



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – January 24, 2024 Agenda Item 3 A-F

### **Voting Session (Consent Agenda)**

Resolutions Providing for Appointments to:

- A. Arts and Humanities Committees
- B. Board of Elections
- C. Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs
- D. Ethics Commission
- E. Recreation and Community Engagement Committee
- F. Sustainable Maryland Committee

### **Recommended Council Action**

Adopt the resolutions as part of the consent agenda.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The City received 11 applications for appointment to City boards and committees during this semi-annual recruitment. A City Council subgroup (Councilmembers Dyballa, Fulcher, and Honzak) reviewed applications 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 presented its appointment recommendations to the City Council at the work session on January 17.

### **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 eligible to receive \$40 per meeting attended.

**Racial Equity Considerations**

Council-appointed committees have not generally reflected the diversity of the population of Takoma Park. A fresh approach to recruitment and appointment began in the second half of 2021, as well as planned improvements in training, operations and support of committees and members. All are 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.

**Attachments and Links**

Resolutions Providing for Appointments to the Arts and Humanities Committee, Board of Elections, Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, Recreation and Community Engagement Committee, Sustainable Maryland Committee, and Ethics Commission