



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 1, 2024 Agenda Item 10

Work Session

Board and Committee Appointments

Recommended Council Action

Hear recommendations for city council-appointed board, commission and committee appointments, from the county subgroup on committees.

Context with Key Issues

The city has received 16 applications for reappointment, and 10 for new appointment, to city boards and committees, during this semi-annual round of recruitment. 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

City council made changes in 2021 changes to city committee scope, charges, and membership that were designed to increase effectiveness and efficiency, 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 this round, more than half of new applicants and just less than half of reappointments are residents of color; only 3 are Hispanic. In making appointments, the Council takes, among other criteria, the diversity of the committee and the life experience an individual can bring to the group. Previous Council-appointed committees before 2021 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 202022, 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](#)