

Boards and Commissions Survey

Q2 Please provide feedback on Section 1:

Answered: 77 Skipped: 92

#	Responses	Date
1	The Commission on Seniors supports the Task Force recommendations for transition, and recommends that the City Council be aware of issues related to quorum and full participation should some new Council Members not be able to complete appointments by June 30, 2015. The Commission suggests allowing existing Board members to continue their service until such time as new appointments are completed to avoid quorum issues and vacant positions on Boards – instead of automatically expiring all members terms on June 30.	8/3/2014 8:35 PM
2	I think it's a valid recommendation.	8/1/2014 4:40 PM
3	It's ok.	8/1/2014 3:05 PM
4	It seems that placing the responsibility of appointing vacancies during the transitional period to one person (the Mayor, in this case) is a big responsibility considering the number of Boards/Commissions and potential vacancies. Perhaps there may be consideration to adding the following option: the Chair of a Commission/Board that experiences these vacancies would solicit from its active members potential member names to provide to the Mayor for filling the vacancies.	8/1/2014 2:01 PM
5	I agree with the proposed transition period ending in June 2015.	8/1/2014 10:57 AM
6	I am in full agreement with the Transition Plan presented by the Boards and Commissions Transition Team. I believe this plan benefits both the Boards and Commissions and the incoming City Council.	7/31/2014 11:21 PM
7	Transition period will help the transition go more smoothly. It will give the new council members time to get up to speed while business continues uninterrupted	7/31/2014 9:11 PM
8	It sounds like a good plan to me	7/31/2014 6:37 PM
9	All Board members currently serving shall continue to serve through June 30, 2015.	7/31/2014 4:35 PM
10	I have no problem with the recommendations in this section.	7/31/2014 2:41 PM
11	MP&S Board supports the transition plan.	7/31/2014 9:56 AM
12	As a member of the Transition Taskforce, I support Section 1 of the recommendations.	7/30/2014 10:34 PM
13	Agreed that it would be prudent.	7/30/2014 3:30 PM
14	I disagree with extending the transition period to June 30, 2015. City staff will begin working on the 2015-2016 budget in February. At least at the EUC, staff has presented budget updates until the budget is released at the end of July. If this is standard city practice, the commissioners who are receiving budget updates will not be voting on the budget in August. The commissioners who are expected to offer advice on the budget will have been on the Commission for one month. I would recommend March 31, 2015 as the transition date.	7/30/2014 12:29 PM
15	Find the plan to be feasible and equitable.	7/28/2014 3:30 PM
16	The transition plan seems like a logical path forward for the city's boards and commissions. The proposed transition period seems longer than necessary. If possible, it might be worth considering shortening it by a month or so and have the new terms start earlier. We should move to the new system as quickly as possible.	7/28/2014 12:24 PM
17	agree with recommendations.	7/27/2014 7:32 PM
18	Appears well thought out	7/25/2014 3:34 PM
19	It's good and appears to meet the business needs.	7/24/2014 5:31 PM
20	Issues seem well researched, and recommendations seem reasonable	7/24/2014 4:56 PM
21	I support the transition recommendations because I feel that a six-month transition is practical, along with the provisions for interim appointments to fill vacancies that may arise.	7/24/2014 4:23 PM

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22	Simultaneous expiration of all Board Member terms on July 15th may lead to discontinuity of Board business.	7/24/2014 2:25 PM
23	The proposed transitional period will be helpful for the new members.	7/22/2014 4:17 PM
24	I think they did a good job with something so difficult.	7/22/2014 9:24 AM
25	I think a transition period to June 1 is do-able, and most Music Commission members would go along with it. Also, if you are asking, I think the rec for Music COmmish to go from 7 to 11 members makes total sense of course.	7/21/2014 1:11 PM
26	The Transition Plan was in-line with expectations. A transition period of 6 months seems reasonable.	7/20/2014 9:04 PM
27	I am in agreement with all recommendations in Section 1.	7/19/2014 3:55 PM
28	I agree with the recommendations put forth in section 1.	7/19/2014 3:36 PM
29	No issues with this section at all.	7/19/2014 10:55 AM
30	ok	7/19/2014 10:00 AM
31	Transition period is a great idea. Better inform current B&C members that they are being asked to extend their commitment into 2015. Allowing time for the new Council to appoint B&C volunteers is sensible. Provide suggestions for Commissions to continue operating during the transition period ... election of officers, replacement of members who discontinue service, etc.	7/19/2014 7:01 AM
32	I assume that some Board Members will be reappointed. This will help the process. To have all boards with new members will be a huge problem and to have the training done will be a stretch. The training via the computer takes some hours. Could there be some staggering of appointments with some experienced members.	7/18/2014 8:28 PM
33	The only concern with section one is the election of B&C officers for a shorter term and then in June, having another election for the same or newly elected officers for the balance of the year. The most competent potential officers may not agree to take the position under those circumstances.	7/18/2014 7:23 PM
34	Seems like an orderly and fair transition plan.	7/18/2014 4:53 PM
35	There were no objections to this section of the Transition Plan and all current members of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission were in support of the recommendations as contained in the report.	7/18/2014 4:25 PM
36	Sounds reasonable.	7/18/2014 3:56 PM
37	No specific feedback.	7/18/2014 2:06 PM
38	Well-written: concise and easy to understand.	7/18/2014 1:35 PM
39	I agree that there should be a transitional period	7/18/2014 12:40 PM
40	Approve	7/18/2014 11:54 AM
41	It's not clear from this survey what is being asked, but I have no comment (except of course, to say, "no comment")	7/18/2014 11:00 AM
42	None	7/18/2014 10:56 AM
43	Transition should consider quorum issues to make sure boards and commissions have members to conduct business	7/18/2014 9:41 AM
44	Yes	7/17/2014 10:26 AM
45	Seems like a logical plan. However, plan does not address how the recommended B&C structure would be considered, revised, and implemented by council. It also does not address interface between outgoing and incoming commissioners, changes to by-laws created by changes to the structure, etc.	7/16/2014 5:14 PM
46	The transition period seems reasonable.	7/16/2014 2:13 PM
47	It was not clear in the recommendation report if the current members of a board can be part of a new or merged board. If it is the case, will that member serve on their current board as well as on the merged or new board? Some clarification to this may be necessary.	7/15/2014 1:18 PM

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48	No comment	7/15/2014 11:00 AM
49	good	7/14/2014 6:44 PM
50	I see that current Commission & Board memberships, or at least mine, will terminate on December 15, 2014. While the 10/1 City Council will be elected at that time, I'm not sure that adequate time has been allowed for adequate training & education of Board & Commission issues. I realize the new City Council Members will want to make their appointments ASAP, but a month or two more would seem to have been prudent.	7/13/2014 2:17 PM
51	I agree	7/13/2014 10:53 AM
52	Agree	7/12/2014 5:32 PM
53	None.	7/11/2014 10:12 PM
54	I believe the transition period of 6 months after the election is sufficient. I believe it is crucial for the new Council to meet with each of their representatives to understand what the main issues are even if the existing member is not reappointed. I believe that it should be a requirement that members are able to meet not only at the designated meeting time but also for other special call meetings.	7/8/2014 10:09 AM
55	I feel the transitional period extends too long.	7/8/2014 8:54 AM
56	No comments.	7/6/2014 11:34 AM
57	The plan seems reasonable and effective. There is enough time allowed for the transition to get new members trained and ready for service and also allows for new council members time to find those new b-c members.	7/3/2014 3:19 PM
58	This section seems well researched and the recommendations sound reasonable.	7/2/2014 2:21 PM
59	I agree the "new council" needs time to understand their role in selecting members of Board and Commissions.	6/30/2014 11:01 AM
60	I think this is a good idea for transition. Is item #4 an existing rule for B&C "Majority of appointed members shall constitute a quorum"? Does that mean that vacancies do not count in calculating a quorum?	6/29/2014 3:11 PM
61	This section looks fine. I am the liaison to the Downtown Commission. If that commission will not continue, I assume that it will stop meeting this December.	6/29/2014 1:02 PM
62	Section 1 is a good explanation of the purpose of the Transition Plan. Clearly states the purpose of the plan, and why there is a need to put one in place. It is easy to read and understand and shows that a lot of planning and collaboration took place in the finished product.	6/25/2014 6:51 AM
63	I have nothing to add regarding Section 1. I am happy to extend my service through the transition period.	6/23/2014 5:55 PM
64	I think all the transition suggestions are workable. There is always the possibility that board members will resign after their regular term is up.	6/19/2014 7:28 PM
65	Great plan!	6/18/2014 10:13 AM
66	Agree	6/17/2014 3:06 PM
67	I think a transitional period would be a great idea	6/13/2014 9:26 PM
68	I think the transitional period is well thought through and essential for a continuous workflow for the current B&C's.	6/13/2014 5:53 PM
69	na	6/13/2014 11:32 AM
70	I have not seen the Transition Plan.	6/12/2014 5:41 PM
71	I am generally supportive of this plan	6/12/2014 11:59 AM
72	The schedule for new appointments and training seems practical and appropriate.	6/12/2014 11:37 AM
73	The transitional period seems appropriate.	6/11/2014 5:22 PM
74	Good Plan.	6/11/2014 2:31 PM
75	I like the proposed representative transition team idea.	6/11/2014 2:07 PM

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76	it is unclear if current commissioners with available time left to serve are eligible to reapply to the commission	6/11/2014 1:53 PM
77	This Work Group may also need to provide recommendations on potential updates to individual Board Bylaws, Guidelines, Rules as some may conflict with changes recommended to 2-1	6/11/2014 1:51 PM

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Q3 Please provide feedback on Section 2:

