



CITY OF ASHEVILLE RULES ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Purpose

The City of Asheville provides for continuous citizen input and advice through a wide variety of boards and commissions. Some of these are advisory in nature to the City Council, while others have distinct responsibilities that are established by law. The City Council encourages citizens to participate in their City government by volunteering to serve on these boards and commissions.

Application for Appointment

- 1) A description of all City boards is contained in "The Talent Scout". This document is available in the City Clerk's Office and is distributed widely in the community and on the City's webpage. A brief form stating the citizen's interest in serving on a board is a part of "The Talent Scout" and can be submitted to the City Clerk.
- 2) An application and/or resume is required for consideration of an appointment to a City board.
- 3) In most cases, the City Council will require an interview process prior to appointment.
- 4) All appointments are made in an open session of the City Council. Discussion and consideration of appointments and interviews are also held in open session.
- 5) Once an application for an appointment has been filed with the City Clerk, it is placed on a resource list and remains active for a one-year period. At the end of that period of time, you will be contacted by the City Clerk's Office to see if you wish to seek other opportunities to support your participation on our boards.
- 6) Applicants are strongly urged to attend several meetings of a board prior to applying and/or appointment to a board.

Qualifications

- 1) Appointees to boards and commissions shall be residents of the City of Asheville, unless otherwise specified or provided for by law, ordinance, or Council action establishing said board or commission, or in the rules or by laws of said board or commission, if approved by Council.

- 2) In matters where an intergovernmental board has independent governing authority (by law, by agreement, or other enabling authority), and where not prohibited by law, at least one of the City's appointees shall be a current member of the City Council.

Such an appointment allows Council to be a part of deliberation and decision-making on matters of regional importance that impact the City of Asheville.

- 3) No citizen shall be eligible to hold concurrently more than two Mayoral or City Council appointments to standing boards or commissions; this limitation shall not apply to ad hoc committees appointed by the Council.
- 4) Efforts are made to represent the diversity that we have in our community on all boards, and criteria for appointments may be established to achieve appropriate diversity, except that preference shall be given to appointment of residents of a specific area of town for which an ad hoc or advisory committee may be appointed.
- 5) An oath of office (or affirmation) is required for some boards and commissions. Where applicable, newly appointed board members will take and sign an oath of office or affirmation following their appointment.

If a board member enters on the duties of his or her office before taking, subscribing and filing the oath of office, he or she may be removed from office.

Terms

- 1) A term of service on all City boards shall be limited to three years or less, unless otherwise provided by law.
- 2) A length of service on all boards and commissions shall be limited to two full successive terms (plus any unexpired term to which a member is appointed).
- 3) A member shall serve until the expiration of their term or until such time as a successor is appointed, whichever occurs later, unless otherwise provided by law.
- 4) The City Council Boards & Commissions Committee may request that a member in good standing be allowed to serve out their term should they become a non-city resident.
- 5) Reappointment to a second term is not automatic and will be based on circumstances to be determined by the City Council in each individual case.

Attendance

- 1) Appointees to boards and commissions are expected to attend all meetings possible.
- 2) Any appointee who fails to attend at least 75% of the regularly scheduled meetings of a board or commission within a twelve (12) month period, may be removed.
- 3) The board chairman or staff liaison shall be responsible for reporting on attendance to the City Clerk upon request.

- 4) Attendance provisions are not imposed upon Council liaison members but are in effect for Councilmen serving as appointed regular members on a board or commission.

The Board at Work

- 1) Each board receives its charge from the North Carolina General Statutes or from a City ordinance or resolution establishing the board.
- 2) The City Council may, from time to time, ask a board to consider specific items not in conflict with existing laws.
- 3) The chairman, working with the staff liaison, shall post copies of their minutes on the City's website.
- 4) The City Council may appoint a City Council person as liaison to the board or commission. The role of the liaison shall be to provide information regarding long-range issues and projects under consideration by the Council which would be of interest to that board or commission and assist the board with procedural questions and scope of work. The liaison can address questions regarding Council's strategic goals and feasibility, but shall not play an active role in deliberation of the board or commission. Council liaisons are encouraged to attend meetings, but it is not required.
- 5) Each board shall make an annual report to the City Council outlining their activities for the past year. The report shall be posted on the City's website by January 30 for the previous calendar year.
- 6) An orientation session will be conducted for all new appointees by the City staff liaison.
- 7) From time to time, additional training sessions for board members may be provided through City staff, the Institute of Government and other training groups and organizations. The City Council encourages members to take advantage of these opportunities.
- 8) No board or commission member who is not present at a meeting shall be allowed to vote by proxy.
- 9) The board will comply with open meeting laws, including notice of meetings.
- 10) The board is to provide the City Clerk with their schedule of regular meetings with the predetermined time and place. The schedule will be revised only in accordance with legal requirements for notice.
- 11) In order to conduct official business at a regular or special meeting, a quorum of the board must be present. In the absence of a rule, by-law, or statute providing otherwise, a quorum is more than half of the members of the board, not counting vacant seats. If a quorum is not present at any meeting, the chairperson will postpone the meeting until such time as a quorum can be present, provided adequate notice is given pursuant to the open meetings law.

Committee on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Mayor may appoint a committee of City Council, with the Vice-Chair as Chairman, to evaluate the on-going need for each board and recommend to the City Council elimination of any for which there is no longer a need. This committee may also consider other items in regard to board structure, appointments or other items at the request of the Mayor and/or the City Council.

Conflict of Interest

- 1) No member of a board shall participate in the discussion or vote on any item involving their own official conduct or financial interest.
- 2) It is the responsibility of an individual board member to bring to the attention of the entire board any item for which there may be a conflict of interest.
- 3) It is up to the entire board to decide if a conflict exists and vote to excuse a member from considering a particular item.
- 4) Staff and legal assistance is available to all boards and commissions to help the board with decisions in this area.

Resignations and Replacements

- 1) Any member of a board or commission who desires to resign shall do so in writing to the City Clerk.
- 2) Unless otherwise provided by law, ordinance or resolution, all appointment by the City Council to a board or commission serve at the pleasure of Council, and may be removed from a board or commission at the discretion of Council.
- 3) For those boards and commissions whose members may be removed for cause, cause shall include, without limitation, the following: conflict of interest, failure to attend meetings. Removal for cause shall be by Council resolution.

Ad Hoc Committees

- 1) The City Council may appoint ad hoc committees to make recommendations regarding particular matters of interest within the City.
- 2) The foregoing rules on boards and commissions shall apply to ad hoc committees except where alternate provisions are made by the Council.

Inclément Weather

- 1) If the Asheville City Schools are cancelled, then any board/commission meeting scheduled for that day will be cancelled.
- 2) The chairman of the board/commission will have the discretion of cancelling a meeting in the event of safety concerns when the Asheville City Schools have delayed starts.

- 3) **In the event of inclement weather, the Chairs of the respective City Council Committees (Housing & Community Development Committee; Planning & Economic Development Committee; Public Safety Committee; Finance Committee; and Boards & Commissions Committee) will have the discretion whether or not the meeting is held that day.**