



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 21, 2020 Agenda Item 5

Voting Session

Resolution Providing for One or More Appointments to the Takoma Park Tree Commission

Recommended Council Action

Select and appoint members to the Takoma Park Tree Commission.

Context with Key Issues

The Takoma Park Tree Commission was established to preserve, protect, and promote the urban forest and to hear and rule on appeals of certain tree permit decisions. The Commission is comprised of up to five members. Current members are: Carol Hotton (Ward 3) and Nancy Cohen (Ward 1). There are up to three vacancies on the Commission.

The Commission must have at least three members in order to conduct business, including holding hearings on appeals of tree permit decisions.

The City Council adopted Ordinance 2020-28 suspending the requirement to make appointments to boards, commissions, and committees except in circumstances where the Council determines that an appointment is necessary to enable performance of the assigned functions or that the appointment will result in a membership that better reflects the diversity of the community. Ordinance 2020-28 also established that any appointments made during this period of suspension shall be short-term appointments that expire on June 30, 2021

The City Council has reviewed applications received from residents seeking appointment to the Tree Commission.

Council Priority

Engaged, Responsive and Service-Oriented Government; Environmentally Sustainable Community

Environmental Considerations

The Tree Commission plays an important role in the environmental sustainability of the City by educating residents on the value of trees in an urban environment and by facilitating the application of the Tree Ordinance.

Fiscal Considerations

N/A

Racial Equity Considerations

Currently, there is a lack of diversity on this committee. Council should consider whether appointments reflect its racial equity intentions.

Attachments and Links

- Draft Resolution. The Council will need to determine which residents to appoint.

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2020-

PROVIDING FOR ONE OR MORE APPOINTMENTS TO THE TREE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Tree Commission was established to preserve, protect, and promote the urban forest of the City of Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is responsible for hearing and ruling on appeals of tree permit decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Tree Commission is composed of up to five members appointed by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, at present, there are two members serving on the Tree Commission and three vacancies; and

WHEREAS, the Commission must have at least three members in order to conduct business, including holding hearings on appeals of tree permit decisions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2020-28 suspending the requirement to make appointments to boards, commissions, and committees except in circumstances where the Council determines that an appointment is necessary to enable performance of the assigned functions or that the appointment will result in a membership that better reflects the diversity of the community; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2020-28 also established that any appointments made during this period of suspension shall be short-term appointments that expire on June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed applications from residents seeking appointment to the Tree Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council finds that one or more appointments must be made to the Tree Commission in order for the Commission to conduct business, including holding hearings on appeals of tree permit decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council finds that appointment of one or more of the applicants would serve to enable the Tree Commission to better reflect the diversity of the Takoma Park Community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following individual(s) are hereby appointed to the Tree Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2021.

Adopted this ____ day of October, 2020.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk