


A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L
AGENDA



Thursday, June 22, 2006

 Back

**City Clerk
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#15

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Chapter 2-1 of the City Code to abolish certain inactive boards and commissions; and abolishing certain inactive advisory groups.

Additional Backup Material (click to open) <input type="checkbox"/> Excerpt to Eliminate Inactive Boards <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance

For More Information: Shirley Gentry, City Clerk, 974-2210

The Boards and Commissions Task Force recommended Council action to eliminate certain inactive boards, commissions and citizens' advisory groups. After reviewing the documents that created the bodies listed below and interviewing staff and board members, the Task Force concluded these bodies were no longer functioning. They recommended these bodies be eliminated by appropriate Council action. Attached is an excerpt from the Task Force's recommendation.

In addition to the Task Force recommendation, staff recommends the Bond Oversight Committee, charged with the responsibility of directing the 1998 bond package, be eliminated to avoid any confusion with the current Bond Election Advisory Committee. Staff also recommends the One-Stop Labor Center Advisory Board, which has been dormant for several years, be eliminated to avoid confusion with the current day labor advisory committee.

Code Reference/Ordinance or Resolution Number	Name of the board/commission	Department
Chapter 2-1, Article 7 Ord. 910321-G Ord. 970717-G	Austin INET Authority	CTM
Resolution 010405-34	Boards and Commissions Process Review Task Force	City Clerk
Chapter 2-1, Article 12 Ord. 981022-F Ord. 990325-55	Bond Oversight Committee	FASD - Budget
Chapter 2-1, Article 15 Ord. 950622-L	Central City Entertainment Center Board	PARD
Chapter 2-1, Article 21 Ord. 861120-J Ord. 890824-F Ord. 960815-J	Convention and Visitors Commission	Austin Convention Center Department
Chapter 2-1, Article 24 Ord. 850725-P, Secs. 1, 2, 3 & 5	Economic Development Commission	Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services
Resolution 990211-26 Ord. 990513-53, Parts 1 and 3	Census 2000 Complete Count Committee	City Demographer
Resolution 971106-24	Downtown Development Advisory Group	Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services
Resolution 000113-59	Equity Steering Commission	FASD
Resolution 981022-55 Ord. 990304-56 Ord. 2000420-43	Green Building Task Force	Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services
Resolution 000127-61	Town Lake Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board	Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services

This list has been reviewed by the appropriate department directors and there is consensus that these bodies should be officially dissolved.

The Bond Oversight Committee included in this list is an entity separate and distinct from the Bond Election Advisory Committee created by the City Council in February 2005. The Bond Oversight Committee was charged with making recommendations regarding the 1998 bond package. Based on the Task Force's findings and a desire to avoid confusion regarding the more recently created body, the City Clerk is recommending that Council eliminate this body.

Taken from the Boards and Commission Task Force's October 28, 2003 Report

Inactive Boards

The Task Force found nine boards which are inactive, but none with truly overlapping jurisdictions. To identify any inactive boards, Task Force members reviewed resolutions, ordinances and records maintained by the Office of the City Clerk (OCC). Task Force members then contacted a board member (where members had been appointed) and the staff liaison for each of these boards and commissions. We asked these individuals the following questions: (1) Why has your board stopped meeting? (2) Do you believe the inactivity of this board has impaired or damaged the effectiveness of the City's decision making or service provision? (3) Are there specific responsibilities of the board that should be transferred to another body? (4) If the Task Force recommends to Council that this board be permanently dissolved, what impact would that recommendation have on the City?

The Task Force initially identified ten boards that appeared to be inactive or nonfunctioning for the following reasons: they met less than six times during the past year (some have not met at all); they failed to file annual reports and work plans as required by the City Code; or they otherwise appeared to be inactive based upon information learned from interviewing citizens and staff with information about these boards. (The MGT study identified only three inactive boards.) Specific results follow.

Austin INET Authority – We recommend this board be eliminated in its current form and, if a need arises in the future, that Council create a body with its purpose/function defined to more clearly represent the work it needs to do.

This entity previously met on an as-needed basis; however, Council has made no appointments to the authority in several years. The most recent ordinance (1997) provided that

members be appointed for one-year terms expiring on September 30. The members are a group of communication professionals and employees representing local government entities, each of which share access to, and have exclusive use of, specific unique portions of the Time-Warner Cable assets, including intra-governmental data transmission and necessary equipment. Although the ordinance gives the board other duties, the only activity members have engaged in (according to Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs staff) is to determine channel allocations for the institutional cable network. This board has not been meeting because all assets within their domain have been allocated. Although a new cable provider is expected to locate in Austin, the board does not plan to meet until their individual clients/employers concur on the use of the new provider's assets. Except for the governmental and public access channel(s) of each governmental body, the present cable system has been abandoned. Most other uses have been switched over to the Greater Austin Area Telecommunications Network (GAATN). GAATN has a board that meets regularly and has the same membership as the INET Authority.

