



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019

The Design Commission

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

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.

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.

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 provided recommendation for revising the Downtown Density Bonus Program projects as part of the CodeNEXT project.
- D. The Design Commission wrote a recommendation letter for a Mobility Study for the Rainey Neighborhood.
- E. The Design Commission provided agendas and meeting minutes for each meeting.
- F. Planning and Urban Design Working Group met monthly to review Downtown Density Bonus projects.
- G. 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 comply with the Mission Statement. All recommendations are limited to sections of the Land Development Code that fall within the Design Commission's mission.

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

- A. Work on updating the Urban Design Guidelines to align with the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code rewrite.
- B. Raise awareness of the Design Commission and our mission through education of the public.
- C. Efficiently and effectively evaluate projects in a manner that shows that the Design Commission as an asset to the city.
- E. Work closely with the Urban Design Department