



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 19, 2023 Agenda Item 4

Work Session

Board and Committee Appointments

Recommended Council Action

Hear recommendations for committee appointments, and for specific committees, and for council liaisons, from the county subgroup on committees.

Context with Key Issues

The city has received some 27 applications for reappointment, and 7 for appointment, to city boards and committees, during this semi-annual recruitment process. A council subgroup (Dyballa, Fulcher, Honzak) has reviewed openings and applicants, by a standard set of criteria. These include:

- 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 subgroup will discuss two of a handful of issues that have not been finalized to date: status of the Noise Control Board and Nuclear Free Committee, as well as council liaisons to city committees. A future Council meeting will focus on adopting any code changes needed to implement Council decisions on these groups. In addition, the subgroup will discuss the role of city council members as liaisons to individual committees, and possible assignments.

City council was briefed on Feb. 1, 2023 and June 23, 2023 on city committees, the appointment process, and 2021 changes to city committee scope, charges, and membership designed to increase efficiency and effectiveness, attract new members, and employ innovative ways to engage residents who tend to be harder to reach.

Council Priority

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

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

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

Environmental Considerations

There is no direct environmental impact from this update on Council-appointed committees.

Fiscal Considerations

Providing stipends to committee members, and some of the updated recruitment, administrative and operational procedures, have modest staff and budget impacts. Estimated costs were considered in decisions about adopting changes.

Racial Equity Considerations

In making appointments, the Council takes, among other criteria, the diversity of the committee and the contribution an individual can bring to the group. Previous Council-appointed committees did not generally reflect the diversity of the population of Takoma Park. Changes implemented in 2021, such as member stipends, help to support more diverse and representative Council-appointed committees in a number of ways. Council adopted a code of conduct for committee members (Resolution 2020-22, October 7, 2020) in part to clearly state that discrimination by any committee member will not be tolerated.

Attachments and Links

[February 1, 2023 city council meeting](#)

[Takoma Park Code, Chapter 2.16 Advisory Committees](#)

[Takoma Park Code, Chapter 2.17 Boards and Commissions](#)

[October 6, 2021 – City Council Discussion of Committee Member Appointment and Selection Process](#)