

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	3
Meeting Date	February 9, 2015
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow Acting City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution Expressing Deep Appreciation for Those Contributing Towards the Purchase of Washington-McLaughlin School Parcel 3 Property
Background	<p>Many Takoma Park residents, calling themselves the “Plan B” group, solicited and pledged donations to help the City of Takoma Park bid successfully on the Washington-McLaughlin School Parcel 3 property at an IRS auction on January 22, 2015. The Plan B group was interested in preserving the natural features of the property. Over \$100,000 in donations was gathered, of which \$53,000 was needed for the City to be able to be the winning bidder.</p> <p>Some members of the Plan B group have expressed interest in having amounts over the \$53,000 go towards acquisition-related expenses of the property and/or towards general protection and maintenance of natural areas in the City of Takoma Park. Additional acquisition-related expenses are likely to be greater than \$200,000 and may be as much as \$500,000. Plan B members wish to be assured that donations in excess of the amount towards the bid price will be spent for acquisition or open space preservation-related expenses.</p> <p>This resolution expresses the City Council’s great appreciation to these generous donors and assures them that their donations will be spent for the intended purposes.</p>
Policy	The City Council appreciates the great partnership of the residents and the City government in preserving the community and environment of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	\$53,000 in contributions towards the auction bid price of \$253,000; additional contributions to go towards related acquisition costs and/or towards the preservation and maintenance of natural open areas of Takoma Park.
Attachments	Draft Resolution
Recommendation	Vote on the resolution.
Special Consideration	

Introduced By:

DRAFT - RESOLUTION #2015-xx

**Resolution Expressing Deep Appreciation to Those Who Contributed Towards
The Purchase of the Washington-McLaughlin School Parcel 3 Property**

WHEREAS, members of the “Plan B” group of Takoma Park residents donated \$53,000 towards the auction bid made by the City of Takoma Park for the property known as Washington-McLaughlin School Parcel 3; and

WHEREAS, donations were made by the residents with the intent to preserve the natural forested character and tree canopy of the property; and

WHEREAS, these donations allowed the City to be the winning bidder at the January 22, 2015 auction for the Parcel 3 property; and

WHEREAS, large additional costs related to the acquisition of the property will need to be paid before the City has clear title to the property; and

WHEREAS, the property requires considerable work to remove invasive species of plants in order to protect the woods and tree canopy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is responsible for the maintenance of natural areas it owns as well as property, such as the nearby Poplar Mills/Sligo Mills parkland, that is owned by others but maintained by the City under a Memorandum of Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the residents who donated towards the purchase of the Parcel 3 property are interested in acquisition, conservation, and appropriate maintenance of natural wooded areas city-wide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park expresses great appreciation to the “Plan B” residents group for their financial donations towards the bid for the Washington-McLaughlin Parcel 3 property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT donations over the \$53,000 that was specifically dedicated for the bid for the property will go towards the additional costs

related to the acquisition of the Parcel 3 property or towards a fund dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of wooded open space in the City of Takoma Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT clear records will be kept and available for inspection related to the use of the donated funds so that donors can be assured of the appropriate use of their contributions.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2015.