

City of Takoma Park
Takoma Junction Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 30, 2011

The City of Takoma Park Takoma Junction Task Force met on Tuesday, August 30, 2011, in the Lilac Room of the Takoma Park Community Center, Takoma Park.

Members Present: Hailu Aichehi, Lorig Charkoudian, Billy Coulter, Kay Daniels-Cohen, James DiLuigi, Steve Dubb, Megan Gallagher, Seth Grimes, Andy Kelemen, Howard Kohn, Barbara Muhlbacher, Katrina Oprisko, Susan Robb, Roger Schlegel, Jeffrey Trunzo, and Ellen Zavian

Members Absent: Linette Lander, Lorraine Pearsall, Dan Seligman, and Jennifer Sisane

Staff Present: none

Others Present: J.J. Smith, Patch

1. Call to Order and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

No meeting minutes were distributed.

The following documents were distributed:

- Agenda
- Draft Executive Summary of Research and Outreach from Subcommittee B
- Recap of August 24th Meeting at Junction with Police Chief Ron Ricucci and Sara Daines

2. Meeting Minutes

No meeting minutes were available for action.

3. Meeting with Police Chief Ronald Ricucci and Sara Daines. Impressions.

Seth Grimes prepared a draft document for distribution and discussion by the TF. A group of TF members met with Chief Ricucci and Sara Daines at B.F. Gilbert Park to present information about signal timing, traffic, and pedestrian issues, and gather impressions from City staff about Junction changes being discussed by the TF. The Chief shared that the Police department had received complaints recently from Sycamore Avenue about the light timing, and followed up with Woody Hood at SHA. The police department is planning to monitor the crossings at the Junction for the first week of school. Chief Ricucci appreciated the effort by the TF to share information, and assured the members that the police department is not working at cross-purposes with the TF.

The various options that will be included in the TF's report were explained, and staff perspectives were actively solicited. There was no reaction either in favor of or in opposition to the various options, pending their submission in the TF's report for review by the usual and customary pathways.

Of note, was the information volunteered by Chief Ricucci, that there is support within the police department for alteration of Sycamore Avenue, to a one-way street in a North/East direction (between Ethan Allen and Columbia Avenues only). The TF discussed that option further, with the benefit of directly viewing the intersection signaling and roadway. It was observed that in addition to possible improvements to traffic flow, alteration of this 1-block section of Sycamore to one-way would also allow for the incorporation of additional street parking on Sycamore Avenue. This configuration could allow for the removal of the Sycamore Avenue traffic signal. Impacts on Columbia and Woodland Avenues would need to be evaluated.

4. Community Outreach

Subcommittee "B" has arranged for the community-wide outreach meeting to be held on Thursday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Azalea Room of the Community Center. Distribution of the meeting announcement will begin this week. It was suggested and agreed that an agenda and/or an executive summary of the outreach activities conducted by the TF would be available to participants. Comments are also being encouraged via electronic methods. Takoma Park cable TV will be contacted to arrange for coverage of the community meeting in order to facilitate broad dissemination of the information via the cable TV channel to the community.

5. Report Presentation to City Council

TF members were polled for their views about consulting the Mayor to discuss alternatives to making a presentation in September to the sitting Council. The TF voiced support for the concept of delivering the presentation to the new Council after the November election. The TF

will submit the written report on schedule in September as previously agreed. It was noted that there is other business currently scheduled on the Council agenda for September, and that the TF report could result in 1 or more Work Sessions in either December or early 2012 to the new Council. Seth Grimes will consult with the Mayor about scheduling of the TF report to Council.

6. Report Status, Planning, & Content Assembly

Previously, the TF had reviewed and discussed the topic areas, structure, and content for the draft report. TF members continued to express interest in the mechanics of how to assemble the report. The TF also discussed methodologies for presenting alternatives, when more than one recommendation on a topic will be included in the final report. Advocates expressed support for “pros & cons” as appropriate for some of the alternatives. Other points of view expressed that various “weighting” or “scoring” alternatives could illuminate the options, or that matching recommendations with goals and mission would be helpful. The TF mostly agreed that including information which indicated to Council that alternatives were vetted as thoroughly as possible needs to be a part of the report.

The section content and the champions of the sections were reviewed for draft report writing progress. Seth promised to develop the central planning document over the course of the next week. The Chairs emphasized that content needs to be developed and delivered within the next week for incorporation into the central document. Identification of any gaps and further editorial reviews will commence immediately thereafter.

The following members volunteered to lead these sections or efforts:

- Kay/Roger: Compile subcommittee “B” efforts
- Katrina: Traffic sections
- Roger/Jeff: “T” intersection alternatives
- Barbara/Jim: Roundabout
- Kay: Compile community research, produce the Vision statement, and compile the outreach efforts
- Steve: Co-Op
- Andy: Mission statement mapping to an outline of the report content topics, describe the Junction boundaries (Tour of Takoma Junction)
- Megan: Introduction
- Susan: Traffic signalization current status & improvements

- Lorraine: Historic preservation
- Dan/Howard: 3 sections related to subcommittee "A" (including City lot redevelopment)
- Lorig: Editor
- Billy: Presentation to Council
- Seth: Identification and communication about all assigned/unassigned sections.

The draft report will be circulated prior to the next TF meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 14.

Next Topics

The TF is holding a Community-wide meeting on Thursday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m., in the Azalea Room of the Community Center. The September meetings (for final report assembly and editing) are Wednesday, September 14, at 7:30 p.m., in the Hydrangea Room and Tuesday, September 27, at 7:30 p.m., in the Lilac Room of the Community Center.

The TF website is www.takomajunction.org

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Trunzo, Secretary

Roger Schlegel, Secretary