Answered: 75 Skipped: 94

#	Responses	Date
1	<p>WHEREAS, Austin City Council Resolution No. 20131121-056 directed the City Clerk to form a task force of current board and commission members that will recommend a boards and commissions transition plan. WHEREAS, the Boards and Commission Workgroup recommends communication and collaboration between the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and the Commission on Seniors. Their justification: common issues of healthcare, fixed income, transportation, housing, etc. WHEREAS, they recommend keeping the commissions separate but establishing quarterly joint meetings to more formally exchange information. WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors is a new commission formed at the recommendation of the Mayor's Task Force on Aging and directed to: (1) advise the council on issues related to the senior population in the Austin area; (2) evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices that create a positive impact and reduce the burden on seniors; (3) determine the needs of seniors in the Austin community and advise council regarding these needs; and (4) promote the contributions of seniors to the cultural, economic, and historical value of Austin. WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors recognizes that, although there may be some common issues, there are significant differences in needs and the policies, strategies, and solutions required for appropriately serving seniors and people with disabilities. WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors recognizes the necessity of maintaining a separate structure to carry out the directives of the ordinance creating the Commission on Seniors. WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors understands and supports the value of collaborating with the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and recommends scheduling a joint meeting every six months with alternating meeting schedule between the Commission on Seniors and the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors opposes merger of the Commission on Seniors and the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and instead supports establishing a joint meeting every six months as well as ongoing communication as needed to support collaboration. The Commission on Seniors also recommends that the two commissions meet no more than twice a year and then hold subcommittee meetings more often as needed at the recommendations of the staff liaisons and the Chairs of the two committees. The Commission on Seniors also wanted to point out that remaining an independent commission is important to stay aligned with the commission representation set up by the City Council in the ordinance that established the commission. The members of the Commission on Seniors are currently appointed by the City Council, the Mayor, Area Agency on Aging, Capital Metro, and Travis County.</p>	8/3/2014 8:38 PM
2	It's ok.	8/1/2014 3:05 PM

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3	<p>1. STRONGLY DISAGREE with the recommendation noted in Section B3. STRONGLY DISAGREE with the merger of the MBE/WBE Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee with the Construction Advisory Committee. Each of these committees focuses on key issues impacting the City that are unique to the ordinances which established them. Merging the two Committees would undoubtedly limit the very important citizen oversight currently achieved by each Committee for the unique issues brought before each of the current Committees. The MBE/WBE Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee is not limited to construction contracts - the Committee oversees Commodity, Construction, Non-Professional, and Professional Services contracts as they specifically relate to the M/WBE ordinance. We have always been proud that our City places attention on Small Local Businesses. We have one of the most revered M/WBE Small Business Programs in the nation. A great contributor of the success of our M/WBE program is the attention that City Council, Staff, and Citizens place on this program, especially through the MBE/WBE Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee. It is disheartening to think that the leadership of a City that thrives on Local, M/WBE, and Small Businesses would eliminate the unique voice of its key economic sector. Honestly, knowing the respect and attention that our current City Leadership places on M/WBE and Small Businesses, I find it hard to believe that our current City Leadership would accept to merge these Committees.</p> <p>2. In Section C7 (Economic Prosperity Commission) - if there is a feeling to create this new Commission, and if these activities are currently not undertaken by existing Economic Development, M/WBE, or Construction committees, then consider including Trade Associations as part of the pool of potential members.</p> <p>3. To remain consistent with the Task Force's recommendation to name groups as "Commissions," include the MBE/WBE Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee on the list of Committees who's name would change from "Committee" to "Commission."</p>	8/1/2014 2:46 PM
4	I think the Music Commission stuff looks good to me. One question I have, and I think other commissions will have a similar question: Once the switch to 10-1 happens, will non-mayoral Councilmembers ONLY be able to select people who live in their District as their Commissioner? Or can they select from Citywide?	8/1/2014 1:19 PM
5	The proposals for mergers of some existing commissions make sense.	8/1/2014 10:58 AM
6	I endorse option #2 for B4 regarding the African American Quality of Life Commission. I believe the two African American Commissions should remain separate. I am in favor of this recommendation as it encourages consistent dialogue between the two commissions and provide the opportunity for each commission to support the other and the African-American population. These commissions should reflect the City Council and increase to 11 members. I am also in favor of option #2 for B7 regarding the merger of the Commission on Seniors and the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities. I believe these committees are too unique in the issues they address and should not be merged. Lastly, I am in favor of the recommendation C, the creation of the Joint Commissions. If we ever want Austin to be unified across racial and cultural lines we must provide the opportunity for all persons to dialogue and unite in voice, effort and resources. Instead of competing these commissions should be collaborating.	7/31/2014 11:47 PM
7	Do not believe the combining of any boards should dilute the the number of subject matter experts. Oppose reducing the number of licensed professionals on technical boards	7/31/2014 9:15 PM
8	Leave the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission and the Emma Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center as two separate commissions but encourage better communication through the use of joint meetings to discuss common .. The two are totally different. I do agree on 11 members for each commission appointed by the City Council and the two commissions should be required to hold a joint meeting quarterly to discuss common issues.	7/31/2014 4:47 PM
9	While there is a very slight overlap in the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission and the Emma Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Mission Statements, the primary focus and goals are vastly different. The two commissions should remain separate and independent. Communication may be enhanced by a liaison representative from each of the two commission should attend the other's meetings and report back to their respective commission. Recommend establishment of a joint cultural committee as describe in the Board and Commission Task Force report.	7/31/2014 4:36 PM
10	No comments.	7/31/2014 2:42 PM

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11	I agree that the BFCBOA should be combined with the Electrical board and Mech, Solar and Plmg Board. As a member of the BFCBOA, we rarely meet except during new code review years and the few appeals that make it to our level. Its my understanding that the other 2 boards are similar in there meeting frequency. By combining, this may provide sufficient agenda items that a more regular meeting pattern could be established. These more regular meetings will help members familiarize themselves with one another and understand their areas of expertise. Knowing the members of the board more than just by their name tag is very important on a technical board as it helps each member understand the others views and logic on the issues. For instance, the BFCBOA has 3 new members over the last year of which none of them do I know their background and expertise. Not knowing if they are an architect, builder, engineer, etc. makes it difficult for me to understand there argument/comment on any technical subject. As for the make up of the new "life safety" board, it should be comprised with a majority of licensed professionals. It should have 6 licensed individuals FPE, ME, EE, SE, Arch, Arch. The remaining 5 slots could be a firefighter, builder, master plumber, master elec, master plumber.	7/31/2014 8:07 AM
12	As a member of the Transition Taskforce, I support Section 2 of the recommendations. In the portions where two options are proposed (items B4-B7), I support the merger of the commissions.	7/30/2014 10:34 PM
13	Agreed that it should streamline the process of communicating amongst commissions and boards as well as between said commissions and city council.	7/30/2014 3:31 PM
14	1. The Resource Management Commission (RMC) strongly recommends creation of a Sustainability Commission, not a joint committee. As with the RMC, Council should appoint members with expertise on energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation directly to a Sustainability Commission. 2. As a body, a joint Sustainability Committee would have no standing with City Council meaning Council members would have no advisory board or commission to advise them on issues of sustainability. 3. Replacing the RMC with a joint committee would not decrease staff time and support because reports and briefings would have to be made to one or more of the 7 commissions and the committee. 4. There would be no single body acting as the City's stewards of water and energy conservation, clean air and climate protection. 5. At a minimum there is a perceived conflict of interest for a utility commission with advisory responsibility for fiduciary and operational advice that is also supposed to advise on environmental, social and conservation measures that could negatively impact the finances of the utility. 6. In summary, the RMC feels there should be a separate Sustainability Commission, not a joint committee, because sustainability is too important an issue and goal of the City not to have a separate commission appointed by City Council.	7/30/2014 12:21 PM
15	I would recommend keeping the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities separate from the Commission on Seniors. While these groups may have some common issues, they are substantially different populations. The City should consider adding a representative of the Human Rights Commission to the Joint Inclusion Committee.	7/28/2014 12:27 PM
16	Agree with recommendations	7/27/2014 7:32 PM
17	I am specifically against the merger of the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and the Commission on Seniors. Although there are commonalities to the issues the philosophy underlying each is very different. The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities comes from a platform of Civil Rights. The Commission on Seniors comes from a platform of Health and Human Services. Aging is more of a psycho social services issue.	7/25/2014 3:36 PM
18	Concur	7/24/2014 5:37 PM
19	Recommendations seem reasonable, but many of these issues are outside my expertise.	7/24/2014 4:56 PM

