



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 20, 2021 Agenda Item 7

Work Session

Board and Committee Appointment Recommendations

Recommended Council Action

Receive the report of the Council application review subgroup.

Context with Key Issues

In June 2021 the Council extended existing committee appointments to October 15, to allow time to implement improvements to the city system of committees along with related code changes, and also to take a fresh approach to recruit and appoint members as a group. This fresh approach has employed multiple outreach methods and targeted promotion to particular resident groups. Applications were accepted through October 8 for nine commissions, boards and standing advisory committees.

A City Council subgroup (Councilmembers Dyballa, Kostiuk, and Seamens) has undertaken a review of applications received and will make recommendations at the work session on October 13. As discussed at the October 6 City Council meeting, guidelines for review of applications included:

- Residency and other individual committee requirements
- Expression of interest
- Technical expertise and/or lived experience
- Organization and community affiliation
- Diversity and inclusion - age, race/ ethnicity, gender, ward diversity
- Contributions to the group - skills, lived experience, teamwork and/or perspective

The Council heard recommendations from the subgroup for board and commission appointments at the meeting on October 13. At the October 20 work session, the subgroup will announce recommendations for the Arts and Humanities Committee, Emergency Preparedness Committee, Grants Review Committee, Recreation and Community Engagement Committee, and the Sustainable Maryland (Green Team) Committee. Appointment Resolutions will be scheduled for November 3.

Council Priority

Engaged, Responsive & Service-oriented Government: Improve and Formalize Systems for Council-Appointed Committees.

Goal: Improve and formalize systems for Council-appointed committees.

Strategy: 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 who tend to be harder to reach.

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

Environmental Considerations

There is no direct environmental impact from the appointment of residents to Council-appointed committees. A Council action related to the Green Team or other committees focused on climate-change or sustainability initiatives could have a positive or negative impact on environmental initiatives in the future, depending on final direction in this area and the future work of the committee.

Fiscal Considerations

Members of City Council-appointed boards, commissions, committees and task forces are to receive \$40 per meeting attended.

Racial Equity Considerations

Existing Council-appointed committees do not generally reflect the diversity of the population of Takoma Park, as shown by the survey of committee members and data collected. A fresh approach to recruitment and appointment that is underway this month, as well as planned improvements in training, operations and support of committees and members, are all intended to create and support more diverse and representative Council-appointed committees and to bolster their capacity to apply racial equity considerations in all their committee work. Members are expected to comply with a Council-adopted code of conduct for committee members (Resolution 2020-22, October 7, 2020) in part to address equity issues. Reducing the number of standing committees and broadening the City's approaches to resident engagement will also help address equity.

Links to Background Information

- October 6, 2021 [work session](#)
- [Link to](#) Board, Commission, and Committee Membership Information
- [Link to Committee Survey Results](#)