

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

First Reading: July 23, 2012

Second Reading: July 30, 2012

Effective Date: August 19, 2012

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-37

**AMENDING THE TAKOMA PARK CODE, CHAPTER 2.16, ARTICLE 7,
COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND CHAPTER 2.16, ARTICLE 1,
GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 2.16.010(C) TO REFLECT THE REVISED TERM
OF MEMBERSHIP FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

WHEREAS, the City Council has placed a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability;
and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to enhance the City's and the community's efforts in
establishing and making progress toward meeting its environmental goals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to work in partnership with the community and City staff
to achieve sustainability and other environmental certifications that will help the
City to track and be recognized for its progress; and

WHEREAS, a redefined Committee on the Environment will serve as an important partner and
advisor in matters related to environmental sustainability, protection, and
restoration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA
PARK THAT:

SECTION 1. Takoma Park Code, Chapter 2.16, Article 7, Committee on the Environment is
amended as follows:

Article 7. Committee on the Environment

2.16.180 Committee established.

There is established a Takoma Park Committee on the Environment which shall serve in an
official advisory/~~approval and coordination~~ role to the City Council on all matters related to
environmental ~~sustainability, protection and restoration~~preservation.

2.16.200 Statement of purpose.

The purposes of the Committee shall be as follows:

A. To advise the City Council on all environmental issues, including but not limited to, stormwater management, greenhouse gas reduction, air quality, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning and restoration, energy use, transportation, and energy conservation, and recycling;

B. To serve in partnership with the City Council and Takoma Park City staff to work together to achieve sustainability and other environmental certifications that may help the City meet and be recognized for its environmental goals. To review and provide advice on City actions that affect environmental quality, preferably prior to implementation. The Committee may review any work within the City which it has reason to believe may impact environmental quality. This includes resolutions, legislation, regulations, policy, guidance, administrative actions, plans, and program activities that may affect environmental quality;

C. ~~To educate Takoma Park residents, businesses, and County government on environmental issues and encourage Takoma Park residents, businesses, and County government to choose environmentally beneficial or non-harmful alternatives when available to protect the environment, reduce energy use and limit greenhouse gas emissions;~~

D. ~~To convey citizen views on environmental issues to Council and City staff;~~

E. ~~To work with City staff on environmental issues and projects.~~

2.16.210 Committee ~~and Council collaboration, membership, terms of office, structure and staffing.~~

A. ~~Committee and Council Collaboration. The City Council recognizes the need to build environmental considerations into a broad array of City operations and activities. To this end, the Committee will offer advice and counsel as soon as practicable on each applicable issue and will maintain an open dialogue with Council and citizens.~~

AB. Membership. The Committee shall consist of between 117 to and 151 persons to be appointed by the Council. Efforts shall be made to have representation of the following: from a variety of scientific, technical, and environmental policy disciplines, outreach skills related to environmental science, and with a variety of organizational talents. Members shall attempt to assess environmental issues and protect the environment across the entire City without political bias. Candidates are encouraged to attend meetings and volunteer with the Committee prior to appointment.

1. No less than five interested residents, including residents with expertise in a variety of scientific, technical, and environmental policy disciplines, outreach skills related to environmental science.

2. No less than four representatives from community organizations including local environmental and cultural groups, public health and civic organizations, faith-based groups, and parent-teacher organizations.

3. No less than two representatives from local businesses or business groups.

C. Terms of Office. Committee members shall serve ~~staggered two-year~~renewable 3-year terms, with initial appointments of one and two, 2 and 3 years. ~~All~~Terms shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th. Members may serve for no more than three continuous terms. Midterm vacancies will be filled as needed.

D. Structure.

1. The Committee shall organize to accomplish its purposes, and elect from its members ~~two co-chairs a Chair~~ and other officers as it shall deem necessary.

2. The Committee shall meet at least quarterly ~~or as often as required to fulfill its responsibilities.~~

3. All meetings shall be open to the public and are subject to the Maryland Open Meetings ~~Act~~Law. Meeting notices and agendas shall be prepared and submitted to the City Clerk and posted in advance of any Committee meeting in accordance with State law. Written records of Committee proceedings shall be maintained. An oral or written report on the activities of the Committee shall be submitted to the Council at least once a year.

4. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum to conduct business~~A Committee meeting shall not be an "official" meeting unless a majority of the members are present.~~

E. ~~Staffing and Resources.~~ The City Manager or his or her designee shall provide appropriate staff support ~~and funding to support the Committee's activities. The City Manager shall make available City communication vehicles to the Committee, such as the newsletter, website, and cable television programming as needed~~ to the Committee on an as needed basis when requested, but staff shall not be permanently assigned to the Committee.

F. The Committee shall conform to other provisions of Article 1 of this Chapter, as may be amended from time to time.

G. Committee, City and Council Collaboration. To achieve Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipal Certification or other such certifications that may arise in the future, no less than twice per year the Co-chairs of the Committee on the Environment and the Mayor will convene and co-chair joint meetings which shall be called 'Committee/Council Sustainability Certification Meetings.' All members of the Committee on the Environment, the City Council and City Manager, or a designee of the City Manager, are voting members during Committee/Council Sustainability Certification Meetings.

2.16.220 Duties and responsibilities of the Committee.

The Committee shall review and provide advice on City and community actions that affect environmental quality. The Committee may review resolutions, legislation, regulations, and published policies, guidance, administrative actions, plans, and program activities that may affect environmental quality. ~~advise and assist the Council in developing and implementing policies to protect and preserve the environment in Takoma Park.~~ In furtherance of these duties, the Committee shall attempt to accomplish the following:

A. Assist the Council in the development and improvement of policies and programming that could help the City achieve its sustainability and environmental goals~~address the environmental concerns of the community;~~

B. Help inspire and lead community efforts and involvement in environmental sustainability and environmental protection and restoration~~Proactively promote environmental issues and projects based on the technical expertise of Committee members;~~

C. Assist the Council in technical and policy direction and in setting priorities for environmental projects;

D. Help Takoma Park secure and maintain recognition as a leader in sustainability in Maryland~~Review and provide advice on any City actions, prior to, during, and after implementation, that it has reason to believe may affect environmental quality. These actions include resolutions, legislation, regulations, policy, guidance, administrative actions, plans, and program activities that may affect environmental quality. The Committee shall make recommendations or give direction for alternatives to change City actions to actions that are likely to improve environmental outcomes;~~

E. Work with City staff and serve as a basis of community partnership to advance on environmental programs and projects~~Educate Takoma Park residents on environmental issues and actions to promote environmental quality; and~~

F. ~~Keep abreast of what other communities are doing to promote environmental protection and preservation;~~

G.—Prepare an annual report to the Council on the activities of the Committee and provide additional briefings as needed.

SECTION 2. Article 1, Section 2.16.010 Membership of Statutory Council-Appointed Committees, is amended as follows:

Article 1. General Provisions

2.16.010 Membership of Statutory Council-Appointed Committees.

* * *

Committee	Term Length (Years)	Expiration
Committee on the Environment	<u>3</u>	June 30

ADOPTED THIS 30TH DAY OF JULY, 2012 BY ROLL-CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

AYE: Williams, Daniels-Cohen, Grimes, Male, Schultz, Seamens, Smith
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

* * * Denotes text in the City Code that remains unchanged but is not repeated in the ordinance.

Additions to the language of the City Code are shown by underlining. Deletions are indicated by ~~strike through~~.