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20	<p>I'm currently the Chair of the Urban Forestry Board (UFB), and I support the recommended consolidation of the UFB and Environmental Board into the Environmental Commission. The current role of the UFB is well served with a makeup of seven members, but I feel that eleven members would be too much for the current UFB purview of public trees and other vegetation. The recommended consolidation would appropriately put the purview of both public and private trees under one umbrella. I have some concern about the possibility of the new Environmental Commission becoming overwhelmed with work that urban forestry issues may unintentionally receive lower priority. I recommend that a permanent Urban Forestry Committee be created under the Environmental Commission to ensure that appropriate regular attention is given to this vital role. This Urban Forestry Committee could possibly meet monthly but no less than bi-monthly. Special attention should be given by this committee to implementation of Austin's Urban Forest Plan that was passed by the City Council in March 2014 after roughly three years of development work by the UFB and City staff. It is impossible to predict in advance if the urban forestry workload will be too much for the Environmental Commission. One recommendation I have to address this is to require that the Environmental Commission annually review the urban forestry workload to see if a recommendation should be made to the City Council about separating out the function into a single urban forestry board/commission. It very well could be that the answer will be "no" to this option each year, but at least this annual review would be required as part of a regular meeting agenda for the public to provide input. Ideally, a currently practicing professional arborist would always serve on the Environmental Commission and specifically on the Urban Forestry Committee. It would help if other experienced arboriculture experts with practical field knowledge would also serve. I know it can be hard to find willing candidates when vacancies arise, but request that this preferred experience be noted when appointments are being considered by Council Members.</p>	7/24/2014 4:29 PM
21	Agree with assessing Start, Stop, Continue Approach	7/24/2014 3:35 PM
22	<p>B3. Municipal Contracts and Construction Commission RECOMMENDATION: These two commissions should NOT be merged. The nature of the work of the MBE/WBE Small Business Enterprise Advisory Committee is essential as a forum for community issues that have to do with access to business opportunities with the city of Austin. The current set of members have a broad set of expertise in engineering, construction, banking, contracts and many more attributes essential for advising city council on minority owned business issues with the added plus that they are minorities and women – a key characteristic for serving on a board that is directly related to it's mission. Many great strides have been made to date to improve the quality and policies impacting the certification program and I fear the advances that have been made would be lost. There is always a loss of institutional memory when staff changes and merging these two commissions would considerably double the loss of institutional memory with commissioners that are unfamiliar with the ordinance and the program rules that have been refined over the years. The MWBE Advisory Commission needs to stand on its own! B4. African American Quality of Life Commission RECOMMENDATION: Unifying the African American Resource Commission with the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility will NOT necessarily have higher visibility and a unified voice before council. It's true, there should be cooperation and common interests among both, but this statement is a purely theoretical conclusion based more on hopeful intent than fact. The commission has a much broader mission for their community and issues to be weighted down by the operations of the AAC&H Facility. The facility requires special and focused attention by a set of commissioners that has only the interest of the facility and their community as its first priority and nothing else. A merger of any kind is NOT the right path to take. Option 2 is a more practical and viable recommendation by establishing a COUNCIL APPOINTED African American Cultural & Heritage Facility Commission of 11 members. Holding a joint meeting of both commissions on a quarterly basis with 22 members would only serve to have an unnecessary and chaotic exercise when it would be much simpler for the Chair of the AAC&H Facility Commission to join the AARC on a quarterly basis for a much orderly and productive meeting and still fulfill the objective of interacting with each other and avoiding the creation of silos. The African American Cultural & Heritage Facility is currently under the Austin Convention Center and should be hosted in a newly created city department that hosts all 3 cultural center facilities under one roof. This new department would include the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility, the Asian American Resource Center and the Emma S Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center. B5. Asian American Quality of Life Commission RECOMMENDATION: Unifying the Asian American Quality of Life Commission with the Asian American Resource Center is NOT a viable option either and will not necessarily add more value with higher visibility. The broader role of the AA Quality of Life Commission has a much broader mission to be weighted down by the operations of a facility. The Resource Center currently does not have a council appointed commission but should have one separate and apart from the AAQLC. Holding a joint meeting of both commissions on a quarterly basis with 22 members would only serve to have an unnecessary and chaotic exercise when it would be much simpler for the Chair of the AAC&H Facility Commission to join the AARC on a quarterly basis for a much orderly and productive meeting and still fulfill the objective of</p>	7/23/2014 1:15 PM

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	<p>interacting with each other and avoiding the creation of silos. The Asian American Resource Center is currently under Parks and Recreation Department and should be hosted in a newly created city department that hosts all 3 cultural center facilities under one roof. This new department would include the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility, the Asian American Resource Center and the Emma S Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center. B6.</p> <p>Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission RECOMMENDATION: Unifying the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission with the Emma S Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center will NOT necessarily have higher visibility and a unified voice before council. It's true, there should be cooperation and common interests among both, but this statement is a purely theoretical conclusion based more on hopeful intent than fact. The commission has a much broader mission for their community and to broad a set of issues to be weighted down by the operations of the ESBMACC which has been in operations for almost 7 years. The facility requires special and focused attention by a set of commissioners that has only the interest of the facility and their community as its first priority and nothing else. This particular project has a 40 year history and is too much of a major institution to be merged with another. The ESBMACC is presently a fully functioning and ongoing facility that would demand too much time of the HQL Commission to address the balance of their mission. A merger of any kind is NOT the right path to take. Both commissions should be kept as is going forward. Holding a joint meeting of both commissions on a quarterly basis with 22 members would only serve to have an unnecessary and chaotic exercise when it would be much simpler for the Chair of the ESBMACC Commission to join the H/LQLRAC on a quarterly basis for a much orderly and productive meeting and still fulfill the objective of interacting with each other and avoiding the creation of silos. To date, the chairs of each commission have already been working together, visiting each other's commission meetings and addressing common issues for support without any formal requirement to meet on a quarterly basis. The ESBMACC advisory board has recommended that interaction between the two commissions be on a more flexible as needed basis in case more frequent than quarterly interaction becomes necessary. The ESBMACC is currently under Parks and Recreation Department and should be hosted in a newly created city department that hosts all 3 cultural center facilities under one roof. This new department would include the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility, the Asian American Resource Center and the Emma S Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center. The ESBMACC Board and the community have expressed overwhelming support against the idea of any merger. C7. Economic Prosperity Commission RECOMMENDATION It's odd that this proposed commission that deals with construction would include chambers of commerce and exclude the 3 minority contractors associations, namely the Austin Black Contractors Association, Asian Contractor Association and the US Hispanic Contractors Association of Austin and the current MWBE Commission that deals with construction far more often than the Community Development Commission and the Urban Transportation Commission. These 4 construction entities should most definitely be included in the Economic Prosperity Commission.</p>	
23	<p>Please be aware that Asian American Resource Center (AARC) is the city owned facility. Asian American Cultural Center (AACC) is a privately owned center. Please change all the "AACC" to "AARC" and change Asian American Cultural Center to Asian American Resource Center. There are good suggestions/recommendations in this section.</p>	7/22/2014 4:17 PM

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24	<p>I am completing this survey as a representative of the Commission for Women. The Commission for Women is greatly affected by this section, as it faces elimination. However, I take objection to the plans developed in Section 2. First, as a commission, we do not feel that the task force was thorough. We were only contacted once. There were no follow-ups. No one from the task force attended one of our meetings or met with us personally. We do not feel they conducted the background research necessary to make the recommendations outlined in Section 2 on our commission. More important, due to this lack of background research, we do not feel the task force knows what our commission does and what it represents. In addition, we feel poor communication hindered this process greatly. The task force never explained how it would make its recommendations or that the questionnaire it sent us would be the only information it would use. We feel we were not given a voice as a commission throughout the process. Second, I am uncomfortable with many of the recommendations to combine commissions since most of the commissions in question are related to promoting minority voices, such as African-Americans, Hispanics, disabled citizens and women, in the City of Austin. This seems to send the wrong message. And, as stated in my first point, I do not know if the task force did the necessary research to make this call. Finally, under this section, a seat for a woman would be reserved on the Joint Inclusion Committee. The initial seat would be filled by one representative from the (former) Commission for Women. However, going forward, no plans are stated for how the representative would be chosen or who would chose her. This is very important. If women's voices are limited to one, there has to be a guarantee that she is the right one for the City of Austin. However, the task force gives no insight into this – nor does it recognize this as an issue. However, as a commission, we do not think one woman can represent or give sufficient voice to the issues facing women as a whole in the City of Austin – and we feel that these issues would be lost on the Joint Inclusion Committee. It is important to note that the issues facing women are often the headlines of the day: access to family planning and healthcare; equal pay; discrimination; sexual harassment; domestic violence; and etc. How will these issues be given weight under the new plan? How will they be addressed under the new plan? What will happen if these issues are not addressed by the Joint Inclusion Committee? How can we ensure that they are? Minus the representative for the LGBT community (my committee also feels this is inadequate representation for this minority voice) and the female seat, all voices on the Joint Inclusion Committee would be supported by full commissions and boards. If an issue were neglected by the Joint Inclusion Committee, it could be taken up by the respective commission or board. However, this would not be a possibility for issues related to women under this new plan. As a side note, the committees facing mergers also had an option B, which would allow council not leave them alone. However, the Commission for Women was not given an Option B.</p>	7/20/2014 9:04 PM
25	I am in support of all recommendations relevant to ZWAC.	7/19/2014 3:55 PM
26	I generally agree with the recommendations put forth. I would choose Option 2 in the case of all the following commissions: African-American Quality of Life Commission, Asian-American Quality of Life Commission, Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission. Under B.7, I would choose option 1 for People with Disabilities and Seniors Quality of Life Commission.	7/19/2014 3:43 PM
27	I recommend that with regards to the Asian American Quality of Life Commission that it be left the way it currently exists under Chapter 2-1. I'm in agreement with the justification that by having a joint forum, all aspects of quality of life for the Asian American community can have a higher visibility and a unified voice before City Council. Given the rich diversity of Austin's growing Asian community expanding the number of volunteers representing the community will be invaluable. I would recommend splitting the Seniors and People with Disabilities Senior Quality of Life Commissions. Although there is some overlap, I believe there are also unique issues regarding quality of life for both groups. I am in support of establishing a joint cultural and inclusion community to foster more collaboration between groups. Under Joint Cultural Committee there is a typo - The Asian American 'Cultural' Center is a private facility. I believe the writers meant to include the Asian American Resource Center.	7/19/2014 2:24 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

