



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Quality of Life Advisory Commission

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

§ 2-1-106 - LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(F) The commission shall:

- (1) serve as an advisory body to the city council regarding issues actually or potentially affecting persons within the LGBTQ community or the LGBTQ community as a whole;
- (2) serve in an advisory and consultative capacity to the city council and any identified City departments with the aim of improving the ability of the City and its vendors, contractors, and consultants to serve, support, and employ the LGBTQ community;
- (3) recommend to the city council measures designed to enhance the health, safety, economic opportunity and affordability, mobility, cultural and learning opportunities, and government access and accountability for the LGBTQ community;
- (4) coordinate and/or participate in educational programs to promote equal treatment, opportunity, and understanding of persons within the LGBTQ community, and facilitate gatherings such as meetings, institutes, forums, or courses of instruction designed to lead to greater understanding and crafting of solutions for issues of concern of the LGBTQ community;
- (5) work with other city commissions to address issues of intersectionality;
- (6) create, guide, support, and evaluate LGBTQ quality of life initiatives; and
- (7) perform additional functions as required by the city council.

Source: [Ord. No. 20170302-007](#), Pt. 1, 3-13-17.

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. Throughout the year, various city departments and organizations addressed the Commission and received feedback regarding our community's specific needs and concerns.
- b. The Commission voted at the beginning of every meeting to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to allow for more community participation in our discussions and deliberations. Unless otherwise noted, all recommendations were adopted unanimously or by consent.
- c. At the August 12 regular meeting, the commission adopted a recommendation supporting Drag Queen Story Time at Austin's Public Libraries.
- d. During the same meeting, the first draft for the RFP for the LGBTQ Quality of Life Study was presented and discussed.
- e. At the October 14 regular meeting, the commission adopted a recommendation to Council to support a comprehensive sex education curriculum proposed by AISD.
- f. At the November 4 regular meeting, the commission adopted a recommendation supporting a ban on conversion therapy.
- g. During the same meeting, the commission adopted a recommendation asking the City to continue using a comprehensive approach to assist individuals experiencing homelessness.
- h. At the same meeting, the commission approved the scope of work for the LGBTQ Quality of Life Study.
- i. Working groups were also defined at the November regular meeting.
- j. At the December 10 meeting, the commission approved a community engagement schedule and deliberation process for budget recommendations for the 2020-2021 budget.
- k. At the Wednesday, April 8 Special Called meeting, the commission approved budget recommendations and did not suspend Robert's Rules of Order for that reason. The following were approved unanimously:
 - i. A budget recommendation concerning the development of LGBTQ-focused programs
 - ii. A budget recommendation concerning the utilization of community organizations and non-profits to achieve strategic direction outcomes
 - iii. A budget recommendation concerning the implementation of a COVID-19 cash transfer assistance program
- l. At the June 8 regular meeting, the commission adopted staff's recommendation to award the contract for an LGBTQ Quality of Life study to Health Management Associates. It is worth noting this was the very first time a recommendation was adopted without a unanimous vote or by consent. Three commissioners abstained from the vote to state their concern regarding the lack of information staff presented along with their contract recommendation.

- m. At the same meeting, the commission unanimously adopted a recommendation to improve the Boards and Commissions involvement in the procurement process.
- n. At the same meeting, the commission adopted a recommendation affirming Black Lives Matter and insisting upon reforms to the Austin Police Department. This recommendation was also not adopted unanimously, two commissioners abstained.

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

Every one of the Commission's actions served to advance our mission as described in the City Code.

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

- a. Collaborate with City Staff to provide oversight for the Quality of Life study.
- b. Collaborate with City Staff to track disparities within Austin's LGBTQ population in all aspects of life.
- c. Collaborate with all Commissions represented in the Joint Inclusion Committee to work with the Equity Office to address disparities affecting all minorities in Austin.
- d. Work with APD's LGBTQ community liaison to ensure the new training for interacting with transgender and gender non-conforming residents is implemented and its success measurable.
- e. Identify the top 2-3 goals from each Working Group and put together a plan to address them.