

City of Takoma Park
Takoma Junction Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 11, 2011

The City of Takoma Park Takoma Junction Task Force met on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, in the Lilac Room of the Takoma Park Community Center, Takoma Park.

Members Present: Kay Daniels-Cohen, James DiLuigi, Steve Dubb, Megan Gallagher, Seth Grimes, Andy Kelemen, Linette Lander, Barbara Muhlbacher, Katrina Oprisko, Susan Robb,.

Members Absent: Hailu Aichehi, Billy Coulter, Lorig Charkoudian, Howard Kohn, Lorraine Pearsall, Roger Schlegel, Jennifer Sisane, Jeffrey Trunzo, and Ellen Zavian.

Staff Present: none

Others Present: J.J. Smith, Patch

1. Call to Order and Agenda Review

Lacking a quorum, the meeting started at 7:40 pm.

Meeting minutes for April 26th were distributed.

Agendas and other hand-outs were not available.

The chair reviewed the agenda proceeded to items 3 and 4, the outreach form and outreach meetings, which did not require a quorum.

2. Outreach form and outreach meetings.

Kay Daniels-Cohen distributed the outreach form to member who had not filled one out.

A member arrived at 7:51 pm, creating a quorum.

The group began a discussion of the form and outreach meetings.

Over 100 forms have been completed, and Subcommittee B members are compiling results. One notable response, regarding the physical image of the junction, is that respondents consider the stretch between the fire station and the co-op to be “the dead zone” and “trashy.”

Subcommittee B is planning to conduct Takoma Junction intercept surveys. The subcommittee could use help with these.

A meeting is scheduled for June 2 for Maple Avenue residents. It will also serve as a catch-all meeting for others who are interested. The subcommittee will do some outreach with e-mail addresses it has collected.

Seth promised to bring outreach forms, which he or Jeff would present, to the May 26 Old Town Business Association board meeting.

The group discussed outreach to businesses and the fact that many Takoma Junction business owners do not own their properties. This and the intercept surveys would be done by the end of June. Kay and Megan read the outreach letter and J.J. Smith took a copy, after which he left the meeting.

3. Meeting Minutes

Action: The meeting minutes of April 26, 2011 were reviewed and corrected. A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended meeting minutes of April 26, 2011. The meeting minutes were accepted.

Vote Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstain-0. The motion passed.

4. Discussion of further task force investigation of a Takoma Junction round-about

The group discussed whether it should further investigate a Takoma Junction round-about, beyond the questions to Cedric Ward of the SHA that have already been agreed. The task force would report its investigations to the council regardless, with a decision to be made later whether the task force would offer a recommendation. The reason for curtailing further investigation – research, scenario exploration, simulations – is that the perception that even if a round-about was found to be feasible, the task force would still lack of consensus whether one should be pursued so that task force time would be better spent on other matters.

The group agreed that Subcommittee C would document traffic and pedestrian goals and the task force's round-about investigations and the various issues, possibly to include pro/con position statements for various scenarios, for presentation and discussion at the June 7 task force meeting if the work can be completed by then, and at the June 22 meeting otherwise.

5. Discussion of questions for Cedric Ward of the SHA

The TF discussed the draft list of follow-up questions to be sent to Cedric Ward, Assistant Deputy Engineer, Montgomery County District 3, SHA, as a follow-up to the "committee-of-the-whole" meeting with him in Takoma Park on Wednesday, April 20.

The group agreed that we should make clear that we are not expecting an "official" response, and the group agreed to remove "in writing" from one question.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Seth Grimes, co-chair

DRAFT