28	<p>Comments on proposed changes to the Animal Advisory Commission D1. 2-1-102 Animal Advisory Commission (A) The Animal Advisory Commission is established as prescribed by Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 823, (Animal Shelters). The Commission shall consist of five members as described in section B. (B) The Council's Public Health and Human Services Committee shall nominate the following members for Council approval: (1) one licensed veterinarian; (2) one person whose duties include the daily operation of an animal shelter; (3) one animal welfare organization representative; (4) one person recommend by the Travis County Commissioners Court; and (5) one person nominated at-large. Items 1, 2, and 3 are fine as is and are mandated by state law. Item #4 is in violation of this State law. Chapter 823 states "one county or municipal official" will be appointed not "one person recommended by the county." This position must remain as an option for both the city and county to make the appointment. The city is free to cede this appointee to the county if they wish but it must stay consistent with the chapter. And "official" refers to a high ranking county or municipal employee such as an assistant city manager, etc. It does not mean anyone working for the city or county. My biggest concern is with #5 as it reduces the commission from 7 members to 5 and allows only one seat for the general public. The Animal Advisory Commission needs to stay with 3 persons at large and the commission needs to remain a 7-member body. With four positions mandated by state law it is important that regular citizens have a chance to participate. Offering only one at-large position stifles the participatory nature that this board and all boards should reflect. I am uneasy with the Health and Human Services sub-committee making all the nominations but do not have a viable alternative to suggest at this time. Sincerely, David Lundstedt, Animal Advisory Commission Chair</p>	7/19/2014 10:57 AM
29	ok	7/19/2014 10:01 AM
30	The new commissions are a good idea but will present challenges for recruiting and maintaining membership, not to mention the challenge for staff liaisons to figure out their role in these new groups. Recommended mergers are well thought-out. Groups with the recommendation to have quarterly meetings should probably look more realistically at bi-annual or annual meetings.	7/19/2014 7:01 AM
31	B4. African American Quality of Life Commission - option 2 B5. Asian American Quality of Life Commission - option 2 B6. Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission - option 2 B7. People with Disabilities and Seniors Quality of Life Commission - option 1 I favor combining like board and commissions as much as possible and limiting the number of members to 11. 15 will be unmanageable.	7/18/2014 8:28 PM
32	No comments on Section 2	7/18/2014 7:23 PM
33	Agree with recommendations.	7/18/2014 4:53 PM
34	There were no objections to this section of the Transition Plan and all current members of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission were in support of the recommendations as contained in the report.	7/18/2014 4:25 PM
35	The recommendations to consolidate related boards or commissions seem reasonable. More thought will need to go into defining the membership, mission and purview of new groups like the economic prosperity commission. Also, it seems odd to create an inclusion commission separate from a substantive area. shouldn't all B&Cs deal with inclusion? Separating discussion of the concerns of particular groups from the work of boards dealing with the services or infrastructure affecting them seems to silo them. It also seems odd to have the prosperity commission include a CDC rep and then many reps of low paying industries. perhaps training institutions and programs that foster collaborations between employers and trainers would be better members? these might include Capital IDEA, ACC.	7/18/2014 4:03 PM
36	I would hope that one would proceed carefully with the reconfiguration of any existing boards or any new joint commissions to make sure that their composition, purpose, and tasks are well suited and coordinated. Adequate training is essential.	7/18/2014 2:16 PM
37	No specific feedback.	7/18/2014 2:06 PM
38	Well-thought out plan for removal, consolidation and creation/reassignment. While I am not familiar with the workings of all the B&Cs in Section 2, I could follow the logic of the recommendation.	7/18/2014 1:39 PM
39	These items do not concern the commission I am serving on.	7/18/2014 12:40 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

40	Purely on the "changes to membership", I think we must keep in mind that members are serving on behest of a nominator as well as the City Council. This is an honor that comes with responsibility which members agree to take in order to pursue the mission whichever B&C. Attendance, participation and even research are essential to serving. Adherence to our trainings, to decorum are a must as is our, what I view as Duty to support ones' own B&C and the City Council decisions - regardless if we are for or opposed of any action.	7/18/2014 12:18 PM
41	Approve	7/18/2014 12:01 PM
42	It's not clear from this survey what is being asked, but I have no comment (except of course, to say, "no comment")	7/18/2014 11:00 AM
43	None	7/18/2014 10:56 AM
44	I do not think it's appropriate to have a "Senior and Disabled" joint category. It reflects unhelpful thinking about each group.	7/18/2014 10:30 AM
45	The Austin Mayor's Committee on Disability and the Commission on Seniors should not be merged. While they may have some matters in common the AMCPD places a primary focus on implementing the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and working on full inclusion for persons with disabilities. The Commission on Seniors is focused on city policies to protect and improve the lives of seniors as they age in place. The two committees have agreed to work together as needed and this is a positive collaboration.	7/18/2014 9:44 AM
46	yes	7/17/2014 10:27 AM
47	I agree on the intent to reduce the number of Boards and Commissions by coordinating and combining responsibilities, but I don't think the task force went far enough. The task force did not go much outside of the box. In my recommendations to the task force, I recommended a joint utility commission to consider rates, revenues, and overall operations of the utilities within the City. I believe that there is a lot of overlap there and opportunities to coordinate, collaborate, and take advantage of synergies. This would also facilitate a consistent approach to rate making and how it addresses the City's stakeholders. This commission could also consider capital improvements proposals for the utilities, and balance them with the City's debt load and the revenue demands for the utilities. Far too often the commissions do not treat the utilities similarly and this would allow for consistent messaging and treatment of stakeholders across the utilities. While I applaud the spirit of collaboration embraced by the Joint Committees, I think that the additional burden placed on volunteer commission members may be excessive. It is also not clear what purview each of these joint committees would have and what their standing with council would be. Are they advisory to their respective Commissions or are they intended to also exercise advisory responsibility to council? How will conflict of interest (i.e., between financial, cultural, environmental, social welfare, etc.) be addressed. One of the benefits of the current RMC is to have a diverse set of opinions and experience around sustainability, energy efficiency, water conservation, climate protection, and renewable energy. This leads to a robust discussion and more well rounded and thoughtful advice to council. By staffing the joint commission with singular expertise from multiple commissions, the dialogue around specific expertise is reduced and the advice may be more influenced by a single individual. I do not think that this is good for the city. Finally, I thought one of the intents of the task force was to reduce the burden to staff. As currently written it is unclear if that burden would be reduced. Will departments presenting in front of the joint committee be required to also present in front of all seven commissions as well? It will depend on the committee's standing with council.	7/16/2014 5:49 PM
48	The description of the future boards and commissions is unclear. The report refers to a Sustainability Committee and a Sustainability Commission. Are these the same or different? What is its role? Having this be more clear is needed before I comment further.	7/16/2014 2:30 PM
49	As the chair of the Construction Advisory Board, I agree that the suggested merger of our board and the MWBE Board is potentially a good idea. The only obstacle that I can identify is the substantial knowledge of some of the existing members of both commissions. In order to have some continuity on the old/new work plan of the merged board, it may be a good idea to bring in some of the existing members. This at least will assure continuity and available knowledge within the newly formed board. Having assisted to a few MWBE Boards, we deal in two completely different areas of the construction arena. Making sure that there is a semi-seamless integration of all or most of the (MWBE/Construction Advisory Board) concerns and ideals the newly formed and/or merged board should have an opportunity to assist to an original board meeting to be informed of current work plan, issues and/or concerns currently facing said board prior to its merger.	7/15/2014 1:24 PM
50	No comment	7/15/2014 11:00 AM

Boards and Commissions Survey

51	I agree	7/13/2014 10:53 AM
52	Would like to continue the CoS as is with the added positions. Combining with the Disability people is not a good idea but certainly would want to work with them on an as needed basis	7/12/2014 5:35 PM
53	I wholeheartedly support Option 1 for the Asian American Quality of Life Commission under Chapter 2-1 sub point B5. I believe the structure if the current AAQOLC adequately provides channels to address cultural content issues as well as quality of life issues via current approved goals, committees and working groups within this Commission. I also support the creation of both a Joint Cultural Committee and a Joint Inclusion Committee, both to include representation from other Commissions addressing issues of cultural issues, diversity issues and inclusion issues, respectively.	7/11/2014 10:12 PM
54	Joining the MBE/WBE Advisory Board with the Construction board at first glance does sound like a good idea however the MBE/WBE is enforcing and strengthening the ordinance so that ALL small businesses can partake in city contracts. We do not only deal with construction but with professional services and commodities. I'm afraid that by joining the 2 committees the purpose of the ordinance will get lost.	7/8/2014 10:22 AM
55	None	7/8/2014 9:00 AM
56	Sections B4 through B7 were not well thought out. Really wish the task force had made a conclusive suggestion and supported a single option. The option 2 under each section was little more of an improvement on the status quo. They missed the boat on B7: senior citizens and persons with disabilities are not the same demographics and forming subcommittees would lessen the voice for one or both of these demogs. I hope the final resolution was to retain both commissions!	7/6/2014 11:42 AM
57	The recommendation regarding the MACC has two options. The first option which is to combine it with another commission with a subcommittee specific to the MACC seems inefficient. The members who would sit on the subcommittee would be expected to attend 2 sets of formal meetings (commission and subcommittee) most likely monthly. The second option where the 2 commissions stay intact with increased communication including a quarterly joint meeting is better use of member time.	7/3/2014 3:19 PM
58	Recommendations seem reasonable, but many of these issues are outside my expertise.	7/2/2014 2:21 PM
59	As the Chair of the Austin Public Safety Commission (PSC), I strongly recommend against the proposal in the City of Austin Board and Commission Transition Taskforce report to consolidate the PSC and the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee (CCAC). The PSC is the advisory body on all budgetary and policy matters concerning public safety, including police/crime, fire, and EMS issues. This broad mandate results in very full agendas and we typically have matters scheduled out months ahead of time. If we move to an 11-member Commission, then it would be expected that the number of issues raised by the commissioners will increase by half again. Moreover, a district-based model of representation will likely result in local crime issues becoming increasingly important. There is no feasible way the PSC can manage the addition of CCAC responsibilities on top of its current and anticipated workload. The justification for consolidation given in the Taskforce report is: "The combined groups address issues pertaining to emergency services and public safety." This logic is flawed. The CCAC is not concerned with either emergency services or with public safety. Its membership is focused on downtown representatives. And there is a fundamental difference between policing and the judicial system that requires separation. Combining a court advisory committee with a policing commission would place the City of Austin in a problematic and perhaps legally untenable situation, one that may undermine the CCAC's perception of independence. Finally, the PSC was not consulted on the viability of this proposal, despite written communication and a lengthy telephone conversation between the transition Taskforce and the PSC.	7/1/2014 4:47 PM
60	I wholeheartedly support these recommendations: Option 2: Leave the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and the Commission on Seniors as two separate commissions. JUSTIFICATION: While many common issues such as healthcare, fixed income, transportation, housing, etc. exist, the customers served by the two commissions are demographically different. MEMBERSHIP: 11 members for each commission appointed by the City Council and the two commissions should be required to hold a joint meeting quarterly to discuss common issues.	6/30/2014 2:23 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

