

RESOLUTION NO. 20131121-056

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has nearly 60 boards and commissions that advise the City Council on a variety of topics; and

WHEREAS, some of these boards and commissions are required by Texas law or the City Charter, such as the Planning Commission, and the Board of Adjustment among others, while others were created under City Council authority; and

WHEREAS, most of these boards and commissions currently have one appointee per Council Member and Mayor, for a total of seven members; and

WHEREAS, in November 2012, citizens approved single member district representation (also referred to as "10-1") and starting in December 2014, the City of Austin will have ten Council Members elected from different geographic districts and a Mayor elected at large; and

WHEREAS, each current council seat and the Mayor will be up for election in November in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the City Council currently appoints over 400 members to nearly 60 boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, if the Council changes neither the number of boards and commissions nor the method of appointment, the 10-1 Council will need to appoint over 600 members soon after inauguration; and

WHEREAS, boards and commissions face many challenges throughout the year including vacant seats, constraints on meeting space and staff support, recruitment of members and completion of training requirements; and

WHEREAS, the current number of boards and commissions encourages specialized, “siloed” thinking, rather than systematic thinking across traditional boundaries; and

WHEREAS, this new governance structure and turnover will require a transition plan for boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the current board and commission members have significant expertise and experience and can provide insight into how a new system may operate; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Clerk is directed to form a task force of current board and commission members that will recommend a boards and commissions transition plan to Council by April 2014, with an update report in March 2014. This Task Force shall:

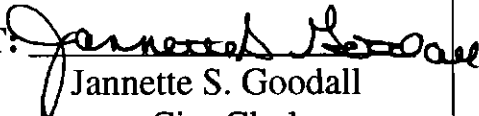
- be composed of 10-15 members that have served on a board or commission for one year or longer. The City Clerk shall convene the first meeting and serve as the Chair until the Task Force appoints a Chair.
- include no more than two members from the same board or commission.
- follow the Open Meetings Act and provide an opportunity for public comment.
- provide recommendations on the following items including, but not limited to:

- o Transition plan for board and commission appointments.
- o The number of members per board and commission, including the potential for fewer than eleven members per each board.
- o Appointment process for boards and commissions under the 10-1 system, including how the vetting and selection process may work if the process shifts away from one appointee per Council Member.
- o Potential for redistributing board responsibilities among a smaller number of boards.
- o Potential updates to Chapter 2-1 of the City Code.

The City Clerk shall ask for current eligible board and commission members to indicate interest in serving on this Task Force. If the number of volunteers exceeds 15, the City Clerk shall attempt to include geographic diversity and a broad representation of Austin's community in the makeup of the Task Force.

ADOPTED: November 21, 2013

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk