

1
2
3 **BYLAWS OF THE**
4 **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Quality of Life Advisory Commission**
5

6 **ARTICLE 1. NAME.**
7

8 The name of the board is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Quality of Life
9 Advisory Commission
10

11 **ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**
12

13 The purpose of the board is to represent this constituency of the City by serving as an advisory
14 board to the city council concerning the needs of the named population. The commission shall
15 serve as an advisory body to the city council regarding issues actually or potentially affecting
16 persons within the LGBTQ community or the LGBTQ community as a whole; serve in an
17 advisory and consultative capacity to the city council and any identified City departments with
18 the aim of improving the ability of the City and its vendors, contractors, and consultants to serve,
19 support, and employ the LGBTQ community; recommend to the city council measures designed
20 to enhance the health, safety, economic opportunity and affordability, mobility, cultural and
21 learning opportunities, and government access and accountability for the LGBTQ community;
22 coordinate and/or participate in educational programs to promote equal treatment, opportunity,
23 and understanding of persons within the LGBTQ community, and facilitate gatherings such as
24 meetings, institutes, forums, or courses of instruction designed to lead to greater understanding
25 and crafting of solutions for issues of concern of the LGBTQ community; work with other city
26 commissions to address issues of intersectionality; create, guide, support, and evaluate LGBTQ
27 quality of life initiatives; perform additional functions as required by the city council.
28
29

30 **ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP.**
31

- 32 (A) The board is composed of fifteen members. Eleven members are appointed by the City Council.
33 The Council shall appoint four additional members nominated by the commission who represent
34 community stakeholders
35
- 36 (B) A member serves at the pleasure of the city council.
37
- 38 (C) Board member terms begin March 1st on the year of appointment. Each commission member
39 nominated by the mayor or a council member shall be appointed to serve a four-year term. Each
40 commission member nominated by the commission shall be appointed to serve a two-year term.
41 The city manager or designee shall serve as an ex officio member of the commission.
42
- 43 (D) An individual board member may not act in an official capacity except through the action of the
44 board.
45
- 46 (E) A board member who is absent for three consecutive regular meetings or one-third of all regular
47 meetings in a “rolling” twelve month timeframe automatically vacates the member’s position

1 subject to the holdover provisions in Section 2-1-27 of the City Code. This does not apply to an
2 absence due to illness or injury of the board member, an illness or injury of a board member's
3 immediate family member, active military service, or the birth or adoption of the board member's
4 child for 90 days after the event. The board member must notify the staff liaison of the reason for
5 the absence not later than the date of the next regular meeting of the board. Failure to notify the
6 liaison before the next regular meeting of the board will result in an unexcused absence.
7

8 (F) At each meeting, each board member shall sign an attendance sheet which indicates that the member
9 does not have a conflict of interest with any item on that agenda, or identifies each agenda item on
10 which the member has a conflict of interest. Failure to sign the sheet results in the member being
11 counted as absent and his/her votes are not counted.
12

13 (G) A member who seeks to resign from the board shall submit a written resignation to the chair of the
14 board, the staff liaison, or the city clerk's office. If possible, the resignation should allow for a
15 thirty day notice so the city council can appoint a replacement.
16

17 **ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS.**

18
19 (A) The officers of the board shall consist of a chair and a vice-chair.
20

21 (B) Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the board at the first regular meeting after
22 April 1st. In the event a current officer becomes ineligible to serve as an officer, the board may hold
23 an emergency election as needed.
24

25 (C) The term of office shall be one year, beginning May 1st and ending April 30th. An officer may
26 continue to serve until a successor is elected. A person may not serve as an officer in a designated
27 position of a board for more than four consecutive one-year terms. A person who has served as an
28 officer in a designated position of a board for four consecutive terms is not eligible for re-election
29 to that designated office until the expiration of two years after the last date of the person's service in
30 that office. The board may override the term limit provision for an officer by an affirmative vote of
31 two-thirds of the authorized board members.
32

33 (D) A member may not hold more than one office at a time.
34
35

36 **ARTICLE 5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.**

37
38 (A) The chair shall preside at board meetings, appoint all committees, represent the board at ceremonial
39 functions and approve each final meeting agenda.
40

41 (B) In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall perform all duties of the chair.
42
43

44 **ARTICLE 6. AGENDAS.**

45
46 (A) Two or more board members may place an item on the agenda by oral or written request to the staff
47 liaison at least five days before the meeting. After first consulting with and receiving input from
48 the staff liaison, the chair shall approve each final meeting agenda.

- 1
2 (B) The board liaison shall submit the meeting agenda through the online agenda posting system for
3 each meeting not less than 72 hours before the meeting.
4
5 (C) Posting of the agenda must comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open
6 Meetings Act).
7
8

9 **ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS.**

- 10
11 (A) The board meetings shall comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open
12 Meetings Act).
13
14 (B) Board meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.
15
16 (C) The board may not conduct a closed meeting without the approval of the city attorney.
17
18 (D) The board shall meet monthly. In November of each year, the board shall adopt a schedule of the
19 meetings for the upcoming year, including makeup meeting dates for the holidays and cancelled
20 meetings.
21
22 (E) The chair may call a special meeting, and the chair shall call a special meeting if requested by three
23 or more members. The call shall state the purpose of the meeting. A board may not call a meeting
24 in addition to its regular scheduled meetings as identified in its adopted meeting schedule, more
25 often than once a quarter, unless the meeting is required to comply with a statutory deadline or a
26 deadline established by Council.
27
28 (F) Eight members constitute a quorum.
29
30 (G) If a quorum for a meeting does not convene within one-half hour of the posted time for the meeting,
31 then the meeting may not be held.
32
33 (H) If only a quorum is present at a meeting, a board action is adopted by an affirmative vote of two-
34 thirds of the quorum (15 member board = 6 votes). If more than a quorum is present at a meeting, a
35 board action must be adopted by an affirmative vote of the number of members necessary to
36 provide a quorum (15 member board = 8 votes).
37
38 (I) The Chair has the same voting privilege as any other member.
39
40 (J) The board shall allow citizens to address the board on agenda items and during a period of time set
41 aside for citizen communications. The chair may limit a speaker to three minutes.
42
43 (K) The staff liaison shall prepare the board minutes. The minutes of each board meeting must include
44 the vote of each member on each item before the board and indicate whether a member is absent or
45 failed to vote on an item.
46

1 (L) The city clerk shall retain agendas, approved minutes, internal review reports and bylaws. The
2 Austin Police Department shall retain all other board documents. The documents are public records
3 under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 552 (Texas Public Information Act).
4

5 (M) The chair shall adjourn a meeting not later than 10 p.m., unless the board votes to continue the
6 meeting.
7

8 (N) Each person and board member attending a board meeting should observe decorum pursuant to
9 Section 2-1-48 of the City Code.
10

11 (O) A member of the public may not address a board at a meeting on an item posted as a briefing.
12

13 **ARTICLE 8. COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS.**

14 **COMMITTEES**

15 (A) The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Quality of Life Advisory Commission will
16 have no committees.
17

18 (B) Each committee must be established by an affirmative vote of the board. A committee cannot meet
19 until its creation is approved by the Council Audit and Finance Committee. Each committee shall
20 consist of at least three board members appointed by the chair. A staff member shall be assigned to
21 each committee by the City Manager's Office.
22

23 (C) The board chair shall appoint a board member as the committee chair, with the member's consent.
24

25 (D) A majority of the total number of appointed committee members constitutes a quorum.
26

27 (E) Each committee shall meet on a regularly scheduled basis at least quarterly.
28

29 (F) Each committee shall make an annual report to the board at the January board meeting.
30

31 (G) Committee meetings must be posted in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551
32 (Texas Open Meetings Act).
33

34 (H) At each committee meeting, a committee member shall sign in on a sheet provided and shall
35 indicate that the member has no conflict of interest with any item on the committee meeting agenda,
36 or identify each agenda item on which the member has a conflict of interest.
37
38
39
40

41 **WORKING GROUPS**

42 (A) The board can determine the size of a working group but the number of board members serving on
43 the working group must be less than a quorum of the board.
44

45 (B) A working group may designate a chair, with the member's consent, but is not required to do so.
46

47 (C) Quorum requirements do not apply to working groups.
48

1
2 (D) Staff support will not be provided for working groups.
3

4 (E) Working groups are not required to post their meetings in accordance with the Texas Government
5 Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).
6

7
8 **ARTICLE 9. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.**
9

10 The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the board in all
11 cases to which they are applicable, except when inconsistent with these bylaws or with special rules of
12 procedure which the board or city council may adopt.
13

14 **ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.**
15

16 A bylaw amendment is not effective unless approved by the Council Audit and Finance Committee.
17

18
19 The bylaws were approved by the _____ *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,*
20 *Transgender and Queer Quality of Life Advisory Commission* at their meeting held on
21 _____ *(insert – month date, year).*
22

23
24
25 _____
26 *(Signature of Executive or Staff Liaison)*

_____ *(Insert – Title -- Executive or Staff Liaison)*