

CITY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations:

- The Columbus Aquatics Commission be dissolved and a member representative added to the Recreation Advisory Board. The Recreation Advisory Board would have an updated mission statement and composition. *(If there are no objections, the ordinances would be listed for a meeting in January 2025.)*
- The Cooperative Extension Advisory Board would be dissolved. *(If there are no objections, the ordinance would be listed for an upcoming meeting in 2025.)*
- The Tree Board would have a reduced membership. *(If there are no objections, the ordinance would be listed for an upcoming meeting in 2025.)*

Columbus Aquatics Commission & Recreation Advisory Board

Justification: The Columbus Aquatics Commission was established to oversee the private management company charged with the operational needs of the Aquatics Center. The City determined that there should be oversight of the private company. However, for the past eleven years, the Department of Parks and Recreation has solely been responsible for the management of the facility. The commission no longer exists under its intended mission and should be dissolved but allow one member to be added to the Recreation Advisory Board for representation.

Recommendation:

- Add one member from the Columbus Aquatics Commission to the Recreation Advisory Board and change and reduce the composition of the Recreation Advisory Board as follows:
 - 2 SD-15 Representatives
 - 2 SD-29 Representative
 - 1 At-Large

- 1 Aquatics Representative
- 1 MCSD Representative (I was not sure if the School District continues to be a vital member of the board and if not, I would suggest 2 At-Large members instead)
- Parks & Recreation Director (ex-officio)

Cooperative Extension Advisory Board

Justification: The Cooperative Extension Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity to the Department of Cooperative Extension Service and the University of Georgia Extension Service for the consideration of policies of the department and recommendations for its administration and program development throughout the community. The original charter section was repealed in 1980; however, the board continues to function. It has five members appointed by Columbus Council. There are currently two (2) vacant seats. Even though a quorum would consist of the three remaining members being in attendance, the board has continued to not be active; since, the director retired in 2023, and the current Interim Director has not established a direction for the board or scheduled any meetings.

The University of Georgia will continue to support our community through personalized services like workshops, classes, consultations, certifications, camps and educator resources through the operations of the local office even if the advisory board no longer exists.

Recommendation: Dissolve the board

- The dissolving of the board does not interfere with the core mission of the Cooperative Extension Office and it will continue to provide beneficial services to the community.

Tree Board

Justification: The Tree Board administers examinations to applicants seeking certification for properly maintaining and/or removing trees on public property, acts

on adjustment of standards applications, makes recommendations to the city arborists.

My opinion is that there are too many slated seats, which hinders the ability to have full board membership.

Recommendation: Reduce the membership and Remove some slated seats

- Add one member from the Columbus Aquatics Commission to the Recreation Advisory Board and change and reduce the composition of the Recreation Advisory Board as follows:
 - o 1 Residential or Commercial Development Representatives
 - o 1 Keep Columbus Beautiful Director
 - o 1 Public Utility Representative
 - o 1 City Arborist
 - o 3 At-Large

The seats that I recommend removing are as follows:

- 1 Educator – The initial justification to have an educator on this board may have been fitting at the onset of this board; however, it is my opinion that the educator seat is not a necessary component moving forward.
- 1 Commercial or Industrial Development Representative and 1 Residential Development Representative – The importance of representation from the development community continues to be an asset; however, it is my opinion that we can combine the two development representatives and allow for just one seat.
- 1 Environmental Advocacy member – Although there being a member of this specialty is of importance to this board, it is my recommendation that there not be a seat slated for this but allow the city arborist to act as the expertise in this regard.