Census 2000 Complete Count Committee – We recommend this committee be eliminated.

Its task (to build and promote outreach efforts to ensure response to Census 2000) was completed in June 2000. No similar work will be needed until prior to the 2010 Census.

Central City Entertainment Center Board – We recommend this board be eliminated.

This board, created to oversee the construction and operation of the center, ceased functioning when the Millennium Center opened. The MGT study recommended elimination of this board once the center opened. The Center may need an advisory board, similar to the advisory board for other recreation centers, but these are not Council-appointed bodies.

Convention and Visitors Commission – We recommend this commission be eliminated.

This commission was created to advise the Council on planning and development of convention and visitor promotional activities. All commission activities ceased when the non-profit organization was established in 1996.

Downtown Development Advisory Group – We recommend this advisory group be eliminated.

This group was created to address specific issues concerning appropriate development downtown, specifically the Waller Creek Tunnel and residential and ground leases. The group made a final report to Council in March, 1999 and ceased meeting. The group recommended the creation of a Downtown Development Authority, but did not recommend the City sponsor this group. The Downtown Austin Association has been considering the creation of such an authority.

Economic Development Commission – We recommend this commission be eliminated. If the Council wishes to establish a board to advise it on economic development issues, a new board should be established using the template described in Section Five.

This commission was created to recommend economic development policy to the City Council and to advise Council on economic development issues. The commission has not met since 1997 and did not have anything to do that year. Its dissolution was recommended in the MGT report based on its inactivity. Given the Council's recent interest in economic development, it may wish to appoint a citizen board to advise it on such issues. Rather than reconstitute a moribund board, we recommend that a new board be established according to the uniform guidelines described below in Section Five. This will help the Council move the boards and commission system toward greater uniformity and clarity.

Equity Steering Commission – We recommend this commission be eliminated.

This commission was charged with building "consensus around a strategic vision for long-range economic prosperity and social equity for all." The commission presented its 140-page report entitled "Improving the Odds: Increasing Opportunities in Austin" in August 2001. Its members do not intend to meet again.

Green Building Task Force – We recommend this task force be eliminated.

This Task Force may already have been terminated pursuant to Ordinance No. 990304-56, which provided for termination on May 4, 2000. However, Ordinance No. 000420-43 amended the prior ordinance and terminated the Task Force on November 4, 2000. The Task Force's final report

was on Council's agenda for March 29, 2001 but the item was postponed indefinitely. The Task Force is no longer meeting. Because the indefinite postponement in accepting its report raises some question about whether this Task Force was actually terminated, it should be included with the other eliminated boards in any ordinance implementing the recommendations of this Task Force.

Town Lake Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board – We recommend this board be eliminated.

In the founding resolution, Council directed the City Manager to hire a waterfront-planning consultant to develop standards for the South Central Shoreline Subdistrict of the Town Lake Overlay District in conjunction with this advisory board. The board completed its tasks and the consultant submitted a report to Council in May 2000.

Recommendation 9: The following boards should be eliminated immediately by ordinance to aid the Office of the City Clerk in maintaining an official list of boards and commissions: Austin INET Authority, Census 2000 Complete Count Committee, Central City Entertainment Center Board, Convention and Visitors Commission, Downtown Development Advisory Group, Economic Development Commission, Equity Steering Commission, Green Building Task Force, Town Lake Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board.

Recommendation 12: The Boards and Commissions Process Review Task Force was created for a specific purpose and should be eliminated by resolution once this report has been presented to and accepted by the Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 2006

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2-1 OF THE CITY CODE TO REPEAL ARTICLES RELATING TO INACTIVE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; AND ABOLISHING CERTAIN INACTIVE ADVISORY GROUPS.

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

PART 1. Chapter 2-1 of the City Code (*Boards and Commissions*) is amended to repeal the following articles to abolish inactive boards and commissions:

Article 7. Austin INET Authority;
Article 12. Bond Oversight Committee;
Article 15. Central City Entertainment Center Board;
Article 21. Convention and Visitors Commission;
Article 24. Economic Development Commission; and
Article 39. One-Stop Labor Center Advisory Board.

PART 2. The Council abolishes the Green Building Task Force, created by Resolution 981022-55, Ordinance No. 990304-56, and Ordinance No. 000420-43.

PART 3. The Council abolishes the Census 2000 Complete Count Committee, created by Resolution 990211-26 and Ordinance No. 990304-53.

PART 4. The Council abolishes the inactive boards and commissions created by the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 971106-24	Downtown Development Advisory Group;
Resolution No. 000113-59	Equity Steering Commission;
Resolution No. 000127-61	Town Lake Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board;
	and
Resolution No. 010405-34	Boards and Commissions Process Review Task Force.

1 **PART 5.** This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2006.

2 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

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6 _____, 2006

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Will Wynn
Mayor

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10 **APPROVED:** _____
11 David Allan Smith
12 City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

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