

SECTION 8. CITY ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- 8.1** Mercer Island's advisory boards and commissions provide an invaluable service to the City. Their advice on a wide variety of subjects aids the City Council in the decision-making process. Effective resident participation is an invaluable tool for local government.
- 8.2** These advisory bodies originate from different sources. Some are established by [Title 3](#) of the Mercer Island City Code while others are established by motion or ordinance of the City Council. It is at the discretion of the City Council as to whether any advisory body should be established by ordinance. The following advisory boards and commissions are established:
- A.** Design Commission
 - B.** Planning Commission
 - C.** Utility Board
 - D.** Mercer Island Arts Council
 - E.** Open Space Conservancy Trust Board
 - F.** Parks & Recreation Commission
- 8.3** Each board and commission shall adopt rules of procedure (or bylaws) to guide governance of their board or commission, including the number of meetings unless set forth in a resolution or ordinance or unless the number of meetings adversely impacts City staff resources, as determined by the City Manager.
- 8.4** The City Council may dissolve any advisory body that, in their opinion, has completed its working function or for any other reason.
- 8.5** Lengths of terms vary from one advisory body to another, but in all cases overlapping terms are intended.
- 8.6** All meetings of advisory bodies are open to the public in accordance with Chapter 42.30 RCW, [Open Public Meetings Act](#), and require a minimum 24-hour advance notice.
- 8.7** Members may be removed, from any advisory board or commission, prior to the expiration of their term of office, in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance or resolution establishing such advisory board or commission.
- 8.8** All members of advisory boards and commissions shall sign a statement acknowledging they have received, read, and agree to be bound by the City's code of ethics MICC Chapter 2.60 and RCW Chapter 42.23. The City shall provide new members training on the Code of Ethics.

- 8.9** The City Council transmits referrals for information or action through the City Manager and the City Council liaison to the advisory boards and commissions. Staff Liaisons, on behalf of advisory boards and commissions transmit findings, recommendations, reports, etc., to the full City Council as part of the City Council Agenda Packet.
- 8.10** The City Manager shall appoint City staff to assist advisory boards and commissions. City staff are not employees of that body and take direction only from the Department Director or the City Manager. Boards and commissions shall not direct City staff to perform research, gather information, or otherwise engage in activities involving projects or matters that are not listed on the work plan unless approved by the City Council or City Manager.
- 8.11** Annually, staff for the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and Open Space Conservancy Trust Board shall develop a draft work plan and present the work plan to the City Council for review, possible amendments, and approval.
- 8.12** **Appointment Process.** Annually, the City Clerk will advertise for applicants to fill expiring positions on the boards and commissions as follows, unless otherwise provided by law:
- A.** Available positions are advertised.
 - B.** Once the application deadline has passed, all applications received by the deadline will be forwarded to the City Council for review.
 - C.** The City Clerk will include the appointment process on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.
 - D.** The City Clerk will prepare a ballot for each board or commission, listing applicants alphabetically by last name.
 - E.** The voting process for appointment to each board and commission shall be as follows:
 - 1. Each City Councilmember completes a written ballot, casting a vote for the identified open seat on the board or commission. If there is more than one open seat on a board or commission, then each position will be voted on separately.
 - 2. The City Clerk will collect the ballots, tally the votes, and read aloud the votes and outcome of the voting process.
 - 3. The applicant that receives the most votes, provided they have received a minimum of four votes, will be appointed to the open seat on the board or commission. In the event of a tie or if no applicant receives four votes, the procedures in Section 8.12(E)(4) and (5) shall be followed.
 - 4. If no applicant receives a minimum of four votes, a second round of voting will take place utilizing the following process:
 - a. Applicants receiving one or no votes in the first round will be dropped from the ballot and Councilmembers will re-vote on the remaining applicants. If more than one candidate has only one

- A.** Attend meetings of the board or commission on a regular basis and sit at the table or dais, as applicable.
- B.** Participate in discussion and debate of the board or commission, but not vote on any matter (except for the Open Space Conservancy Trust as the City Council Liaison is a voting member).
- C.** Represent the majority City Council position, if known.
- D.** Participate in a manner that will not intimidate or inhibit the meetings and operations of the board or commission. Make comments in a positive manner to promote positive interaction between the City Council and the board or commission.
- E.** Be prepared to give the City Council regular and timely reports at regular City Council meetings. Take the lead on discussion items before the City Council which pertain to the assigned board or commission.
- F.** Provide input to the City Council regarding potential candidates for appointment to the board or commission.