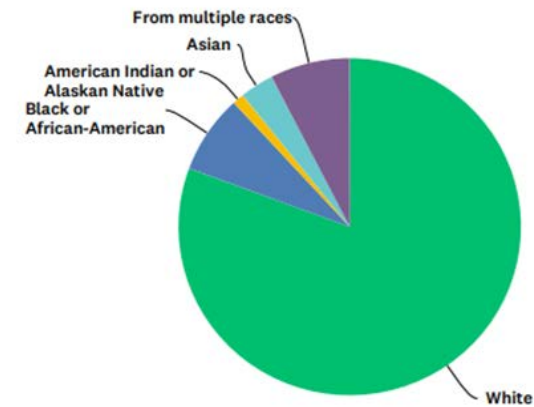
Q36 Our committee would benefit from having members who represent the diversity of the City in terms of race, age, ward, ethnicity, economic status, etc.

Answered: 100 Skipped: 0



Q48 Please identify your race.

Answered: 94 Skipped: 6



Areas for Future Discussion/Consideration

Council Role and Oversight

- Periodic review of purpose and scope of work of committees
- Committees “adopted” by Council members who serve as liaisons
- Annual or bi-annual meetings between Council and committee chairs



Areas for Future Discussion/Consideration

Recruitment, Appointments and Diversity

- Recruitment/nominating committees of 2 or 3 Council members
- Clarify role of Council, staff and committee members in recruitment
- Possible process for vetting potential members
- Services that may enable more people to participate



Areas for Future Discussion/Consideration

Committee Operations

- Orientation for committee members
- Training for committee officers
- Common structure for all standing committees



Next Steps

- Council/Staff Working Group continues its work.
- Recommendations will be prepared for Council and Council-appointed board, commission, committee review.

