



Rules of Procedure for Advisory Committees, Boards, and Commissions Created by Ordinance and Appointed by the Olympia City Council

Approved by the Olympia City Council General Government Committee: July 22, 2008

Amended: May 20, 2014

As used herein, the term “committee” refers to all advisory committees, boards, and commissions created by ordinance and appointed by the Olympia, Washington City Council, unless specifically referring to the City Council’s General Government Committee.

Wherever there is a conflict between the statute and these rules, the statute shall control. In certain circumstances, especially with the Planning Commission and Heritage Commission acting in a quasi-judicial capacity, it is recognized that the committee may need to deviate from these rules in order to meet legal and constitutional requirements. In recognizing that certain flexibility may be needed from time to time, a failure to strictly comply with these rules shall not affect the validity of a committee action.

Article 1. MEETINGS

1.a. Meeting Location

All committee meetings will be held at a specified location in a City of Olympia facility, unless otherwise scheduled and noticed by the committee Chair or the committee’s staff liaison on behalf of the Chair. In the case of an alternative meeting location, the staff liaison shall notify in writing the committee’s members, City Council, the City Manager’s office, and any other pertinent City staff. All meetings shall be open to the public and comply with the State Open Meetings Act (RCW 42.30).

1.b. Date and Time

Regular meetings shall be held on a specified monthly day or date and time, unless amended by the committee. Special meetings, workshops, and community tours may be held at the committee’s discretion by request of the Chair or by majority approval of the committee at a regular meeting. Public notice consistent with Olympia City ordinance and State law shall be given for a special meeting, workshops, and tours. Regular meetings may be cancelled by request of the Chair or by majority approval of the committee at a regular or special meeting. A meeting may also be cancelled by the Chair upon notice from staff or committee members that no quorum is reasonably expected to be present or when there is no item on the agenda other than routine formalities, such as adoption of the minutes, provided that appropriate notice is given.

1.c. Meeting Notice and Agenda

Written notice of all meetings with an agenda of matters to be considered by the committee shall be sent at least five calendar days before the meeting to the committee, City Council, the City Manager's office, any other pertinent City staff, news media who have requested to be notified of City of Olympia public meetings, and other interested parties identified by the committee. Notices of meetings and agendas should be posted on the City's website in advance of meetings.

At the conclusion of each meeting, any member may suggest item(s) to be added to an agenda for consideration at a subsequent meeting. A majority of members must concur with the suggestion for the item(s) to be added to a subsequent meeting agenda.

The meeting agenda will generally follow this format, with changes to the format the prerogative of the committee Chair:

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

- A. Attendance
- B. Approval of Minutes
- C. Announcements from Members and City Staff
- D. Acceptance of Agenda

II. Comments from the Public in Attendance

III. The Business of the Evening

IV. Other Business

- A. Future Agenda Items
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Other Topics

1.d. Public Hearings

Committees may schedule public hearings to receive testimony on policy issues approved by the City Council as part of the committee's annual work plan or referred to the committee by the City Council after work plan approval. No committee public hearings may be scheduled on Tuesday evenings when the City Council is in session.

1.e. Minutes

Meeting minutes should be kept indicating the committee action or recommendation, indicating the individual votes on the agenda item.

ARTICLE 2. COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

2.a. Membership

Membership on the committee shall be governed by the committee's enabling ordinance. The committee shall immediately report any vacancies to the Chair of the City Council's General Government Committee, with a copy to the City Manager or City Manager's office designate.

2.b. Attendance

Members are expected to attend committee meetings and to fully participate in and contribute to the work of the committee. If a member is absent for three consecutive meetings or 35% of meetings within a calendar year, whether excused or unexcused, the Committee Chair shall notify and discuss the situation with the Chair of the City Council's General Government Committee. The City Council may choose to revoke the committee member's appointment.

2.c. Election of Officers (Excluding the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee)

Except for the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, officers of the committee shall consist of a Chair and Vice Chair or Co-Chairs selected from members of the committee by consensus or by a majority vote if consensus cannot be reached. The officers shall be selected at the committee's regular meeting in November or December. The officers shall serve for a one-year term of office beginning in January.

