



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

The Design Commission

The Board/Commission mission statement (2-1-129) is:

(B) The Commission shall provide advisory recommendations to the City Council as requested by the City Council to assist in developing public policy and to promote excellence in the design and development of Austin's urban environment.

(C) The Commission shall:

- (1) Offer policy recommendations regarding specific issues of urban design; (2) Participate in developing urban design guidelines;
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by the City Council, for projects that require the approval of the Planning Commission or the Zoning and Platting Commission:
 - (a) Review a project only after a formal request by the project sponsor or applicant; and
 - (b) Complete the review before the respective Planning or Zoning and Platting Commission takes final action;
- (4) Provide citizen education and outreach regarding quality urban design;
- (5) Provide a venue for citizen input on the design and development of the urban environment;
- (6) Maintain liaison relationships with City staff and other boards and commissions.
- (7) Perform other activities as directed by the City Council.

(D) The commission may appoint one or more of its members to serve as liaison to a project specific community advisory group addressing urban design and planning issues at the formal request of the project sponsor.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

- A. The Design Commission continued with the development of the Infrastructure Design Guidelines which was initiated by Council and started by the previous version of the Commission.
- B. The Design Commission continued its review of public and private projects to ensure substantial compliance with the Urban Design Guidelines, as demonstrated in the backup materials for each meeting.
- C. The Design Commission reviewed several Downtown Density Bonus Program projects.
- D. Commissioners were assigned to Working Groups where their special expertise is best utilized.
- E. The Design Commission wrote project recommendation letters when required.
- F. The Design Commission provided agendas and meeting minutes for each meeting.
- G. Working Groups met frequently to focus in on complex issues as they came up.
- H. The CodeNEXT Working Group met several times and wrote recommendations for Draft 2 and Draft 3 for Council, Planning Commission, and the Zoning & Platting Commission.
- I. Successfully promoted the position for a Design Commissioner on the newly created Joint Sustainability Committee.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The Design Commission uses the Mission Statement as it's modus operandi. All actions taken by the Commission complied with the Mission Statement. All recommendations on CodeNEXT were limited to sections of the Land Development Code that fall under the Design Commission's work.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

- A. Finalize Infrastructure Design Guidelines in accordance with City Council directive under Resolution No. 20120816-060.
- B. Work on updating the Urban Design Guidelines to align with the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and CodeNEXT.
- C. Work closely with CodeNEXT (Land Development Code rewrite) efforts to ensure quality of urban environment and fabric is maintained.
- D. Raise awareness of the Design Commission and our mission through education of the public.
- E. Efficiently and effectively evaluate projects in a manner that shows that the Design Commission is an asset.
- F. Continue mentoring of new Commissioners.