61	<p>I strongly disagree with merging the DACC Advisory Committee with the Public Safety Commission. While I am in favor of reducing the number of Boards and Commissions (and Committees, etc), I do not feel that forcing activities together will cause 1 + 1 to equal 2, but rather it may likely equal 1/2. The DACC is not a punitive Court and should not be considered to be doing "Safety" work. The Court administers Class C Misdemeanors that are rarely involved in safety, but rather are appropriately referred to as "Quality of Life" ordinances. Furthermore, the real mission of the Court has been to remove 'frequent offenders' from the system which more often than not (actually 95%+ of the time) involves case management for people experiencing homelessness. It would be tragic to send the message that homeless individuals are a threat to our safety. If, and that is an italic "if", the DACC is to be merged, it more likely would be beneficial to consider merging with health and human services. However, I recommend the DACC retain it's own purposeful committee. This has been discussed with the Administrator of the DACC, Mr. Valdez, and he has expressed his desire to keep the Committee as and Adviser to the Court. We meet 6 times annually for 1.5 hours and have not been able to end one meeting early due to the large amount of the work we are achieving together. Here is the Resolution we passed regarding this issue: BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee Recommendation Regarding the Recommendations of the Transition Taskforce Pertaining to the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee WHEREAS, The City of Austin Council introduced Council Resolution no. 20131121-056 on November 21, 2013 thus creating the Transition Taskforce; and WHEREAS, The Transition Taskforce presented their findings to City Council in a report dated May 1, 2014; and WHEREAS, The Transition Taskforce findings made the recommendation that the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee, among other recommendations, be referred to as a Commission and that this Commission be merged with the Public Safety Commission; and WHEREAS, The Downtown Austin Community Court routinely collaborates with Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, Austin Emergency Medical Services, Health and Human Services, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Austin Travis County Integral Care as well as several other City and County Agencies and Commissions; and WHEREAS, The Court is involved in non-punitive retribution; and WHEREAS, The Court is involved in rehabilitative treatment and care; and WHEREAS The purpose of the Court is to collaboratively address the quality of life issues of all residents in the downtown Austin community through the swift, creative sentencing of public order offenders; and WHEREAS, The perception of merging the Court with the Public Safety Commission sends the wrong message as to the purpose of the Court and by de facto "criminalizes" quality of life ordinance citations against the purpose of the Court; and WHEREAS, The Court, by it's purpose and mission of non-punitive rehabilitative care, more closely aligns with the Health and Human Services Commission; and WHEREAS, The Administrator of the Court has publically expressed his desire to maintain a stand-alone Commission; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee recommends the change from an Advisory Committee to a Commission; the Commission remain a stand alone Commission as the merger into the Public Safety Commission is not in the best interest of the Court; the Commission, if merged in to any commission is best served under the Health and Human Services Commission. Date of Approval: June 20, 2014 Record of the vote: Unanimous vote Attest: T. Marshall Jones Chair, Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee</p>	6/30/2014 11:03 AM
62	<p>I think a lot of good thought went into making these recommendations. They all make sense, although it did little to reduce the total number of Commissions. That may not be a bad thing, but some budget should be put into providing sufficient funding to staff all these Commissions. Most staff provide Commission support as "extra duties". C6 - Intergovernmental Commission seems to be missing Travis County, although it does include CAPCOG.</p>	6/29/2014 3:34 PM
63	<p>In section C-2, the Joint Cultural Committee is an old idea I am glad to see in the recommendations. Addressing issues of diversity and inclusion are important. The overall mission of this group should include providing a place for good communication of ideas/goals between different cultural boards so as to encourage working together to enhance the overall sphere of cultural prosperity for Austin.</p>	6/29/2014 1:12 PM
64	<p>Members on the task force that worked on this section had a difficult job. It clearly shows the amount of effort that went in providing a final product. The recommendations are clearly stated with good justification that will provide for good discussion for final approval of the plan if needed.</p>	6/25/2014 7:26 AM
65	NA	6/24/2014 4:14 PM
66	All else seems straight forward to me.	6/23/2014 6:01 PM
67	<p>I think that all "Quality of Life" Commissions should be eliminated. Forget any idea of a Joint Sustainability Committee or Intergovernmental Commission or Economic Prosperity Commission. More of what we have already. VERY IMPORTANT: Joint Inclusion Committee - get different ethnic groups to work TOGETHER!!!</p>	6/19/2014 7:32 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

68	na	6/13/2014 11:32 AM
69	I have not seen the Transition Plan.	6/12/2014 5:41 PM
70	Looks reasonable.	6/12/2014 11:59 AM
71	I like the consistency of having all workgroups named commissions. The mergers will effectively consolidate efforts to tackle issues in the same feeder streams. I think even the minority community and cultural heritage missions would best be consolidated, particularly with the expanded membership from 7 to 11.	6/12/2014 11:40 AM
72	Given the perpetually tight agenda for the Public Safety Commission, I don't see how combining it with another commission will gain any efficiency.	6/11/2014 5:24 PM
73	Joint Commissions would be a good idea to support Complete Communities concept brought forth by the Comprehensive Plan	6/11/2014 4:25 PM
74	no problem with the proposed board consolidations	6/11/2014 2:15 PM
75	I think the Task Force had some good ideas and missed the mark on others. The joint cultural committee they recommend can already be achieved, would have liked to have seen a recommendation that clearly asked most boards to meet every other month instead of every month with low turnout and weak agendas. The Music Commission went to this model and have been much more productive than any other year. or at least the last 9 years that I've been involved.	6/11/2014 1:58 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

Q4 Please provide feedback on Section 3:

Answered: 71 Skipped: 98

#	Responses	Date
1	N/A	8/3/2014 8:38 PM
2	As far as the RDCC, I think reassigning members to the Design Commission is a good idea. From what I can tell, most builders, if they are upstanding, know the rules of the McMansion ordinance and do their best to comply. Most of the issues we are asked to deal with are many times design issues and can be resolved with a little ingenuity if they try. Otherwise we either postpone or do not pass the applicant's request and they go to BOJ which is where they should have started.	8/1/2014 4:52 PM
3	I don't have enough knowledge of the case load, or what the 22 member board will look like to make comments at this time.	8/1/2014 3:05 PM
4	Section 5.6: STRONGLY DISAGREE with this recommendation. Instead, maintain the MBE/WBE Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee as a separate Committee/Commission from the Construction Advisory Committee. Maintain current, unique roles of each of the MBE/WBE Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee and the Construction Advisory Committee.	8/1/2014 2:48 PM
5	I have no strong opinions regarding the proposed changes to the planning commission.	8/1/2014 10:59 AM
6	Not a subject matter expert in this area. The city needs to streamline their process on just about anything involving the public. Streamlining should not mean less care and consideration to given to planning and zoning issues.	7/31/2014 9:18 PM
7	By maintaining a regular schedule as the Planning Commission subcommittees have for several years will help sustain effective joint subcommittee work. I agree with this	7/31/2014 4:59 PM
8	No comment	7/31/2014 4:36 PM
9	As a member of the Electric Board, I am very much opposed to the recommendation by the Boards and Commissions Transition Task Force to consolidate the Electric Board, the Building & Fire Code of Appeals, and the Mechanical, Plumbing, and Solar Code into a new Life Safety Board of Appeals. No one on the Electric Board even knew about the Boards and Commissions Transition Task Force until after it had presented its recommendations to the City Council in May of this year. The recommended make-up of the proposed Life Safety Board of Appeals would severely limit the voices of the stakeholders in electrical construction in this city. With this proposed Life Safety Board, the expertise in the various fields represented would be greatly diluted. While I understand that some of us on the Electric Board were notified of the formation of the Transition Task Force through our BC emails, we still did not know of its existence. I know that I receive my correspondences from staff about upcoming Board meetings through my personal email, so I have no reason to check my BC email. I am not trying to blame anyone or find fault in anyone's actions. I am just pointing out that the Transition Task Force recommendation was made with no input from the Electric Board, and that this is unacceptable for whatever reason. The recommended structure of the proposed Life Safety Board of Appeals contains a very small slice of the electrical construction sector's stakeholder representatives. There is no electrical engineer, no electrical contractor, no journeyman electrician, no worker representative, and no citizen representation at all. The differing fields of expertise in the task force's recommendation could pose difficulties and prove to be unwieldy. This proposal is asking master electricians to make decisions concerning structural engineering, master plumbers to make decisions concerning architecture, and residential/commercial builders/contractors to make decisions concerning HVAC. For the reasons listed above, I urge rejection of the Boards and Commissions Transition Task Force's recommendation to consolidate the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals, the Electric Board, and the Mechanical, Plumbing, and Solar Board into a new Life Safety Board of Appeals. Furthermore, I urge adoption of the Electric Board's July 30th, 2014 recommendation to increase the 7-member Electric Board to an 11-member Board. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.	7/31/2014 2:43 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

10	The Electric Board discussed the complexity of the Electrical code and the technical codes, and the current board structure provides a broad spectrum of the industry in Austin. The 3 technical boards are the only boards with construction expertise. All other boards focus on zoning issues. The Electric Board made a motion to not support the consolidation of the three technical boards. The Board also recommends the following composition for the 11 member Electric Board. 2 Master Electrician (State of Texas licensed) 2 Journeyman Electrician (State of Texas licensed) 2 Electrical Contractors (registered in Austin) 2 Electrical Engineers 1 IEC representative 1 IBEW representative 1 Citizen	7/31/2014 10:02 AM
11	The Mechanical Plumbing & Solar Board discussed the consolidation would dilute the expertise provided by the 3 current technical boards. The Board does not support the consolidation of the three technical boards and added that each board has specialized expertise for the different industries. The Board recommends continuing to include the Texas Gas Utility as a board member to allow collaboration, and to consider a 2/3 majority vote especially for code adoption ordinances. The Board made a motion to modify the MP&S Board composition to create 11 members based on the following list. 1 Mechanical/Electric/Plumbing Engineer 3 HVAC Contractors (at least 1 residential Class B license, 2 commercial Class A license) 3 Plumbing Contractors (at least 1 "Responsible" residential and 1 "Responsible" commercial) 1 Representative from the local gas utility 1 Citizen 1 Residential Contractor 1 Solar Contractor	7/31/2014 9:57 AM
12	As a member of the Transition Taskforce, I support Section 3 of the recommendations.	7/30/2014 10:34 PM
13	Agreed.	7/30/2014 3:31 PM
14	agree with recommendations	7/27/2014 7:32 PM
15	No Comment	7/25/2014 3:37 PM
16	Seems logical	7/24/2014 5:41 PM
17	Most of the recommendations seem reasonable. The proposal for the structure of the PC and the PAZ seem very complex, but they could work. The issue of maintaining coordination and communication among the entities bothers me. The part of this report that bothers me most is that for the Building and Standards Commission. I currently serve on this commission and there currently is simply not a need for the proposed 2 panels. We are currently functioning efficiently and effectively with the one panel meeting once a month. We have discussed a division of work that could be assigned to two separate panels, but haven't found such a plan for division that we think would work for this group at this time. Given the additional inspectors that have recently been added to the City staff, the workload for this Commission could expand. Also, as this work expands we may find it reasonable to separate the Commissions functions around single and multi-family cases, or some types of cases. At that time it would be appropriate to revisit these recommendations, but until that time we would like an exemption from implementing the 2 panel system.	7/24/2014 4:56 PM
18	I support these recommendations because I feel they are practical and will lead to greater operational efficiencies.	7/24/2014 4:29 PM
19	No comment	7/24/2014 3:40 PM
20	I feel the construction advisory board is very active, productive and meetings usually run out of time. I do not think the board would be as effective if it had to take on more issues. Code changes and minority business issues are unrelated to the boards current focus on safety, contractor performance measures and prevailing wage issues.	7/23/2014 10:55 AM
21	I do not know enough about the process of any of these work groups. I ask to please be mindful to play a supportive role in assisting the development of our city and be tough on any unethical development.	7/22/2014 4:17 PM
22	I can see there reasoning.	7/22/2014 9:25 AM
23	I am concerned about the downtown commission being absorbed by the joint sub-committee. I am not familiar with their workload. However, it appears that there would be a level of expertise required of downtown planning that would be difficult to achieve within a more generalist group. I also worry about having a disconnect between planning and zoning through the redistribution of tasks between ZAP and PC.	7/21/2014 6:55 PM
24	I do not feel I am qualified to comment on this section as I am not involved with a board or commission related to planning and zoning issues.	7/20/2014 9:04 PM
25	I support all recommendations in Section 3.	7/19/2014 3:55 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

26	I agree with the recommendations put forth in section 3.	7/19/2014 3:44 PM
27	N/A	7/19/2014 10:57 AM
28	needed	7/19/2014 10:01 AM
29	Excellent recommendations if the volunteers recruited can keep up the pace. Very aggressive changes!	7/19/2014 7:02 AM
30	There is much to digest in this section. I concur with the basics which are in great detail. I do not know the answer to take some of the responsibilities from the Planning Commission which has a major job - and to divide it up. Maybe with more adequate help from the city staff would relieve some of the load.	7/18/2014 8:28 PM
31	The Building and Standards Commission has discussed the proposal to create 2 panels, on multiple occasions, and has unanimously agreed (and recommended to council) to keep the one panel for the foreseeable future, and revisit this option as its workload develops over time.	7/18/2014 7:39 PM
32	No comment...not my area of expertise.	7/18/2014 4:54 PM
33	This was not applicable to the ZWAC.	7/18/2014 4:26 PM
34	glad to see the recommendations for refocusing these groups on citywide policy issues associated with implementing the new plan.	7/18/2014 4:03 PM
35	?	7/18/2014 2:16 PM
36	Where possible, Boards should periodically receive training from the appropriate entity (Law, OCC) so that they remain within their purvey and do not step outside the boundaries of their charge.	7/18/2014 2:08 PM
37	I agree with the recommendations for Planning and ZAP Commissions. However, I am concerned with the workload of ZAP and believe there should be 13 members, same as Planning. Agree with the other B&C recommendations.	7/18/2014 1:42 PM
38	This section does not pertain to the commission I am serving on.	7/18/2014 12:40 PM
39	We sometimes to weigh in zoning related issues; specifically on accessibility. I believe our Commission has an appropriate process flow to conveying our views.	7/18/2014 12:20 PM
40	No Comment	7/18/2014 12:01 PM
41	It's not clear from this survey what is being asked, but I have no comment (except of course, to say, "no comment")	7/18/2014 11:00 AM
42	None	7/18/2014 10:56 AM

Boards and Commissions Survey

43	<p>Re: Dear Mayor Leffingwell, Mayor Pro Tem Cole, and Councilmembers: We are writing to express our concerns with the recommendation of the Boards and Commissions Transition Task Force to eliminate the Downtown Commission. The Mission of the Downtown Commission includes the following: (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. We believe these roles cannot be performed adequately by another commission and offer the following specific points: 1. The task force proposes shifting the work of the Downtown Commission over to the Planning Commission. Shifting the Downtown Commission's responsibilities to the Planning Commission will inevitably dilute the time consuming and extensive efforts that are needed to implement the Downtown Austin Plan. The Planning Commissioners already face a very heavy workload. It is hard to see how they could take on the proactive initiatives that the Downtown Commission has been working on in our role of stewards for the Downtown Austin Plan, such as our recent work on activating downtown alleys (e.g., the 20 wide alley project and alley activation next steps), increasing public open space downtown, and facilitating improvements to the Rainey neighborhood. We have concerns that downtown will not get the attention it deserves, as the economic engine of our community and heart of our city, if our workload is shifted to an already busy Planning Commission. 2. Shifting the work of the Downtown Commission over to the Planning Commission is also problematic given the different foci of the two commissions. The work of the Downtown Commission is crucial and about much more than land planning—it extends to the many areas represented by our diverse membership, from arts and music, to transportation, public safety, social services, parks and open space, and more. 3. One of the goals of the Task Force was to break down silos. A unique aspect of the Downtown Commission is that it furthers this goal of breaking down silos. We have representatives from many different backgrounds including designated representatives from the Parks and Recreation Board, the Music Commission, the Arts Commission, the Historic Landmark Commission, the Planning Commission, the Urban Transportation Commission, and the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee. As a result, in tackling issues such as implementation of the Downtown Austin Plan, we are able to do so in a manner that breaks down silos and bridges communications across different stakeholder groups. Shifting the work of the Downtown Commission over to the Planning Commission will do nothing to break down silos. With a primary mission of serving as stewards of the Downtown Austin Plan, the Downtown Commissioners are taking a leadership role in leading the city towards implementing the many complex parts of the plan, from enhancing access to public open spaces, to making downtown more family-friendly, to creating greater pedestrian mobility. We hope you will continue to entrust the Downtown Commission to provide this service to the City of Austin. Sincerely, Austin Downtown Commission</p>	7/18/2014 9:58 AM
44	No comment	7/18/2014 9:45 AM
45	yes	7/17/2014 10:27 AM
46	No comments	7/16/2014 5:49 PM
47	No comment at this time.	7/16/2014 2:32 PM
48	As read, the recommendation make sense	7/15/2014 1:24 PM
49	I (obviously) think Waterfront Planning Advisory Board handles a large area of 16 subdistricts and complex issues, therefore should be allowed to continue as a separate Board. It would be nice if we were more than advisory, so the decisions that are made have more weight.	7/15/2014 11:02 AM
50	I agree. However, I would not be averse to combining the ZAP and Planning Commission into one large group and then have that large group assign members to subcommittees for specialty work.	7/13/2014 10:54 AM
51	certainly having more backup material would speed up the meetings	7/12/2014 5:36 PM
52	Ensure interests if those from lower SES and traditionally disenfranchised communities are representing in zoning and planning issues, as members from this segment our our community are too often displaced or ignored when issues of planning and zoning are discussed. A key way to ensure that these voices are heard is to create working groups aimed at soliciting feedback and testimony from these traditionally underrepresented communities.	7/11/2014 10:12 PM
53	If it is the desire of the council to combine the Construction Advisory and the MBE/WBE Advisory Committee then with the description of the new committee there needs to be a strong emphasis on the ordinance.	7/8/2014 10:31 AM
54	none	7/8/2014 9:00 AM

