

University Park Town Council Committee on Policy, Rules & Municipal Structure

Thursday July 2, 2020
Zoom (Online meeting)

Minutes

Attendees: Councilmember Linda Verrill (chair), council- and committee members Joe Schultz, Laurie Morrissey, and Roland Stephen; town resident, Roy Alvarez.

1. Brief discussion on next steps for racial justice (following the adoption of the UP statement)

The chair thanked the committee for its dedication and its hard work, with help from three town residents, on developing the UP racial justice statement. The committee discussed potential next steps for the town with regard to actions it can take in looking at town policies and procedures from a racial justice perspective. The chair proposed a special committee or commission to organize necessary brainstorming and discussion. The committee chair advised against a piecemeal approach to town racial justice action.

2. Review draft one-pager on gas-powered leaf blowers

The committee reviewed the draft information piece developed by member Joe Schultz and edited by member Roland Stephen and agreed to modify slightly, to clarify the section on particulates to be reviewed at the next regular meeting. The committee chair will draft language requesting a change to the noise ordinance for review at the committee's next regular meeting.

The committee discussed consulting with the town committee on Trees, Parks, and the Environment when the information piece and the request for regulatory changes have been finalized by this committee.

3. Continue discussion on fence heights

After a discussion about the fence heights regulation not being upheld through regular granting of variance requests for 6-foot fences, the committee agreed to move forward with modifying town code to allow backyard fence heights up to 6 feet. The committee

chair will ask the town attorney to identify the appropriate sections of town code and to develop language to modify current code to reflect the committee's recommendation.

The committee will review the draft ordinance at its next regular meeting, assuming it has been received.

4. Other business

Brief discussion on the Prince George's County bill (CB-48-2020) that would enable voters to decide in the fall about making changes to the homestead property tax cap. The bill is complex and the committee agreed to have the chair ask Dan Baden and David Deutch to explain it to council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm