



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 1/1/2013 to 12/31/2013

DOWNTOWN COMMISSION

The Board/Commission mission statement (§2-1-141 of the Austin City Code):

The Downtown Commission shall:

- (1) advise the city council and city staff regarding policies and projects impacting downtown Austin;
- (2) serve as stewards for the Downtown Austin Plan and, as such,:
 - (a) serve as a sounding board for the city council and staff on the implementation of the Downtown Austin Plan; and
 - (b) offer recommendations on amendments to the Downtown Austin Plan as needed;
- (3) maintain liaison relationships with city staff and other boards and commission; and
- (4) perform other activities as directed by city council.

For purposes of this section, the downtown area is the area bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Interstate Highway 35, Lady Bird Lake, and Lamar Boulevard.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

- (1) Held 11 full commission meetings and one special called meeting enabling the commission to provide City Council and City staff with information and recommendations on downtown projects

At those meetings we:

- Made two recommendations to the City Council
- Made recommendations on 4 zoning cases

- Endorsed or suggested changes to 8 other cases or projects
 - Heard 21 briefings on which no action was taken
 - Received reports and updates from Downtown Commission members representing other Boards and Commissions
- (2) Serving as stewards for the Downtown Plan, the Commission created 4 working groups:
- Working group to make recommendations on noise and other issues facing the Rainey Street neighborhood
 - Working group to analyze and make recommendations on which projects should be reviewed by the Downtown Commission prior to review by the Planning Commission
 - Working group to study and make recommendations on downtown public open space
 - Working group to make recommendations on the implementation of the Downtown Austin Plan
 - A fifth working group, created in 2012, completed the report *Activating Austin's Downtown Public Alleys as Public Spaces*, which was adopted by the Downtown Commission on Nov. 20, 2013

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The Board's actions complied with the mission statement.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

[In gray below are the goals and objectives from the previous year's review]

- a. The Commission looks to focus on the following items:
 - i. Assist with implementation of the Downtown Austin Plan (Including the Commission serving as a host for public outreach).
 - ii. Discuss revisions to the Commission's "Project Review Sheet."
 - iii. Focus discussion on downtown transportation, parks, downtown's interface with UT and State properties, public safety and general quality of life. Consider the Commission serving as a "bully pulpit on public realm issues.
- b. Document accomplishments of the three current Working Groups: Alleyway Project, Rainey Street Sound/Quality of Life, Planning Commission Project Review Coordination.
- c. Consider additional Working Groups on previously mentioned focus items.