



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – February 15, 2023 Agenda Item 2

Work Session

City Committees, Commissions and Boards: Appointments and Reappointments

Recommended Council Action

Hear recommended appointments and reappointments to several city commissions, boards and committees, as a result of this winter's semi-annual recruitment for new and continuing members. The votes to appoint will be at a future meeting.

Context with Key Issues

The Council makes appointments and reappointments twice a year to the city's 11 boards, commissions and committees after a recruiting process.

In the current semi-annual recruitment process, 20 applications for appointment have been received from eligible applicants for up to 18 vacancies (not all vacancies need to be filled). Some groups have no current vacancies, and the Nuclear Free Committee has 5 vacancies. The next semi-annual recruitment will be in May and June 2023.

A Council subgroup of three members is reviewing the applications against the vacancies and the guidelines and will recommend specific appointments during this work session.

On February 1, 2023, the City Council was briefed on the committee system, appointment process and a few issues that have not been finalized.

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 Council appointments to city 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, and funds for stipends were budgeted for FY23.

Racial Equity Considerations

Previous Council-appointed committees did not generally reflect the diversity of the population of Takoma Park. The implemented changes, strengthened recruitment, and Council appointment guidelines that explicitly consider diversity and inclusion in appointments, all support more diverse and representative Council-appointed committees. For example, the fresh approach to recruitment

and appointment of Committee members has resulted in appointments that more closely reflect the diversity of our community.

Attachments and Links

[Feb. 1, 2023 – Council appointments to City commissions, boards and committees, Agenda cover sheet and presentation on committees \(Agenda Item 2\)](#)

[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](#)