Boards and Commissions Survey

55	Not sure that the suggestion to have members serve on two commissions is a great idea as it dilutes the time spent and places more responsibility on the 20% that are committing the most effort (C1, C2 and C3). Not sure that a Joint Cultural Commission (JCC) is necessary given the missions of the commissions from which the JCC will pull its volunteers. What is the expected outcome/product of this commission? Will its recommendations supersede recommendations from other commissions. Really wish this commission purpose had been fleshed out more. Ditto for the Joint Inclusion Commission (JIC) which seems to blur the lines with not only the commissions from which it pulls but also the JCC. And why not wrap the mission of the Economic Prosperity Commission into the African American/Asian/Hispanic Latino Quality Life Commission, Commission on Immigrant Affairs, Seniors Commission, People with Disabilities Commission, Women and LGBT Commissions and any others that are relevant. This commission likewise increases the redundancy of commissions and splices some components into micro-level subcomponents thereby limiting the focus on the big picture.	7/6/2014 12:00 PM
56	Most of the recommendations seem reasonable. The proposal for the structure of the PC and the PAZ seems very complex, but they could work. The issue of maintaining coordination and communication among the entities would be very difficult. The part of this report that bothers me most is that for the Building and Standards Commission. I have been a member of this Commission for over 25 years, and I currently serve as its Chair. My opinion is that there is simply not a need for the proposed 2 panels. We are currently functioning efficiently and effectively with the one panel meeting once a month. We have discussed a division of work that could be assigned to two separate panels, but haven't found such a plan for division that we think would work for this group at this time, nor is there currently a volume of work to warrant such a division. Given the additional inspectors that have recently been added to the City staff, the workload for this Commission could expand in the future, but that has not materialized so far in this budget year. As this work does expand we may find it reasonable to separate the Commission's functions around single and multi-family cases, or some other types of cases. At that time it would be appropriate to revisit these recommendations, but until that time we would like an exemption from implementing the 2 panel system.	7/2/2014 2:21 PM
57	Recommendations make sense.	6/29/2014 3:35 PM
58	The Downtown Commission has had non-developmental issues over the years. These include social services, cultural development, access and mobility.	6/29/2014 1:16 PM
59	Once again this section show exceptional research in the final recommendations. I especially like the manner by which the 5/8 through 5/11 were explained and have a much better understanding of the commissions described in 5/12 and the reasons for the recommendations. This section took so much effort and I have to applaud the folks that worked on this section. It really makes sense.	6/25/2014 7:26 AM
60	I think the recommendations are satisfactory.	6/24/2014 4:14 PM
61	It looks like the Bond Oversight Committee is being dissolved and absorbed into other commissions. However I haven't heard that from anyone in person including at our last meeting less than a week ago. Am I reading an old document?	6/23/2014 6:05 PM
62	Absolutely incomprehensible. Will only make sense to policy wonks and people totally familiar with planning and development issues. Not a report for lay people.	6/19/2014 7:33 PM
63	NA	6/13/2014 11:34 AM
64	It is a mistake to replace the interdisciplinary composition of the Downtown Commission with a joint-subcommittee of PC and ZAP members. The downtown's stewardship should benefit from the subject matter expertise in several areas not found in PC and ZAP members—transportation, parks, art, music, design, and historic preservation. It was thought that the DC was indeed the model for transitioning siloed commissions into cross-functional bodies.	6/12/2014 5:57 PM
65	I have not seen the Transition Plan.	6/12/2014 5:41 PM
66	I am particularly supportive of the rebalancing of work and collaboration between ZAP and Planning Commission.	6/12/2014 12:01 PM
67	Planning Commission and Zoning & Platting Commission reassignment of duties to draw sharper focus on specific land development activities is good use of expertise. Realistic reassignment of Residential Design to Design Commission. I approve leaving Landmark Commission and Board of Adjustment duties intact.	6/12/2014 11:46 AM
68	I don't have any recommended changes or edits to section 3.	6/11/2014 5:25 PM
69	agree with recommendations	6/11/2014 2:19 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

70	no comment	6/11/2014 1:58 PM
71	Can this include a look at eliminating paper packets, go to a format using a tablet device similar to the format used by the Parks Board.	6/11/2014 1:53 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

Q5 Please provide feedback on Section 4:

Answered: 70 Skipped: 99

#	Responses	Date
1	Commission on Seniors supports any efforts by the city staff, and volunteers on commissions to increase diversity and recruitment through the use of technology and other tools. The Commission also specifically encourages the city to seek seniors and people who represent seniors as members of boards across all fields of interest. The Commission on Seniors also encourages diversification in board participation by incorporating strategies to improve ability for citizens to participate on Commissions for example, easier access to attend meetings.	8/3/2014 8:38 PM
2	Suggest to also include information about recruitment efforts and application process as a standard Agenda item on all Boards/Commissions/Subcommittees/etc from now through June 30, 2015, so that all citizens who attend the meetings and all citizens who follow the meetings are made aware of this recruitment effort. It is easiest to draw membership from a crowd that has an interest in the general subject of the Committee. * Appreciate the Task Forces time and efforts. Hope the input provided in this survey response is sent to the correct individuals and the input is considered.	8/1/2014 3:09 PM
3	I think it should up to the Staff liason to each commission to try and facilitate diversity. For Music Commission not only does that mean socio-economic diversity, but also members of different groups ie: venues, festival producers, entertainment attorneys, managers, musicians, etc etc. If the staff liason and/or City Clerk's office can keep a running list of potential commissioners who might do a good job AND those who have expressed interest, it would give more options to Councilmembers who do not know who might be appropriate to appoint.	8/1/2014 1:23 PM
4	While not intentional, the city should find more effective ways to reverse the lack of diversity on city boards and commissions. It appears the pool of talent used to select board members is far too shallow for a city of this size and diversity.	8/1/2014 11:03 AM
5	I am in agreement with Section 4 of the recommendations. I believe this is well overdue and will be beneficial to all Boards and Commissions. Before I was presented with the opportunity to serve I had no knowledge many of the City's Boards and Commissions existed. This would be an excellent step in increasing diversity and overall awareness. This is a fantastic recommendation.	7/31/2014 11:51 PM
6	A board or commission best represents the diversity of the population it serves. Expanding its diversity requires the use of technology then it would serve a good purpose. Diversity for diversity sake will serve no one. Hopefully having a larger talent pool could make the selection of candidate a more competitive process resulting in better qualified members.	7/31/2014 9:22 PM
7	Each new member of council should be bringing in their knowledge of what's happening in their communities and contribute names of individuals to recruit, technology and other methods are to recruit are great.	7/31/2014 5:06 PM
8	Boards and Commissions should have diversity not only in the membership, but also in the chair and co-chair position.	7/31/2014 4:37 PM
9	No comment.	7/31/2014 2:44 PM
10	Board recommends removing the Austin residency requirement for the technical board members, which would improve recruitment of experienced business owners working in the community.	7/31/2014 9:58 AM
11	As a member of the Transition Taskforce, as well as a member of the Taskforce's Diversity and Recruitment Work Group, I support Section 4 of the recommendations.	7/30/2014 10:38 PM
12	Agreed.	7/30/2014 3:31 PM
13	These are good suggestions about how to reach more citizens in the City of Austin about serving on Commissions. The proposed tutorial for new Commissioners might also include a glossary of commonly used terms and acronyms that are used regularly by the staff of the department, but which may not be familiar to the general public.	7/30/2014 12:45 PM
14	Great recommendations, would like to see more diversity on the boards.	7/28/2014 1:15 PM
15	These proposed efforts to increase diversity seem reasonable.	7/28/2014 12:27 PM
16	Any time we can increase Diversity in our activities that is a good thing.	7/25/2014 3:37 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

17	Good ideas here	7/24/2014 5:42 PM
18	Recommendations seem reasonable	7/24/2014 4:57 PM
19	I support these recommendations for diversity and recruitment. Under the New Council Member Orientation portion, perhaps add something along the lines of: "It is the prerogative of the Council Member to hire the individual that he/she feels is most qualified. When filling a single vacancy, it would help very much for the Council Member to review the current makeup of the board/commission before making a final selection." This probably occurs most of the time anyway, but the intent here is to emphasize the importance of this review before making a final selection. My concern is that some Council Members under the new system may place higher priority on appointees from their own district, which will not necessarily lead to an increase in diversity. For example, it would be ideal for at least one currently practicing professional arborist to serve on a board/commission that has purview over urban forestry. If one was currently not serving, the Council Member should weigh that factor heavily in their appointment selection.	7/24/2014 4:35 PM
20	Good to use Social Media and other means to reach out and broaden awareness among constituents.	7/24/2014 3:42 PM
21	Taken from the B&C Task Force Report as follows: "The group emphasized the belief that a well-functioning city requires citizen engagement, and that the boards and commissions should reflect the city's diversity. The group agreed that... it will be the City Council's responsibility to pick the most qualified nominees among the applicants." New requirements should be added not only for applicants, but for council members as well making appointments for future city of Austin commissions that have a mission based on cultural ethnicity, especially cultural centers and facilities. 1. It is essential for council members to consider appropriate appointments to its cultural centers with minorities that match the MISSION of the cultural center. Where there is not an obviously intuitive appointment possible with an appropriate ethnicity that matches the mission of the cultural center, the applicant should have and be able to demonstrate SUBSTANTIAL life experience and knowledge of the mission of the cultural center being applied for. It does little good to appoint applicants with no prior experience, knowledge or practical relationship with the mission of the cultural center other than a passing interest. Appointments that don't match has the effect of undermining the mission of the cultural center and unintentionally insulting stakeholders the cultural center serves with an insensitive appointment. 2. There should be at least a minimum 5 year requirement for residency in the city limits of Austin before an individual applicant is qualified to serve on a cultural center commission on top of demonstrable knowledge and experience. Anything less has the same effect of trivializing an appointment to a cultural center commission and insulting stakeholders with an insensitive appointment. 3. Appointments from associations in the immediate neighborhood adjacent to a cultural center should not be sought, solicited or accepted by council members seeking to fill a vacancy on a cultural center board. It sends the wrong culturally insensitive message to stakeholders by setting a precedent for designating privileged associations a seat on a cultural center commission when stakeholders of cultural centers did not have any input on selection of an association or any others to occupy a seat on the cultural center commission. 4. Council members should not appoint vacancies to a commission after declaring to run for re-election to office to avoid the perception of pandering for votes, especially from an adjacent association that represents a potential voting block that would benefit a re-election campaign. These kind of appointments have the effect of trivializing the mission and importance of the cultural center to its community of stakeholders while using the cultural center for their political purposes.	7/23/2014 1:15 PM
22	I agree that members of boards and commissions should reflect the diversity of our city. It should be a COMMITMENT for every board and commission to address issues that reflect on the needs and concerns of our diverse city. It should also be a COMMITMENT to include inputs from members of our diverse city. Recruitment effort should be available, accessible and acceptable to our diverse city.	7/22/2014 4:18 PM
23	yes	7/22/2014 9:25 AM
24	The suggestions in Section 4 seems to be a good start. However, there needs to be a plan to make sure that reach-out extends to all 10 geographic districts. Perhaps plans to hold forums in each district to explain the boards and commissions to the public would be a good addition. The recommendations are often somewhat passive – they rely on community outreach through third party outlets, such as council candidates and local organizations. Perhaps the city could be more active and host forums of its own to promote boards and commissions?	7/20/2014 9:04 PM
25	I strongly support the recommendations in Section 4 and would support even more aggressive goals and efforts to expand diversity among boards and commissions	7/19/2014 3:56 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

