

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: January 30, 2025

From: City Manager Department

Subject: City Council Appointments to City Advisory Bodies

Recommended Action: Appoint members of the public to the City of Capitola's Art and Cultural Commission, Commission on the Environment, Finance Advisory Committee, and Historical Museum Board; appoint a member of the public as an alternate to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Background: At the City Council meeting on January 9, 2025, Council continued this item due to the vacancy created by former Mayor Brooks' resignation from Council. On January 16, the Council appointed 6 members of the public to the Art and Cultural Commission, leaving one vacant at large seat for an upcoming Council appointment. The City Council continued further appointments to January 30th.

Members of the public are appointed to serve in a voluntary capacity on the City's advisory bodies for terms, some of which expired in December 2024. This necessitates that the Council make reappointments or new appointments for the next term.

Applications for membership on advisory bodies are accepted year-round and are valid for one year. Members who are currently serving on advisory bodies were notified of their term expiration and invited to reapply to be reappointed.

As a part of the advisory body appointment process, staff published a regular vacancy notice on the City website and through social media, and an unscheduled vacancy notice in the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Discussion: Each of the City's advisory bodies is governed by relevant bylaws, which outline information about the appointment process of the group. More information concerning each group is listed below. Attachment 1 outlines the current composition of each group, applicants seeking reappointment, new applicants, and the next meeting date for all groups with current vacancies. Attachment 2 includes a link to all applications for appointment or reappointment on file with the City Clerk's office received on or before the printing of this agenda packet.

Art and Cultural Commission: The Art and Cultural Commission (Commission) was originally established in 1997 and advises the City Council as to the allocation of public funds for the support and encouragement of existing and new programs in the arts, and for the acquisition of works of art, and to enhance the cultural climate of the City and foster public interest in the arts. Commission Bylaws (Resolution No. 3326) state that the Commission is composed of nine members: one City Council Member (Vice Mayor Clarke), one Planning Commissioner [respectively chosen by a majority vote of each body], one artist or arts organization representative, one arts professional, and five at-large members. On January 16th, the City Council appointed an arts professional, an artist, and four at-large members to the Art and Cultural Commission. The Bylaws state that the Commission must review applications and provide a recommendation to the City Council for appointment. There are currently nine applications on file. In addition to the reappointment of returning commissioners, the Commission has recommended the appointment of Tara Hunt, Karin Anderson, Thomas Pederson, Kristina McCann and Helyne Nourishad.

Commission on the Environment: The Commission on the Environment (COE) was originally established in 2005 and provides advice and recommendations to the City Council on policy and funding matters relating to sustainability, environmental protection, climate action plan implementation and resource enhancement which benefit the City. COE Bylaws (Resolution No. 4373) state that the COE is composed of five members: a member of the City Council and four members appointed by the four City Council

members who do not serve on the COE. On December 12, 2024, the City Council appointed Melinda Orbach to serve as the City Council representative. There are currently six applications on file.

Finance Advisory Committee: The Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) was originally established in 2000 and advises the City Council on financial matters pertaining to the governing of the City, as well as on the use of fiscal resources. FAC Bylaws (Resolution No. 4365) state that the FAC is composed of seven or eight members: the Mayor, the Vice Mayor, three at-large members appointed by the City Council, and one or two business representatives recommended by the Chamber of Commerce and appointed by the City Council. On January 24th, the Chamber recommended Leslie Nielsen and Matt Arthur to be appointed as business representatives (Attachment 4). On December 12, 2024, the City Council appointed Mayor Brooks and Councilmember Pedersen to serve as Council representatives to the FAC. There are nine applications on file.

Historical Museum Board: The Historical Museum Board (Board) was originally established in 1992 and promotes a program that will bring about better understanding and appreciation by the Capitola community of its history, architecture, culture, technology, and its creative and natural environments. Board Bylaws (Resolution No. 4099) state that the Board is composed of seven members. The Bylaws state that the Commission must review applications and provide a recommendation to the City Council for appointment. There is one unscheduled vacancy and there is currently one application on file. The Board has not been able to contact the applicant, and as such, has not made any recommendations at this time.

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Bicycle Advisory Committee: The RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee currently has one Capitola representative on it (Paula Bradley). The RTC received an application for another Capitola resident to serve as an alternate (Attachment 3). The City Council may vote to appoint Christopher O'Connell as an alternate to the RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Attachments:

1. Advisory Body Composition
2. Advisory Group Applications:
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/fz7gtmk1ubx1tal7icwa/ABeBTms6St-musROjybP57s?rlkey=b5wxi9umzysyfo0ur1512stih&st=cr2mrnbu&dl=0>
3. RTC BAC Application
4. Chamber of Commerce Recommendations

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