

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	1
Meeting Date	May 26, 2015
Prepared By	Sara Anne Daines HCD Director
Approved By	Suzanne R. Ludlow City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution Accepting the Report of the Residential Streetscape Task Force
Background	<p>Mr. John Lorenz, representing the Residential Streetscape Task Force, presented its report, “Takoma Park’s Residential Streetscapes: Safeguarding Our Distinctive Visual Character” to the Council during its April 20, 2015 work session. The Task Force was established by the Council for the purposes of developing a streetscape policy and design guidelines for consideration. A copy of the report is available online.</p> <p>As noted during the presentation, the report is intended as a starting point for the development of a city-wide policy acknowledging the importance of protecting the character of Takoma Park’s diverse neighborhoods and advocating for the creation of a style manual for use in the design and construction of public infrastructure improvements ranging from street signs and sidewalk installation to curb ramps and landscaping. The report supports current staff efforts to develop a comprehensive open space and public land management plan and a style manual establishing specific design and installation standards for a variety of public realm improvements, both of which will be completed in FY16. The specific recommendations included in the Task Force report and the proposed guidelines detailed in the Appendix will be considered in the development of these projects.</p> <p>A resolution acknowledging the work of the Task Force and accepting their report is attached for Council consideration.</p>
Policy	<p>Create and maintain a livable community that is vibrant, healthy, and safe with convenient transportation for all of its residents.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Strategic Plan FY 2010 - FY 2015</i></p>
Fiscal Impact	N/A
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution Accepting the Report of the Residential Streetscape Task Force • Takoma Park’s Residential Streetscapes: Safeguarding Our Distinctive Visual Character
Recommendation	Approve the Resolution
Special Consideration	

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-**

ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF THE RESIDENTIAL STREETScape TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Council, in response to community members concerned about a lack of consistency in the installation and implementation of various improvements in the public right of way, established by Resolution 2013-75, the Residential Streetscape Task Force (the “Task Force”); and

WHEREAS, the Task Force, directed to “assist in development and/or review of residential streetscape guidelines,” presented its report, “Takoma Park’s Residential Streetscapes: Safeguarding our Distinctive Visual Character” to the Council on April 20, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Task Force report recommendations include the adoption of a policy statement regarding the value of protecting the character of the streetscape and the development of a residential streetscape style manual, both of which are supported by the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council has endorsed the development of an open space public land management plan, providing funding for this effort in FY2016, which will advance the interests expressed by the Task Force to enhance, preserve and improve the public right of way; and

WHEREAS, an inventory of public realm improvements and the development of a standards guide for use in the design, implementation and installation of various streetscape improvements, recommended by the Task Force, is currently being developed by staff; and

WHEREAS, the Council has expressed a desire to further consider the specific recommendations included in the report and to incorporate, to the extent feasible, select recommendations into the scheduled open space and land management plan and standards guide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND hereby accepts “Takoma Park’s Residential Streetscapes: Safeguarding our Distinctive Visual Character” (March 2015).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council recognizes the excellent work done by the Residential Streetscape Task Force in the development of this report and thanks them for their time and expertise.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter
City Clerk