

Worksession

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| Agenda Item # | 6 |
| Meeting Date | July 20, 2009 |
| Prepared By | Jessie Carpenter City Clerk |
| Approved By | Barbara B. Matthews City Manager |

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| Discussion Item | Discussion of Establishment of a Task Force on Environmental Sustainability |
| Background | <p>On May 18, 2009, the City Council adopted a Strategic Plan for FY 2010 – FY 2015 that envisions Takoma Park as a sustainable and livable community, with an engaged, responsive and service-oriented government. On July 6, 2009, the City Council discussed suspension of the Committee on the Environment and formation of a short-term task force to make recommendations for moving forward on environmental sustainability.</p> <p>The draft resolution included in the agenda package provides a structure and a list of priorities for the work of the task force. It contemplates an 18-member task force to be appointed by the City Council. The term of the task force would be six months so that its work would be completed prior to Council consideration of the FY 2011 budget.</p> <p>After discussion and revision on July 20, a final resolution will be prepared for adoption by the City Council on July 27. Opportunity to apply to serve on the task force will be advertised in August with the expectation that the Council will want to make appointments in mid-September.</p> |
| Policy | The City Council is the policymaking body for the City of Takoma Park. |
| Fiscal Impact | None–For Discussion Only |
| Attachments | Draft resolution |
| Recommendation | Discuss the structure and focus of the Task Force on Environmental Sustainability and direction to staff. |
| Special Consideration | The Strategic Plan environmental sustainability goal includes strategies and priorities related to development, transit, sidewalks and trails. While these areas are important in achieving the overall goal of sustainability, they are not specifically included in the work of the task force because they are being addressed through other initiatives such as the Safe Routes to School program, the sidewalk and ADA accessibility studies, and advocacy for the Purple Line and transit center. |

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
Resolution 2009-
Resolution Establishing a Task Force on Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2009, the City Council adopted a Strategic Plan for FY 2010 – FY 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan envisions Takoma Park as a sustainable and livable community, with an engaged, responsive and service-oriented government; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that this vision can best be achieved by working in partnership with residents, community organizations, non-profits, the business community and other governmental agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Council desires to begin implementation of the Strategic Plan by focusing its attention on Takoma Park becoming an environmentally sustainable community; and,

WHEREAS, in order to draw upon the broad range of environmental and climate change expertise and interest within the Takoma Park community, the Council wishes to establish a Task Force on Environmental Sustainability to review the current status of plans and operations related to climate change and the environment and to prepare a roadmap for achieving the vision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

1. A Task Force on Environmental Sustainability is established to review the current status of plans and operations related to climate change and the environment and to prepare a roadmap for achieving the vision elaborated in the Strategic Plan.
2. Members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the City Council.
3. The Mayor and each of the six ward Councilmembers may appoint up to three members to the task force.
4. Members shall be Takoma Park residents or shall represent organizations working on climate change or environmental sustainability issues.
5. The Task Force shall elect from among its members a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.
6. The City Manager shall designate one or more staff members to assist the Task Force in its work.

7. The task force should focus on the following in the course of its work:
 - Review existing City environmental policies and programs and their effectiveness, identify any gaps, and recommend any changes or enhancements.
 - Conduct an initial review of the requirements of the City's Ordinances and recommend any necessary revisions to ensure the furtherance of the City Council's environmental sustainability goal.
 - Create and recommend a five-year plan for improving the environmental sustainability of the City. The plan should consider vehicle use, fuel use, facility efficiency, purchasing preference for recyclable and green products, use of alternative, less environmentally damaging products, etc.
 - Review the City's Local Action Plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and recommend revisions that will establish reduction goals that are consistent with state, county, and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' plans.
 - Recommend ongoing educational and incentive programs to increase the community's awareness of actions it can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce use of resources, enhance the natural environment, and improve water quality.
 - Recommend a series of benchmarks and key indicators to provide an appropriate means of measuring progress made by the City and the community to improve Takoma Park's environmental sustainability.
 - Recommend a structure for an ongoing volunteer committee (or committees), work group(s) or other entities to advise the City Council, monitor progress on implementing the plans, conduct educational programs and outreach, or perform other tasks associated with environmental sustainability at the request of the City Council.
8. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the City Council by March 5, 2010 unless its term is extended by the Council.