

Consent Agenda

Agenda Item #	12E
Meeting Date	June 22, 2009
Prepared By	Sara Anne Daines HCD Director
Approved By	Barbara Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Appointment of Ms. Anne Becker as Takoma Park Poet Laureate
Background	<p>The Arts and Humanities Commission has forwarded the name of Ms. Anne Becker, for consideration by the City Council for a second term as poet laureate. Ms. Becker was initially appointed as Takoma Park Poet Laureate in 2007. Her current term expires June 30, 2009.</p> <p>The Takoma Park Poet Laureate program, established by Resolution of the City Council in May 2005, honors the achievements of a local poet and is designed to provide literary leadership in the community. The designation of a poet laureate is intended to support and promote Takoma Park’s poets, stimulate interest in poetry among residents of the city, encourage young and old to strive for greater expressive abilities, and encourage wider appreciation of poetry and literature. The selected individual serves for a period of two years. The poet laureate’s responsibilities include the development of a project that promotes poetry and writing and appearances at a variety of public service venues.</p> <p>To be considered for appointment, an individual must be a resident of Takoma Park. He or she must be an active practitioner, a published poet who has demonstrated achievement over an extended time period, recognized by the literary community, and someone who has been engaged in teaching or public speaking or otherwise involved in the community.</p> <p>The Arts and Humanities Commission, having solicited nominations for poet laureate from the community, has forwarded its recommendation that Ms. Becker, a published poet, teacher and former producer of literary audio cassettes and radio programming, be appointed to serve a second term as Takoma Park’s poet laureate. If appointed, Ms. Becker would, in collaboration with local poets, artists, dancers and musicians, hold a series of workshops, performance pieces and exhibits, building upon the previous work of the Arts and Humanities Commission’s exhibitions program. Additional information on the project can be found in the accompanying nomination.</p>
Policy	“To expand public awareness of, involvement in, and access to the arts and arts opportunities and to create an environment which promotes interaction, dialogue, discussion and lasting relationships between artists and the public.”

Fiscal Impact	The Poet Laureate will receive a \$2,000 stipend from the Arts and Humanities Commission's FY10-11 budget.
Attachments	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Resolution appointing Ms. Anne Becker as Takoma Park Poet Laureate2. Anne Becker Nomination
Recommendation	To approve the proposed resolution
Special Consideration	

Introduced by

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2009-

APPOINTING THE TAKOMA PARK POET LAUREATE

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Poet Laureate program was established in May 2005 as a means of honoring the achievement of a local poet, while encouraging young and old to strive for greater expressive abilities and creating a wider appreciation of poetry and literature; and

WHEREAS, a poet laureate is a symbol of the important role the arts play in our civic life and creative expression and can be a source of pride and public pleasure for all Takoma Park residents.

WHEREAS, the Arts and Humanities Commission has forwarded for Council approval, its recommendation for the appointment of Ms. Anne Becker, a respected poet and a resident of Ward 2, for a second term as Takoma Park's Poet Laureate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Takoma Park hereby appoints Ms. Anne Becker for a second term as Takoma Park Poet Laureate beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2011.

Adopted this _____ day of June 2008.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk