



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – January 17, 2024 Agenda Item 4

### **Work Session**

Recommendations for Appointments to Boards and Committees

### **Recommended Council Action**

Hear recommendations for committee appointments.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The city has received applications to fill mid-year vacancies on City boards and committees. 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 make appointment recommendations at the work session on January 17. Appointment resolutions are tentatively scheduled for Council votes on January 24. The subgroup will also describe the role of council liaisons to advisory committees.

### **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**

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

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