

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON TAKOMA JUNCTION**

2018 DATE	NAME	WARD*	COMMENT
4/22	Kelly Gibson Caleb Gibson; Kaysie and Sam Brown; Jessica Happen and Cesar Ibanez	2	<p>To the members of the Takoma Park City Council — My name is Kelly Gibson, and I am writing on behalf of a group of neighbors and friends, we all live in Ward 2.</p> <p>My husband, Caleb Gibson, and I have lived in Takoma Park for 10 years. We have invested in a home here, and invested further in a renovation. We have made a family here, and could not be more pleased with how this community has supported us. The same applies for all the families on this email.</p> <p>Our neighborhood is like no place I have ever experienced. We help each other out; with childcare, with fun, in times of struggle and prosperity. We love it in Takoma Park.</p> <p>All that being said, we have serious concerns about your upcoming vote regarding the new junction site plan.</p> <p>We are all thrilled about a new junction. And we are all card carrying members of our Coop. How can you be both things, you might be wondering? Well none of us wondered that until we recently saw, first hand, how the coop is completely misleading their patrons about the most recent site plan.</p> <p>We know that Community Vision will submit a large package of anti site plan petition signatures, and we want you to know they were gathered in dishonesty. Throughout the day on 4/21, we directly observed several people out from Community Vision, on the Coop premises, asking people to sign a petition to “save the coop.” They were stationed right outside the coop door, engaging patrons as they walked in and out. We asked if the petition was to reject the current proposal, and we were told it wasn’t, it was to "support the coop" and their emphasis was on traffic and safety.</p> <p>However, the signature gatherer with whom we spoke would not actually show us the petition language, once she realized we support moving forward with the development plans. We later confirmed the language associated with the petition clearly stated that the petition was to reject the site plans - contrary to what we were told by a signature-gatherer. Most importantly, the language that petitioners were purportedly endorsing--language opposing the current development plan--was not shared with us, nor did it appear to be shared with any other person signing the petition. Instead, coop patrons were asked only to sign a petition to support the coop, with no substantive language shown, only signature lines.</p> <p>Given what we directly observed, we feel strongly that most coop patrons did not know exactly what they were signing onto when they agreed with the sentiment to "protect the coop"--the vast majority of individuals signing the petition would have had no idea that their signatures would be marshaled to oppose the proposed development--they would have thought only that they had endorsed the continued existence of the coop, a view that we ourselves share.</p> <p>We understand everyone is doing what they need to do to get their point across, but before the council considers these petitions and makes their decision on this vote, please know these petitions are proof of nothing.</p> <p>We hope you hear lots of testimony from people supporting the site plan, though we know that many of the supporters are unable to attend council meetings, due to work and family obligations. That being said, the purpose of this email is to distinctly refute the validity of those petition signatures.</p> <p>Thank you all for your service to our community. And if procedure allows, please read this letter out loud at the council meeting on Wednesday.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Kelly and Caleb Gibson, Trescott Ave Kaysie and Sam Brown, Central Ave Jessica Heppen and Cesar Ibanez, Central Ave</p>
4/22	Paul Hewett-Marx	2	<p>Comment (Simple statement of support, please include your street name.)</p> <p>I live on Lincoln Ave. The area around the coop is a eyesore and a drag on local businesses in the area. We need small scale development that is going to bring families and foot traffic to the neighborhood. I believe the plans to develop the area are a critical step in that direction</p>

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4/22	Pavan Auluck Yeowon Kim	1	<p>Yeowon Kim and Pavan Auluck from XXXX Takoma Ave would like to express our support for the development plans at Takoma Junction. We are unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday April 25 - Pavan will be at a Historic Preservation Commission meeting and Yeowon will be putting our daughter to bed.</p> <p>We believe that the redevelopment of Takoma Junction is essential to the future of Takoma Park as a vibrant, walkable, residential community. The current plans do well in this regard. The proposal is quite modest - only 1 new retail shop, 1 new coffee shop, 1 new restaurant, and some office space. However the result will be a new walking destination for residents. And a boon for nearby businesses. The COOP will benefit enormously from increased foot-traffic. In fact, without the redevelopment of Takoma Junction, we have serious doubts whether the COOP will be able to survive as a standalone grocery store in its current form as it does not meet the needs of the changing demographics of Takoma Park.</p> <p>We apologize for not being able to attend the Wednesday meeting in person but we wanted to convey that in our opinion, NDC has done a remarkable job with their proposal and we encourage you to focus your efforts on improving the plans. Perhaps the COOP should be encouraged to support the plans and partner with NDC by providing funding for a second level of underground parking with a second elevator dedicated for COOP patrons. The COOP could then use their current cramped parking lot as their loading zone.</p> <p>Best regards, Pavan Auluck and Yeowon Kim</p>
4/22	Deborah Beth Hutton	2	<p>Thank you for your continuing support of the new Takoma Junction proposed development.</p> <p>The new site plan proposed by NDC is attractive, matches the character and tenor of Takoma Park, and provides the much needed (and long awaited) missing piece to a vital piece of Takoma Park. Completing this project is a progressive act that furthers goals such as environmental sustainability, public transit, fostering community, and providing tax revenue to support Takoma Park's social programs.</p> <p>Please do not let a few loud voices derail this project that is so close to fruition.</p> <p>I am counting on your support and your vote to approve the Site Plan.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your dedication and service.</p> <p>Deborah Hutton PG Ave.</p>

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4/22	Justin Uehlein	?	<p>I am writing you today to express my deep concern over the Takoma Park Junction development plan. I have signed several petitions expressing these concerns, but feel that these petitions are falling on deaf ears. I hope that my personal message will not also go unheard.</p> <p>I grew up in Takoma Park. While I moved away for College and worked elsewhere post-college, I have always seen this wonderful town as my home. I was beyond excited to be able to move back to Takoma Park while I worked on my Ph.D. and plan to stay here after I graduate. I am currently looking to buy a home here.</p> <p>I've seen the town change over the years, but the heart of what makes Takoma Park what it is, is still here. I am worried that a costly development will strike a blow directly at that heart. Takoma Park has always thrived on local, community run businesses. That is already beginning to change. The rent that the new development will charge will not be sustainable for small businesses. Rising rent costs in the town have already caused problems for our business community.</p> <p>Further, the space is no longer needed. When this development project was envisioned, the area around the junction was flailing. Now it is thriving, absent a costly, over-size new building. There are other areas in Takoma Park, however, that truly could use the kind of economic support the town government is providing to the area around the Takoma Junction. The area up Flower Avenue by the hospital, for example, could use some revitalization.</p> <p>Please allow your constituents the time and ability to talk with you over this issue. We are tired of sitting in town hall meetings and being ignored. The majority of us are opposed to this development. Please, Mayor Stewart, do your job and work for your community, not against it. If you agree to take such a study into account, I would be happy to do a quantitative study myself to, objectively, prove that this development is unnecessary and unwanted.</p> <p>Best wishes, -- Justin E. Uehlein</p>

\*Ward is included if it was provided or can be looked up by address. NR denotes non-Takoma Park resident commenter. Question mark ? denotes not enough information provided. NA denotes that ward is not applicable