

RESOLUTION NO. 20241212-133

WHEREAS, the City of Austin benefits from the active involvement of its residents and has established a number of sovereign and advisory boards and commissions to provide valuable professional expertise and additional public oversight and to ensure diverse community representation in its decision making; and

WHEREAS, there are currently over 90 boards, commissions, task forces, intergovernmental bodies, and corporation boards for which Council serves as the board members (council corporations), in Austin, collectively referred to as “governance bodies” for purposes of this resolution, some of which are required by state or federal law or the City Charter, while others were created under City Council authority; and

WHEREAS, in response to Resolution No. 20131121-056, which directed the City Clerk to form a task force to recommend a board and commission transition plan after the City changed to the 10-1 council member system, a Board and Commission Transition Task Force was established by Resolution No. 20140515-027 and made recommendations regarding potential improvements to the board and commission structure; and

WHEREAS, a Special Report by the City Auditor’s office, presented at the August 28, 2024, meeting of the Audit & Finance Committee, noted several boards and commissions are not formally established in City Code, are inactive, have longstanding vacancies, or occasionally provide recommendations outside of the scope of their duties established in their bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor’s Special Report additionally noted as a part of its peer city analysis that other governmental entities such as San Antonio and El Paso

include a regular process of evaluation or “sunset review” of boards and commissions to ensure ongoing alignment with City Code and state and federal law, as applicable; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Immigrant Affairs has submitted a recommendation to Council in Recommendation No. 20240916-006 for a website where all board and commission recommendations are searchable; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk’s office identified several intergovernmental bodies and council corporations that are inactive, and Council responsibilities for appointments in many cases are not currently formalized in City Code; and

WHEREAS, Council seeks to improve the clarity of purpose and efficient operation of governance bodies by doing a full review of potential gaps, redundancies, and out of date provisions prior to the appointment or re-appointment of members set to occur in Spring 2025; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to review the inventory of current boards and commissions, task forces, corporation boards, and intergovernmental bodies and identify any updates to City Code that would improve the clarity of purpose, cadence of meeting, and efficient operation of these governance bodies. At minimum, the City Manager is directed to consider and prepare an ordinance that updates City Code consistent with the direction identified in Appendix A of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to return to the Audit and Finance Committee meeting scheduled for February 19, 2025, prior to posting this proposed ordinance

on a Council agenda and to notify all governance bodies listed in Appendix A of this proposed review and solicit feedback prior to Council consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work collaboratively with the City Clerk's office to develop a regular sunset review process of governance bodies that would allow regular and staggered consideration of each body's current scope and duties. The process should aim to review each body established by Council at least once every 10 years. The City Manager and City Clerk should return to the Audit & Finance Committee with a recommended process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is additionally directed to return to City Council with an ordinance for a single section of City Code that clearly establishes the responsibilities of Council appointments to intergovernmental bodies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work collaboratively with the City Clerk's office to develop a single website that publicly archives recommendations to the Mayor and Council from boards and commissions, similar to the searchable database for memos to Mayor and Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to review the translation services needs of governance bodies, including but not limited to the Commission on Immigrant

Affairs, and to offer recommendations for supporting these services as a part of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.

