



Annual Internal Review

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

Official Name of Board or Commission:

Residential Design and Compatibility Commission

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOARD IS TO MAKE DETERMINATIONS ON REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL DESIGN STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS AS PRESCRIBED BY CHAPTER 25-2, SUBCHAPTER F (RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AND COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS).

- 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.**
 - A. IN AN EFFORT TO MORE EFFECTIVELY EVALUATE APPLICATIONS PURSUANT TO THE MISSION, THE RDCC IN 2012 UNDERTOOK TO SIMPLIFY AND CLARIFY THE WAIVER APPLICATION UTILIZED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN AND RECOMMENDED THE INITIATION OF THE REVISION PROCESS BY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW. PURSUANT TO THIS APPLICATION REVISION, THE RDCC WOULD, DURING 2013, REGULARLY REQUEST AND RECEIVE STATUS UPDATES REGARDING THE RULES POSTING AND ADOPTION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.**
 - B. THE RDCC WOULD ATTEMPT DURING THE COURSE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS TO ELICIT SPECIFIC INTERPRETATIONS FROM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW (PDR) IN ORDER TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE APPLICATION MATERIALS PRESENTED, TO EFFECTIVELY MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON SUCH STAFF INTERPRETATIONS AND TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE APPEALS OF THE COMMISSIONS DECISIONS. SUCH INTERPRETATIONS SPECIFIC TO SUBCHAPTER F WOULD INCLUDE ITEMS SUCH AS ATTIC AND BASEMENT EXEMPTIONS, HABITABLE**

SPACE DEFINITIONS, AND ROOF TYPES AND HEIGHT MEASUREMENT DISCUSSIONS, AS WELL AS ORDINANCE REVISIONS AFFECTING DECISIONS SUCH AS THE CEILING-HEIGHT SPACE CALCULATION ORIGINALLY INCLUDED AND INADVERTENTLY OMITTED FROM AN EARLIER ORDINANCE REVISION, DISCUSSION BASED UPON QUESTIONS ASKED OF STAFF AND BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC DURING OPEN COMMENT, AS WELL AS BY THOSE APPLICANTS OR OPPOSING PARTIES AFFECTED BY SUCH INTERPRETATIONS.

- C. THE COMMISSION WOULD HEAR AND TAKE ACTION ON CASES PRESENTED TO IT WHICH WERE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE COMMISSIONS PURVIEW, AND/OR MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO APPLICANTS CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION STATEMENT.

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

- A. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WERE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION STATEMENT.

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

- A. THE COMMISSION HAS ACTED EFFECTIVELY AS A TRANSITIONAL ENTITY, REVIEWING CASES AND ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN PRESENTED, CLARIFYING AND ASSISTING PDR WITH THE INTENT AND INTERPRETATION OF SUBCHAPTER F. THE COMMISSION'S CASELOAD HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY, SUCH THAT SEVERAL MEETINGS WERE CANCELLED DURING 2013 FOR LACK OF WAIVER REQUESTS; TO THAT END IT IS THE COMMISSION'S BELIEF THAT SUBCHAPTER F AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN IS REASONABLY WELL UNDERSTOOD BY THE PUBLIC AND THE DESIGN COMMUNITY, AND BY THE PDR STAFF, AND IT IS THE WILL OF THE COMMISSION BY UNANIMOUS VOTE TO SUNSET THE CURRENT ROLE OF THE COMMISSION AND TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL THAT THE COMMISSION ITSELF TRANSITION TO AN ENTITY MORE SUITABLE TO SERVING THE BROADDER COMMUNITY OF AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS, WHICH WAS THE IMPETUS FOR THE ORDINANCE WHICH CREATED THE COMMISSION IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND FOR WHICH THERE IS ANTICIPATED TO BE MUCH GREATER NEED AS WE MOVE FORWARD.