

Introduced by: Councilmember Kostiuk

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2019-14

ADOPTING THE COUNCIL PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy, approving the budget and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and

WHEREAS, the Council holds an annual “Council Retreat” in advance of the budget preparation process in order to discuss its policy and budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond; and

WHEREAS, this year’s retreat took place over two evenings on January 24 and February 5; and

WHEREAS, the Council further discussed its priorities at Council Meetings on February 13 and 27; and

WHEREAS, the Council Priorities established inform the development of the City Manager’s Recommended Budget and, more generally, indicate the strategic direction the Council intends to move the City during its term; and

WHEREAS, the Council reviewed and made changes to its 2018 priorities document to reflect updates goals, strategies, and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Council has indicated which priorities should be focused on and emphasized in the upcoming fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2020); and

WHEREAS, these prioritized items include:

- Ensuring we have a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options that are affordable for residents of varying incomes and all races and ethnicities,
- Planning and preparing for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and diversity of Takoma Park,
- Prioritizing actions, policies, innovations, and new opportunities that mitigate and adapt to the causes and effects of climate change,
- Improve and formalize systems for Council-appointed committees,
- Improving policies and processes, particularly those related to the Tree Ordinance and traffic, to make them more equitable and easy to understand and follow; and

WHEREAS, the Council can revisit the priorities document as it deems necessary to make

changes or adjustments; and

WHEREAS, many of the priorities and goals described in the Council Priorities document will endure beyond calendar year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020, though strategies described in this resolution may change more quickly based on opportunities that may arise to achieve those goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park formally adopts the Council Priorities attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

**ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND,
THIS 13th DAY OF MARCH, 2019.**

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk

Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019



A Livable Community For All

Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome
<p>Identify programming needs in the community and develop approaches to meet those needs, emphasizing youth, families, seniors, and our more vulnerable residents, such as those with lower incomes, immigrants, and people with developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>Utilize resident survey, staff and committee reports, and other sources to determine where there may be existing gaps in program offerings; develop programs to close gaps. (B/P)</p>	<p>Expanded or improved programming tailored to residents who need them the most or who are accessing them the least.</p>
<p>*Ensure we have a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options that are affordable for residents of varying incomes and all races and ethnicities.*</p>	<p>Finalize Strategic Plan related to housing affordability and economic development and begin work on strategies to address housing and economic development challenges and opportunities; finalize implementation plans. (P/B)</p>	<p>Meet the current and future housing needs of the community to ensure affordable housing options for residents of varying incomes levels and of all races and ethnicities.</p>
	<p>As part of work on Strategic Plan, develop and implement plan of action for Housing Reserve Fund, including request for contributions from the County and State. (P)</p>	
	<p>Develop incentives and possible new enforcement and other measures for landlords to improve living conditions for tenants. Explore needs and potential programs for residents who live in condominiums. (P/B)</p> <p>Facilitate improved communication among City, landlords, and tenants; build on existing outreach and tenant education and capacity building efforts. (B)</p>	<p>Improved living conditions for renters.</p>
<p>Defend status as a Sanctuary City and continue to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all</p>	<p>Continue advocacy efforts on behalf of immigrants, including connecting those in need of assistance to appropriate area organizations. (P/B)</p>	<p>Remain a strong Sanctuary City.</p>

Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019

residents.		
Improve transportation planning and outreach to create a safer and more racially equitable community for all residents, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle occupants.	Explore adopting a Vision Zero initiative; begin to examine potential components such as education/outreach, policy changes, and infrastructure improvements	Improved traffic safety resulting in eliminating serious vehicle, pedestrian, and bike collisions; improved comprehensive transportation planning throughout the City with a data-driven approach that takes into consideration impacts throughout the City; racially equitable transportation system and outcomes.
Further efforts related to racial equity.	Develop strategy to address racial equity issues, including how we organize, institutionalize, and operationalize the racial equity framework; explore possible task force on racial equity. (P/B)	Progress toward a more racially equitable community and government.
	Continue to provide racial equity training to members of Council-appointed committees and other residents; seek grant funding for training. (B)	
	Conduct racial equity survey among City staff members. (P)	
Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for City residents with respect to MCPS site-selection and Piney Branch facility study and pool • Sidewalks – retrofit existing sidewalks to meet ADA requirements; sidewalk design improvements • Public Land and Open Space Management Plan – development of plan and implementation of agreed upon recommendations • Cultural Plan – Implementation of recommendations in approved 2018 Plan 		


Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019



Fiscally Sustainable Government

Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome
Increase funding from County and State to address tax duplication and other City needs.	Councilmember advocacy and lobbying activities; improve coordination of efforts between staff and Councilmembers. (P)	Increased funding from County and State to address tax duplication and other City needs.
	Partner with other Montgomery County municipalities to pressure County and General Assembly. (P)	
	Acquire grant funding to help offset costs for library renovations. (P/B)	
Minimize adverse impacts of changes to the federal tax system.	Assess implications of changes to federal tax system and consider tactics to help mitigate adverse impacts; consult with State and County elected officials about potential steps to help achieve this goal.(P/B)	Minimize adverse impacts of changes to the federal tax system.
Adopt sustainable investment and banking policy and practices.	Identify and work with consultant to determine tolerance levels and next steps in adopting sustainable investment and banking policies and practices, taking into account the concerns raised by the Nuclear Free Committee about SunTrust Bank. (P/B)	Work to align the City's banking and investments with values of social responsibility.
Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify budget document in accordance with GFOA standards of excellence in communicating about budget process 		

Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019


 <h1>Environmentally Sustainable Community</h1>			
Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
<p>*Prioritize actions, policies, innovations, and new opportunities that mitigate <i>and adapt to</i> the causes and effects of climate change.*</p>	<p>Accelerate program and policy efforts for more efficient energy use, with priority on largest contributing factors, such as residential and commercial buildings, and where the largest gains can be made with City action. (P/B)</p>	<p>Improved energy efficiency City-wide; increasingly sustainable City operations and building; increased use of renewables and offsets.</p>	
	<p>Increase use of renewable energy (especially solar) throughout the City; offer bulk buy of solar and/or wind power to residents; consider incentives for multifamily buildings and new buildings; continue efforts related to electric vehicle use. (P/B)</p>		
	<p>Consider draft Strategic Plan related to housing and economic development and adopt strategies to promote and ensure sustainable development. (P/B)</p>		
	<p>Consider ways to address increased stormwater in the City and its impacts, particularly stormwater on private properties. (P/B)</p>		
<p>Protect, plan for, and improve Takoma Park’s natural resources including urban forest health and water quality, and continue to be a leader in community sustainability programs and policies.</p>	<p>Establish tree canopy goals and support the maintenance and growth of the urban forest through programs and education; identify opportunities for tree retention, maintenance and growth. (P/B)</p>	<p>Greater maintenance of mature trees; more plantings on City and private property.</p>	
	<p>Review tree ordinance with tree canopy goals to ensure changes to the tree ordinance advance and do not adversely impact tree canopy goals. (P)</p>		

Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019

Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities

- Enforcement, education, and outreach related to City codes – polystyrene ban; Safe Grow; multifamily and business recycling; plastic bag ban; snow clearing.
- Update Sustainable Energy Action Plan for more accelerated actions and continue plan implementation
- Flower Avenue Green Street
- Implement additional Sustainable Maryland Certified goals
- Continue to implement Council authorized Smart Energy Community Goals for energy reduction and green power
- Implement stormwater management projects to meet State and Federal mandates for 2017 and 2025
- Review stormwater management fee structure; review Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) calculation based on impervious surface; consider incentives for stormwater improvements on private property

Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019

 Engaged, Responsive, Service-oriented Government		
Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome
Identify policing priorities and explore options for enhanced police/community relations.	In addition to resident survey, hold community meetings and conversations to learn more about perceptions of police relations with the public; develop and implement steps that the Police Department can take to improve community relations, including considering options for greater civilian input in policing policies. (P)	Improve relationships between the police department and community measured by resident survey responses and through other means.
	Develop and implement plan of action to enter into mutual aid agreements. (P)	Mutual aid agreements in place with District of Columbia and Prince George’s County to enhance coordination among police departments.
Explore alternative approaches to enhance public engagement and two-way communication.	Regularly update project directory, staff and Councilmember blogs on City website, promote My TkPk application. (P)	Information about issues and programs more easily accessible for all residents.
	Explore ways in addition to Newsletter to get information to a broader array of residents; increase in non-English communications. (B)	
	Consider new ways, in City Council meetings and in other settings, of engaging in two-way communication with residents, especially those who are traditionally less likely to participate in governmental affairs, as well as policymakers in Rockville, Annapolis, Washington DC, and Prince	

Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019

	George’s County; develop outreach on City programs including property tax assistance and others. (B)	
	Improve notification and communication systems for utility and other work in the right-of-way, including work by City contractors and staff, and explore, at the local level and with State and County officials, development of accountability measures to address deficient notification and to strengthen monitoring of utility and contractor work. (P)	Better communication with residents about utility and other work that may impact them.
Improve policies and processes related to the tree ordinance; traffic calming; sidewalk requests, repair and maintenance; and residential/commercial boundary conflicts.	Review existing tree ordinance, and develop and implement improvements. (P/B)	More user-friendly and easy to understand tree ordinance.
	Consider existing traffic calming policies and processes, develop and implement recommendations for improvements. (P/B)	Improved and more equitable policy and processes related to traffic calming.
	Consider existing policies and processes related to sidewalk requests, repair, and maintenance, develop and implement recommendations for improvements. (P/B)	Improved and more equitable policy and processes related to sidewalk requests, maintenance and repair.
	Consider existing issues and code enforcement strategies related to the intersection of commercial and residential areas; develop and implement recommendations for improvements. (P/B)	Improved policy and processes related to residential/commercial boundary conflicts.
Improve and formalize systems for Council-appointed committees and external committees on which Councilmembers serve (e.g. MWCOG).	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. (P/B)	Diverse, engaged, productive, and rewarding committee membership.

Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019

	<p>Develop a formal plan and procedures for how Council works with and represents the City on outside committees and communicates back to the full Council. (P)</p>	<p>Better understanding of individual Councilmember’s roles; improved communication amongst Council</p>
<h3>Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities</h3>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement changes within the Police Department consistent with Council’s July 2017 resolution • Police Department renovation – finalize design and begin construction • Continue to serve as liaison between utility companies and community to improve communication and understanding of project impacts • Planning for moving City elections to coincide with state and federal elections 		

Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019



Community Development for an Improved & Equitable Quality of Life

Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome
<p>*Plan and prepare for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.*</p>	<p>Consider draft Strategic Plan related to housing and economic development and adopt strategies to address housing and economic development challenges and opportunities; develop implementation plans. (P/B)</p>	<p>Implementation plans developed and adopted to plan and prepare for development and maintain the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.</p>
	<p>Optimize and improve coordination with the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority and the Old Town Business Association to bolster their work in promoting thriving businesses and commercial districts. (P/B)</p>	<p>Improved coordination with business associations in order to help make them more effective; thriving local businesses.</p>
	<p>Provide direct outreach and support for local businesses, including those that are not members of local business associations. (B)</p>	
<p>Redevelopment of Takoma Park Recreation Center</p>	<p>Develop a shared vision for the Recreation Center using an evidence based approach; improve community engagement around the City’s recreational needs and the future Recreation Center; facilitate the City’s ownership and design of the future Recreation Center.</p>	<p>Leverage both public and private stakeholders to accomplish the goal of developing the Recreation Center that meets the City’s need for recreation services and affordable housing.</p>

Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities

- Takoma Junction redevelopment
- Purple Line preparation
- John Nevins Andrews School – advocate for appropriate reuse of property
- Washington-McLaughlin property

Takoma Park City Council Priorities – Adopted March 2019

- Library renovation and expansion, including ADA improvements
- Economic development along New Hampshire Avenue
- Contracts for economic development services in Old Takoma and Takoma Langley Crossroads business districts
- Washington Adventist Hospital – advocate for campus that continues to meet the needs of the community
- Montgomery College construction projects, including new Math and Science Building