

City of Takoma Park, Maryland
Arts and Humanities Commission
Worksession Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 31, 2015

The City of Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission met on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 in the Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park.

Members Present: Eric Gordon, Gelynn Hurt, Elizabeth Mische, M. Charlene Porter, Iva Saller, Camilla Schaeffer, Marilyn Sklar, and Susan Strasser

Members Absent: Chiara Atoyebi and Hannah Baldwin

Staff Present: Sara Anne Daines, Director of Housing & Community Development
Emily Cohen, Management Assistant

1) Call to Order

Worksession was called to order by Susan Strasser at 6:30 pm.

2) Overview of Process

A brief overview of the proposed process for the worksession discussion of the updating of the City of Takoma Park's Cultural Plan was presented by staff. The purpose of the plan and the authority of the Commission to undertake the project were discussed. Commissioners considered options for approaching the project. Concerns for the need for additional resources for the development of the plan were voiced with staff noting that, aside for some nominal funds for community outreach and publication, the bulk of the project was to be done in-house with the support of members of the Commission. Examples of cultural plans collected by staff from other communities were discussed with additional plans identified by Commissioners. The use of Dropbox by the Commissioners during the process was explained with members encouraged to use it as a way of sharing resources and information.

3) Discussion of Vision

Development of a preliminary vision statement was initiated by staff with a review of the City Code. Following a discussion of the 2005 Cultural Plan, the Commission reached general consensus that the vision statement should reflect the values of the community and that it would be finalized as the plan develops. The following elements were initially identified as being of importance and were recorded for possible inclusion in the proposed Cultural Plan update:

- To advise and assist in the development and promotion of the arts and humanities for the enjoyment, education, cultural enrichment and benefit of all community residents
- To reflect the interests and will of the community for creative outlets and opportunities
- To serve as a catalyst for economic development

- To assist in the identification of additional resources for future programming needs
- To capitalize on the community’s reputation as a cultural center for the region

Action: No formal action was taken.

4) Discussion of Methodology

The Commission discussed how best to approach the project, recognizing the need to include all stakeholders in the process and to consider the needs of the community as a whole. Members agreed that the initial focus of their efforts should be on the review and analysis of available data. The following stakeholders, resources and outreach opportunities were initially identified by the Commission:

Stakeholders: Religious and Educational Institutions
 Community Based Organizations (i.e. Historic Takoma)
 Arts Organizations
 Historians, writers, poets, performers, artists, musicians, performers
 Creative and culturally based enterprises, etc.
 Residents (diversity of ages, country of origin, etc.)

Resources: Resident Survey (June 2014)
 City of Takoma Park / HCD website (www.takomaparkmd.gov)
 US Census
 Americans for the Arts

Outreach: Surveys
 Focus Groups
 Public Meetings
 Public Events
 Social Media

Action: No formal action was taken.

5) Development of Project Timeline

Discussion deferred to April 28, 2015 meeting.

Action: No formal action was taken.

6) Next Steps and Assignments

Commissioner Gordon volunteered to research available transportation resources and report on his findings in April. Commissioner Sklar volunteered to research demographic data. Additional assignments were deferred to the April 28, 2015 meeting.

Action: No formal action was taken.

7) Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Safa Anne Daines
HCD Director