26	I agree with the recommendations put forth in section 4.	7/19/2014 3:45 PM
27	I applaud the city for striving to ensure our commissions and boards make-up reflects the rich diversity of our community. In representing immigrant populations, I would recommend more opportunities for individuals to learn more about city government and the function of boards and commissions (like a 101 intro).	7/19/2014 2:28 PM
28	No issue with this section	7/19/2014 10:57 AM
29	ok	7/19/2014 10:01 AM
30	Much needed recommendations, although it has always been a challenge to recruit volunteers from certain groups.	7/19/2014 7:02 AM
31	It does take a lot of time to be on a board or commission. This process could be publicized very early, with information available at the candidate forums - a list of the board and commissions with a brief paragraph about their duties. Information on the city website would help, but the website is not exactly user friendly in comparison with the old website. A candidate also needs to be aware of the boards and commissions, just the sheer number is mind boggling.	7/18/2014 8:36 PM
32	No comments on section 4	7/18/2014 7:40 PM
33	Agree with outreach ideas but support any system where the most qualified applicant is selected.	7/18/2014 4:54 PM
34	There were no objections to this section of the Transition Plan and all current members of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission were in support of the recommendations as contained in the report.	7/18/2014 4:26 PM
35	It is critically important that all new board members receive training on topics like reviewing budgets, running meetings, use of working groups, and communicating with the groups they purportedly represent. Otherwise, inclusion may not be very meaningful.	7/18/2014 4:10 PM
36	?	7/18/2014 2:17 PM
37	The Imagine Austin listserve offers an excellent resource for recruitment efforts with contacts from recently engaged citizens.	7/18/2014 2:09 PM
38	We have a problem of vacancies on some B&Cs today. I like the outreach plan.	7/18/2014 1:43 PM
39	I agree	7/18/2014 12:40 PM
40	After having attended both feedback sessions to the City Council work group, I am more in favor of the notion that expertise trumps diversity. Reason being that procurement of diversity may not be, in some cases, the most valuable of input. I do state this with trepidation as I am personally a strong advocate of CCDI in our safety nets. IF all else is equal and expertise can be gamished from an appropriate diversity perspective, that would be my preference.	7/18/2014 12:23 PM
41	No Comment	7/18/2014 12:03 PM
42	It's not clear from this survey what is being asked, but I have no comment (except of course, to say, "no comment")	7/18/2014 11:00 AM
43	None	7/18/2014 10:56 AM
44	Effort should be made to include persons with disabilities and seniors and to do targeted outreach to these communities in a method that is effective as technology approaches may not be appropriate for these groups. Efforts should be made to ensure that these two groups are broadly represented across different boards and commissions to provide additional community perspectives. Participation of seniors and persons with disabilities should not be limited to those commissions that directly work on these populations issues.	7/18/2014 9:48 AM
45	yes	7/17/2014 10:27 AM

Boards and Commissions Survey

46	Good ideas. I think that the one important aspect that is the effective use of B&C members. To be effective, B&C members need to be active participants and need to understand the time commitment and expectations of the position. I think people would be more willing to commit to active participation if they felt that their voices were heard. Too often council ignores the recommendations of the commissions instead acting on the recommendations of special interest groups and advocates. It is rather discouraging and de-motivating to put the time and effort into the position only to be ignored. If potential commissioners felt that their voice would be heard and valued serving on a B&C may be more attractive. If the joint committee recommendations are implemented, the burden of those commissioners participating is significant. For the sustainability position, commissioners could potentially have to interact with multiple departments as well as attend 2 meetings a months. This would be a significant time commitment. The position is rewarding and allows valuable insight into the workings of city government both on the political side as well as the operational side. That is a selling point.	7/16/2014 5:57 PM
47	Provide an alternative application for those who might prefer to apply on paper.	7/16/2014 2:48 PM
48	I think that the recommendations reflect the current media and is a great idea to promote participation. A partial concern is how to avoid one sided recruitment of members that would divert the core curriculum and goal of the board. I think that adding some sort of screening process to assure a more global participation should also be part of the process.	7/15/2014 1:35 PM
49	no comment	7/15/2014 11:02 AM
50	I agree	7/13/2014 10:54 AM
51	Increasing diversity is a wonderful goal and would entail much more training in the use of the City Website E-mail and the use of electronics as this is the only way communications are done	7/12/2014 5:39 PM
52	I recommend that all Commissions create Working Groups with the goal of community outreach to traditionally disenfranchised and underrepresented members of the community, so that there needs and feedback are solicited as it pertains to the goals of that respective Commission. I recommend that all Commissions discuss the possibility of mandating online cultural sensitivity and education training modules be completed for all Commission members (i.e. To be incorporated into the already existent modules required to be completed like the online Open Meeting Act training module) on a yearly basis as most colleges, universities, Fortune 500 companies, etc. require if their employees.	7/11/2014 10:12 PM
53	Hopefully with the new city council, members would select representatives from their own districts who understand the importance of the commissions and have been impacted by the mission of the that commission. I think if the City is planning on promoting recruitment it needs to do it in a place where people are open to accepting this type of information such as a vendor fair but not at "Austin's New Year" Most people are there to spend time with there family and aren't thinking about serving on a board or commission. Handouts that are passed out would (in my opinion) would wind up on the floor.	7/8/2014 10:37 AM
54	No comments.	7/6/2014 12:01 PM
55	Recommendations seem reasonable.	7/2/2014 10:38 AM
56	Diversity is a good thing. Diversity makes us stronger and more flexible. I support any and all efforts to increase diversity throughout boards and commissions through the use of technology and other tools.	6/30/2014 2:25 PM
57	Any means to include diversity and gain a better ability to diversify should be considered. However, if members are chosen by Council members directly, I see no way to ensure diversity at the sake of affirmative action.	6/30/2014 11:04 AM
58	Good outreach activities. I think it could go a step further by documenting the demographics of appointed members so Council could take that into consideration when making other appointments (age, geographic area, culture/ethnicity, income, etc). I don't know how realistic this is, though.	6/29/2014 4:08 PM
59	The goal is excellent but the success will depend of the level of future City Council's involvement.	6/29/2014 1:19 PM
60	Great effort went into the inclusion of the communication vehicles that can be used to promote the diverse membership of future City Boards and Commissions. I believe that as the process continues other forms of communication will surface that will add to making this section more complete for future use. The key will be whether the recommendations made in this section will be used or just shelved.	6/25/2014 7:34 AM
61	I agree that the city needs to do more outreach for appointments.	6/24/2014 4:15 PM

Boards and Commissions Survey

62	Meeting schedules and participant education on the importance/purpose of their commission seem to be the main reason for limited and potentially less diverse boards. Additionally, with newly botched ethics reviews against Board/Commission members, many existing as well as potentially new board members will be less likely to get involved. Finally, the public simply doesn't understand the importance and role of commissions or that they are seats for "everyone" to occupy. Quite often I hear people in the public say things like "you mean all those decisions were left up to a group of 'volunteers'? Hardly seems like a good decision." and "oh, you have to really 'know' someone on the inside to get one of those seats of a board, they're not for 'regular' people."	6/23/2014 6:10 PM
63	One of the most important sections of the report. Very important to have as many citizens become aware that they can serve on boards and commissions. One aspect that was not mentioned is the BIG NEED for board and commission training that goes beyond the set of videos that all new B&C members must view. That is an important task for the city clerk's office. Also some mode of recognizing the volunteer effort that goes into B&C service. Members are contributing A BIG CHUNK of time when serving. An annual recognition event should contribute to members' loyalty and willingness to continue to serve.	6/19/2014 7:42 PM
64	I have not seen the Transition Plan.	6/12/2014 5:41 PM
65	Include outreach efforts to minority radio stations and local newspapers such as KAZI, and The Villager Newspaper. Also reach out through community organizations such as the Austin Black Chamber of Commerce.	6/12/2014 11:55 AM
66	I am in favor of a robust recruitment effort through the use of technology.	6/11/2014 5:25 PM
67	By diversity I hope that you mean ethnic as well as by income	6/11/2014 4:26 PM
68	Good ideas. Perhaps also have Board members and City Staff schedule presentations and recruitment pitches at Neighborhood association meetings.	6/11/2014 2:24 PM
69	the recruitment should be about talent. Talent by nature is already diverse. staff liaisons should already be more proactive in recruiting a diverse talent pool and not just recruit someone because they fit quota.	6/11/2014 2:03 PM
70	In addition to making recommendations on use of technology and other tools, maybe the group could explore adding use of marketing techniques	6/11/2014 1:55 PM