ADOPTED: December 12, 2024 **ATTEST:** Stephanie Huel for
Myrna Rios
City Clerk

Appendix A: Recommended Actions

Name	Board Type	Draft Recommended Actions	Notes
Airport Advisory Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Update Membership Requirements	Membership includes professional or residency requirements from when the airport was first built. May need to be updated for current needs.
Bond Oversight Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge into the Planning Commission	By Charter, the Planning Commission is tasked with comprehensive planning and is required to give annual input regarding capital budgets need to achieve those plans.
Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge into a new Building Life Safety Commission with two appointees per office	As recommended by the Commission Transition Task Force. Expansion to two appointees is to address issues with achieving quorum and to ensure adequate professional representation.
Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge into the Economic Development Commission	Significant overlap exists between the economic development missions of these commissions. Additionally the Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs office is now a part of the Economic Development Department.
Construction Advisory Committee	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge with MBE/WBE Small Business Advisory Committee to make a new Municipal Contracts and Construction Commission.	As recommended by the Commission Transition Task Force.
Downtown Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge with the South Central Waterfront Advisory Commission to create an Urban Core Commission	The Downtown Commission includes broad representation from various boards & commissions that would provide valuable input for the South Central Waterfront area.
Economic Prosperity Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge with the Tourism commission and Community Technology Commission to create an Economic Development Commission	Significant overlap exists between the economic development missions of these commissions.
Electric Board	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge into a new Building Life Safety Commission with two appointees per office	As recommended by the Commission Transition Task Force. Expansion to two appointees is to address issues with achieving quorum and to ensure adequate professional representation.
MBE/WBE and Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge with the Construction Advisory Committee to form a new Municipal Contracts and Construction Commission.	As recommended by the Commission Transition Task Force.
Mechanical and Plumbing Board	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge into a new Building Life Safety Commission with two appointees per office	As recommended by the Commission Transition Task Force. Expansion to two appointees is to address issues with achieving quorum and to ensure adequate professional representation.
Planning Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Reassign zoning to Zoning & Platting Commission. Change focus of planning commission to planning, code amendments, and capital planning.	As recommended by the Commission Transition Task Force, this division of labor between the two land use commissions allows for zoning cases to be done by the Zoning and Platting Commission while the Planning Commission can focus on planning and city-wide code amendments.
Resource Management Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge with the Zero Waste Advisory Commission to create a Resource Recovery and Management Commission	There is significant overlap in the missions of these two commissions
South Central Waterfront Advisory Board	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge with the Downtown Commission to create an Urban Core Commission	The Downtown Commission includes broad representation from various boards & commissions that would provide valuable input for the South Central Waterfront area.
Tourism Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge with the Economic Prosperity Commission to create an Urban Core Commission	Significant overlap exists between the economic development missions of these commissions
Urban Transportation Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Add the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Councils to become the Urban Mobility Commission	The PAC and BAC are not currently established in code, but serve an important advisory role. This update to the Urban Transportation Commission reflects the importance of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as key to urban mobility.
Water and Wastewater Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge with the Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force to become the Austin Water Resource Commission. A task force will be reconstituted prior to the next scheduled update of the Water Forward Plan, with time sufficient to review and make recommendations.	With Water Forward adopted and recently updated, the Task Force's work should be integrated into the ongoing oversight of the Water Utility. A task force will be reconstituted prior to the next scheduled update of the Water Forward Plan, with time sufficient to review and make recommendations.
Zero Waste Advisory Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Merge with the Resource Management Commission to become the Resource Recovery and Management Commission	There is significant overlap in the missions of these two commissions
Zoning and Platting Commission	Chapter 2-1 Commission	Update jurisdiction to include zoning city-wide. Consider adding a Planning Commission Member as an Ex-officio	As recommended by the Commission Transition Task Force, this division of labor between the two land use commissions allows for zoning cases to be done by the Zoning and Platting Commission while the Planning Commission can focus on planning and city-wide code amendments. Consider adding a reciprocal ex-officio role for a member of the Planning Commission to provide regular coordination of activity.
Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force	Task Force, Temporary, & Non 2-1 Commissions	Merge into the Water and Wastewater Commission to become the Water Resource Commission. A task force will be reconstituted prior to the next scheduled update of the Water Forward Plan, with time sufficient to review and make recommendations.	With Water Forward adopted and recently updated, the Task Force's work should be integrated into the ongoing oversight of the Water Utility. A task force will be reconstituted prior to the next scheduled update of the Water Forward Plan, with time sufficient to review and make recommendations.
Pedestrian Advisory Council	Task Force, Temporary, & Non 2-1 Commissions	Merge with the Urban Transportation Commission to become the Urban Mobility Commission	The PAC and BAC are not currently established in code, but serve an important advisory role. This update to the Urban Transportation Commission reflects the importance of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as key to urban mobility.

Bicycle Advisory Council	Task Force, Temporary, & Non 2-1 Commissions	Merge with the Urban Transportation Commission to become the Urban Mobility Commission	The PAC and BAC are not currently established in code, but serve an important advisory role. This update to the Urban Transportation Commission reflects the importance of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as key to urban mobility.
Project Connect: Central Corridor Advisory Group	Task Force, Temporary, & Non 2-1 Commissions	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive.
Austin Local Solar Advisory Committee	Task Force, Temporary, & Non 2-1 Commissions	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive.
Airport Boulevard Advisory Group	Task Force, Temporary, & Non 2-1 Commissions	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive.
Joint Inclusion Committee	Joint Committee	Include Human Rights Commission duties	The Joint Inclusion Committee provides broad representation appropriate for advising and maintaining the City of Austin's Non-Discrimination Ordinance
Small Area Planning Joint Committee	Joint Committee	Remove. Planning Commission responsibility	With the updated scope proposed for the Planning and Zoning Platting Commission, this joint Commission is no longer needed.
Comprehensive Plan Joint Committee	Joint Committee	Remove. Planning Commission responsibility	With the updated scope proposed for the Planning and Zoning Platting Commission, this joint Commission is no longer needed.
Codes and Ordinances Joint Committee	Joint Committee	Remove. Planning Commission responsibility	With the updated scope proposed for the Planning and Zoning Platting Commission, this joint Commission is no longer needed.
Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board	Intergovernmental	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive.
Lone Star Rail District	Intergovernmental	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive.
Mobility Transformation Advisory Council	Intergovernmental	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive.
Regional Affordability Committee	Intergovernmental	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive.
Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition	Intergovernmental	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive.
Austin Rosewood Community Development Corporation	Council Board or Corporations	Merge with the African American Resource Advisory Commission	The African American Resource Advisory Commission includes broad representation and is charged with advising and coordination of the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility, the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, and the African American Cultural Heritage District
Austin Regeneration Fund Board of Directors	Council Board or Corporations	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive.
Austin Industrial Development Corporation	Council Board or Corporations	Remove - Inactive	Per the clerk's office, this board is inactive. It was replaced by the Austin Economic Development Corporation (Rally Austin)