

AGENDA



Thursday, November 1, 2007

Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s)
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**Item No. 47**

Subject: Set a public hearing to receive comments regarding proposed changes to the City's board and commission system (Suggested date and time: November 8, 2007, 6:00 p.m., at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

Boards and Commission Action: The provisions of the proposed ordinance related to financial reporting requirements and conflict of interest disclosure were recommended by the Ethics Review Commission.

In April, 2007 the City Council passed a resolution identifying how vital the boards and commissions system is to the form of government in Austin. Because of the size and importance of this system, Council declared it is imperative that the resources allocated be expended in the "most effective and prudent ways possible." The City Manager was directed to review the system and make recommendations for improvements based on a Boards and Commissions Task Force report completed in 2003. This Task Force was appointed in 2001 and directed to survey board members to assess issues and areas of concern.

Staff conducted a briefing to Council on staff's recommendations on October 11, 2007. At that meeting, staff highlighted their next steps in this process.

Staff went to the Ethics Review Commission on October 22, 2007 and made a presentation regarding two specific recommendations; financial report requirements and conflict of interest forms. A full public hearing is scheduled for the November 8, 2007 Council meeting to receive public input on the proposed recommendations and make any final changes before an ordinance is presented to Council for action and approval.

The Ethics Review Commission reviewed these items and will forward a recommendation to Council before the November 8 public hearing at the Council meeting.