

City of Takoma Park
Takoma Junction Community Consultation Process Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2016

The Takoma Junction Community Consultation Process Advisory Committee met on Monday, September 12, 2016 at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park Maryland.

Members Present: Tony Camilli, Shera Higgs-Thompson, Talisha Searcy

Members Absent: Ameer Bearne, Laura Barclay, Deepak Marwah, Vineda Myers

NDC Staff Present: Diarra McKinney, Django Broer-Hellermann

Staff Present: Roz Grigsby

Visitors: Robert Anderson, Diane Curran

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Two members, Shera Higgs-Thompson and Talisha Searcy, joined by conference call.

2. Name of the Committee

The group discussed possible new, shorter names for the committee. Suggestions included: Takoma Junction Advisory Committee (T-JAC); Junction Community Advisory Committee (J-CAC); Junction Process Advisory Committee (J-PAC). Staff will poll the committee to see what the majority likes.

3. NDC Update:

McKinney gave an update of NDC's progress and clarified the sequence of events leading up to the community meetings. NDC has signed on The Traffic Group, for traffic engineering; Streetsense, for architectural services and retail expertise; JCA, for architect for permitting process; AMA (A. Morton Thomas), for civil engineer; and ECS, for geo-technical consulting and environmental engineering. NDC is still deciding on the zoning attorney, either Learch, Early and Brewer or Linowes.

4. Meeting dates, topics and locations

The TJCCPAC, with NDC, is planning community meetings this fall to get feedback from residents regarding the Junction redevelopment project. In working with their architect, Streetsense, NDC has identified four themes for the community meetings:

- Form and character, including façade, setbacks, amount of glass, etc.
- Public realm, including both public space and green space, sidewalk, sustainability features, green roof
- Access and mobility, including the multimodal nature of the site, and the current and future state of traffic and parking.
- Retail and market considerations, including the different types and character of retail and the impact on the use of the site at various days and times.

Because NDC and the Co-op are currently negotiating a Letter of Intent, some of these topics may need to be delayed until they have agreement. Issues of form, character, access and mobility will be shaped by the decisions and constraints of loading and parking on the site.

The tentative schedule for public community meetings is:

Tuesday, October 18

Thursday, November 3

Monday, November 14

Wed/Thurs, December 7 or 8 (one meeting, depending on Council's schedule)

In addition to these meetings, NDC envisions outreach booths at the Takoma Park Farmers Market and Crossroads Farmers Market for the purpose of sharing information and encouraging public engagement. The meetings are expected to be in the evenings, though the December meeting date may pose problems with people's holiday schedules.

Locations for the meetings have not been finalized. Staff reserved rooms in the Community Center for the tentative dates: the Azalea room, which is a large, multi-purpose room, as well as the Lilac room for child care. The Rec Center on New Hampshire Avenue was not available on the four tentative dates. McKinney pointed out the meeting format will help determine the appropriate space – a meeting that is primarily presentation will have different space requirements than a meeting with a small group format.

The committee discussed options for community members to give on-line feedback. Staff can set up a comment box on the City website for input. After considering options of electronic bulletin boards or ways for posters to see and comment on other messages, committee members agreed that the best option is a simple mechanism to accept on-line input for community members who are not able to attend meetings.

5. Way to Increase Participation

The committee emphasized the importance of providing child care for the meetings. Participants will need to RSVP in advance with the number and ages of children in need of supervision so the City can ensure the appropriate number of employees. The City will need to determine the limits of child care provided – ages and numbers of children. Staff has been in contact with the Recreation Department to arrange hiring employees who have already been vetted to work with children.

The committee also discussed ways to publicize the meetings, beyond neighborhood email lists, such as getting meeting notices in neighborhood newsletters and handing out fliers at upcoming community events like the Unity in Community kick-off on Sunday, Sept 25, or the Takoma Park Street Festival, on Sunday, October 2. Fliers need to be in English, Spanish and Amharic, with links to the webpage, and can be put in commercial establishments and bulletin boards. Staff will get a notice in the City Newsletter, with general information and the web links for specific details and dates. Committee members may be able to tap into PTA parent lists to help get the word out.

6. Discussion of future meeting dates and times

The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 27, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rosalind Grigsby

Community Development Manager