

Introduced by: Councilmember Barry

First Reading: January 28, 2008

Second Reading: February 25, 2008

Effective Date: March 17, 2008

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-4

(Establishment of a City of Takoma Park Recreation Committee)

WHEREAS, a Takoma Park Recreation Council was jointly established by the City of Takoma Park and the Prince George’s County Recreation Department in 1964; and,

WHEREAS, by Resolution 1993-61, the City Council recognized the continuous existence of the committee and established the Recreation Council as a body of citizen volunteers to work cooperatively with the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County Recreation Departments to support the Takoma Park Recreation Department in developing, planning and implementing a well-rounded recreation program for the community; and,

WHEREAS, later in 1993, by Resolution 1993-92, the name of the Takoma Park Recreation Council was changed to “Takoma Park Recreation Committee” and the purpose of the Committee was revised to read: “The purpose of this Committee shall be to work with and support the Takoma Park Recreation Department in developing, planning and implementing well-rounded recreation facilities and programs for the community. . .” and to continue to work with cooperatively with the two counties; and,

WHEREAS, since 1993, the City of Takoma Park was unified into Montgomery County, necessitating a revision to the legislation establishing the Recreation Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to have the ongoing advice and support of a group of resident volunteers who can advise the Council on how best to serve the diverse recreation needs of Takoma Park residents; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council views recreation in the broad sense, to include City programs and facilities related to recreation, health, leisure, education, enrichment programs, and opportunities for social development; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it is appropriate at this juncture to reestablish the Recreation Committee through reference and inclusion in the City Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, that the *Takoma Park Code* is amended by adding a new Article 9, to Chapter 2.16 Boards and Commissions, as follows:

Article 9. Recreation Committee.

Section 2.16.300. Establishment of Recreation Committee.

A Recreation Committee is hereby established to advise the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation programming and facilities.

Section 2.16.310. Statement of Purpose.

The purpose of the Recreation Committee shall be as follows:

A. To advise the City Council on how best to serve the diverse recreation needs of Takoma Park residents, including but not limited to reviewing and recommending policies and programs that concern recreational opportunities within the City, with a special emphasis on youth and seniors and broad and diverse participation.

B. To advise the City Council regarding a range of community needs involving recreation, health, leisure, education, enrichment programs, and opportunities for social development.

C. To identify for the City Council options and opportunities which may benefit the Takoma Park community by serving those needs.

D. To advise the City Council on ways to enhance use of existing City-owned or operated facilities, including the Community Center, the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center, Heffner Park Community Center, and athletic fields maintained by the City to meet the objectives set forth in Section 2.16.310(B).

E. To advise the City Council of options and opportunities for recreational use of other public community facilities in the area and to suggest to the Council new facilities which may be needed.

Section 2.16.320. Membership, Terms of Office, Structure and Staffing.

A. The Recreation Committee shall consist of seven to 15 Takoma Park residents to be appointed by the City Council. Every effort shall be made to ensure that the membership represents all wards and the diverse populations in Takoma Park.

B. Committee members shall serve staggered two-year terms, with initial appointments of one and two years. Terms shall begin on May 1 and end on April 30.

C. The Committee shall organize and adopt bylaws and rules of procedure as necessary to accomplish its purpose. The Committee shall elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and any other officers it shall deem necessary. Officers shall serve for a period of one year.

D. The City Manager shall designate a City staff member to serve as liaison to the Committee.

E. To facilitate coordination with other groups, the Recreation Committee shall select from among its membership representatives to serve as non-voting liaisons to the Arts and Humanities Commission, the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, and any other bodies designated by the Committee or the Council.

Section 2.16.330. Meetings

A. The Recreation Committee shall meet quarterly or as often as necessary to fulfill its responsibilities. The Committee shall establish a regular meeting schedule and prepare minutes of meetings in conformance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

B. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

Section 2.16.340. Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee

A. The Committee shall prepare an annual report to the Council and may provide additional briefings as needed.

B. The Committee shall conform to other provisions of Article 1, Chapter 2.16 Boards and Commissions, as may be amended from time to time.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this 25th day of February, 2008, by roll-call vote as follows:

Aye:	Williams, Clay, Robinson, Seamens, Wright
Nay:	None
Absent:	Barry, Snipper
Abstain:	None