

Council Liaisons 411

Goal:

To facilitate two-way communication between City Council and all City boards, panels, committees, and commissions.

Role:

Working in coordination with the chair of the board, panel, committee, or commission, assist in generation of agenda items and packet materials for both City Council meetings and the meetings of the respective board, panel, committee, or commission.

Attend designated board, panel, committee, or commission meeting to answer questions during discussion or clarify motions and requests sent by Council.

Provide discussion and reports on items sent from their respective boards, panels, committees, and commissions to City Council.

Guidelines:

ALL City boards, panels, committees, and commissions shall function autonomously. They will set their own agendas and run their own meetings. Liaisons are NOT to be running their assigned boards, panels, committees, and commissions, nor are they to be setting agendas. They are to be resources to their respective City body.

Liaisons shall NOT influence voting or sway discussion beyond factual statements or clarification on items sent from Council. Liaisons are NOT members of the board, panel, committee, or commission; nor are they “ex officio.” Liaisons do not have any voting power beyond their role on City Council.

Liaisons should share only the discussion, concerns and/or requests from the full body of Council on an item sent to their designated board, panel, committee, or commission. Their representation on the board is not to be used to pursue their own goals or as a second chance to voice their concerns or opinion on an item beyond a City Council meeting.

If asked, liaisons are permitted to share their own opinion or judgement-based information during a meeting or on an agenda item, but they should refrain from offering this type of advice or influence without being first requested.

When representing their respective board, panel, committee, or commission to City Council in the form of a report or while answering questions on an item sent to Council, liaisons shall remain objective and factual. Councilmember liaisons shall work to support the efforts of their board, panel, committee, and commission and advocate for their work, but are not obligating their vote on City Council in support or against any item simply because they are the Council liaison for the board, panel, committee, or commission from which it came.

Communication Flow:

Agenda packets, and the materials included, are a primary focus for liaisons.

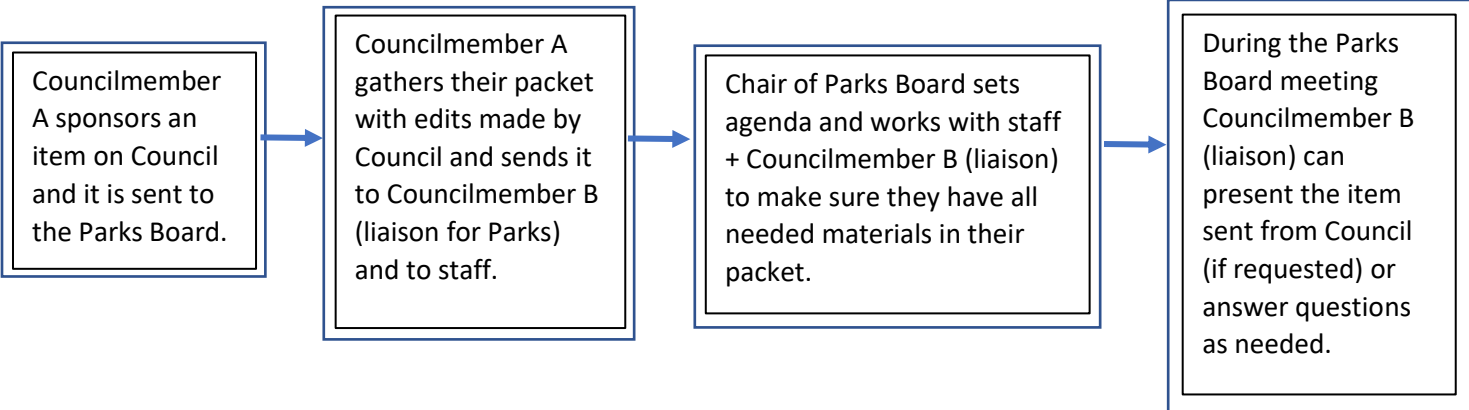
The chair of any board, panel, committee, or commission shall make every effort to send a draft of their proposed upcoming agenda to their designated liaison so that the liaison can collect and provide additional information and materials as needed. The purpose of this collaboration is to improve and facilitate communication on items that are sent between said boards, panels, committees, and commissions and the City Council. If desired, the Chair may ask assistance in drafting the agenda.

Liaisons shall remind the chair of their designated board, panel, committee, or commission about pending business sent from Council and in turn shall monitor any items sent from their designated board, panel, committee, and commission to be placed on the Council agenda.

City Staff will be responsible for communication between City Council and all boards, panels, committees, and commissions. They are responsible for tracking the flow of city business. However, the designated liaison is there to support this effort, provide additional information for packets when needed, and to help facilitate discussion during meetings. Staff, Chair, and Liaison shall work to keep all “in the loop” by copying on email and making all other efforts to keep all informed.

EXAMPLE OF THIS COMMUNICATION FLOW:

Council to Board



Board to Council

