

Takoma Junction discussion group

Meeting 2 – January 13, 2010 – Meeting summary

Location: Kohn residence

Attending: Kay Daniels-Cohen, Scott Gilkeson, Seth Grimes, Roz Grigsby, Matt Kaiser, Diana Kohn, Howard Kohn, Lorraine Pearsall, Dan Robinson, Roger Schlegel, Bruce Williams, Josh Wright

The group discussed a number of topics:

1. Should the Council appoint a Takoma Junction task force?

Concerns include negative perceptions of openness, exclusivity, and legitimacy of outputs and also a desire to involve council members other than the three who have been participating in the discussions, especially when it comes to recommendations.

- Per the attending council members, the council will discuss at its upcoming Takoma Junction work session the possibility of appointing a task force or committee although it may not come to any conclusion on the point.
- Group consensus was that we would continue our current mode of operating, informally and without council imprimatur.
- The group will distribute meeting notes and other materials as appropriate to lists.
- The council will may take up particular, focused issues independent of the group or an appointed task force or committee. Most immediately, these include signage on the city lot to make the availability of parking more visible. Dan will take up this last matter in the council.

2. Parking in the city's Takoma Junction lot.

The city has just renewed its agreement with the TPSS Co-op making twelve spaces available for co-op use. The payment is \$18,000/year. The arrangement can be terminated.

The amount the co-op pays is germane because it can be taken into account, for cost-recovery purposes, if the city buys parking spaces behind the Takoma Junction-Carroll Avenue strip for public use.

3. Pedestrian/traffic improvements.

Kay handed out a sheet of ideas created by Jim DiLuigi for SS Carroll's Takoma Junction discussions. The sheet is dated "revised 5/15/2008." Jim's five points concern (1) parking, (2) bus stops, option 1, (3) bus stops, option 2, (4) vehicular traffic, and (5) pedestrian crossings. Kay said that the point about eliminating parking spaces in front of the Carroll Avenue storefronts should be ignored. Kay will make an electronic version of the hand-out available for e-mail distribution and/or posting.

4. A hang-out and/or event space in the city lot, including use for some form of market.

Ideas for the lot include:

- Concerts or movies.

- A hang-out space not linked to events. It could include games tables, e.g., chess, backgammon.
- Some type of food service.

Roz said that the co-op has plans underway to extend and awning across the full front of the store with some type of seating there.

Bruce observed that if any of the lot uses – these or others – are popular, they could inhibit other uses of the space.

Consensus was that uses the group has been discussing could be temporary, that use of B.Y. Morrison Park (the gazebo) comes into play, that the discussions of space use and of pedestrian & traffic safety must be linked, and that the Takoma Park play committee could be involved. The group agreed to continue this discussion in a subsequent meeting.