2.d. Duties of the Chair and Vice Chair, or Co-Chairs

The Chair or Co-Chairs shall preside over the meetings and will exercise all powers usually incident to the office, including coordination of meeting agendas with the City's designated staff. The Chair, or consensus of the committee, may create standing or temporary committees to examine, investigate, and inquire into subjects of interest to the committee. The Chair retains full rights and responsibilities to participate in deliberations and votes of the committee.

The Vice Chair shall, in the absence of the Chair, perform all duties of the Chair at the meeting. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair or both Co-Chairs, members present may select a temporary Chair to preside at the meeting.

2.e. Subcommittees

Subcommittees may be formed by consensus or majority vote of the committee to better conduct business on the committee's work plan. Members of a subcommittee serve at the pleasure of the committee and are subject to the same conditions as Council-appointed committee members. Any standing or temporary committees shall be chaired by a member of the committee. Temporary or standing committees of the committee may have ad hoc members, provided the names of the ad hoc members are reported to the full committee for their review and approval prior to appointment. The Chair of the City Council's General Government Committee shall be notified when ad hoc members who are not a current member of the committee are appointed to a subcommittee.

ARTICLE 3. COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

3.a. Quorum

A simple majority of the committee members is required to be present at a meeting in order for the committee to conduct business and reach a decision. Meetings with less than a simple majority may be conducted; however, no official actions may be taken. If action is taken by a vote of the committee, it shall consist of a simple majority of the quorum (members present).

3.b. Robert's Rules of Order

The committee process for taking action will generally be guided by the latest revised version of Robert's Rules of Order. However, a meeting need not become unduly cumbersome due to strict adherence to Robert's Rules.

3.c. Testimony at Public Hearings

Testimony at Public Hearings shall be conducted in a manner similar to the Olympia City Council. Individuals wishing to testify at a public hearing shall register in advance of the start of the meeting on a form provided by the committee. Testimony shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes per speaker or to a lesser duration with simple majority consent of the committee members present at the meeting. Speakers may not cede all or a part of their time to another speaker. The Chair or Co-Chair has the discretion to determine the overall length of time for the public hearing and the order in which speakers shall testify, to ask speakers to confine their comments to the Public Hearing topic, and to take other actions to conduct the Public Hearing in a fair manner and within a reasonable length of time. If the overall length of time for the public hearing appears to the Chair to be insufficient for all present to provide oral testimony, the Chair should announce before adjourning the meeting the alternative forms in which testimony will be accepted by the committee from those present and any deadline for testimony submittal. In quasi-judicial proceedings, the chairs of the Planning Commission and Heritage Commission may deviate from these rules so that there may be a fair hearing in light of the specifics of the proposal.

3.d. Testimony at Public Communication during Committee Meetings

Testimony at Public Communication shall be conducted in a manner similar to the Olympia City Council. Testimony will not be accepted on items for which the committee has held a public hearing in the previous forty-five (45) days or for which the committee has scheduled a public hearing in the upcoming forty-five (45) days. The Chair or Co-Chair has the discretion to determine the overall length of time for Public Communication and the order in which speakers shall testify, to ask speakers to confine their comments to committee business, and to take other actions to allow the public to communicate with the committee in a fair manner and within a reasonable length of time.

3.e. Work Plan and Reports

The committee shall provide an annual work plan within guidelines and in a format established by the City Council's General Government Committee and a copy of any other appropriate reports to the City Council for review and approval. The Committee Chair shall notify the Chair

of the City Council's General Government Committee if the committee anticipates a change in timing or substance of an approved work plan item.

3.f. Recommendations

The committee may make recommendations to the City Council, the City Manager's office, City staff, and other City committees as may be appropriate, with the City Council copied on all written communication. The Chair shall determine whether the committee's recommendation and opinion is to be stated solely within the body of the staff transmittal memorandum to City Council or as a separate memorandum approved by the Chair. The memorandum shall indicate the committee vote on the item. The Chair shall determine who will present the committee's recommendation to the City Council in public meeting.

3.g. Majority and Minority Opinions

A minority report may accompany any voted decision. Majority and minority opinions will be stated in the committee's minutes. When a recommendation from the committee is forwarded to the City Council, the vote tally and majority and minority opinions will be disclosed.

3.h. Act as a Body

The committee shall act as a body. A member, when representing the committee, may speak or act for the committee in accordance with action previously taken by the committee. The Chair, or Chair's designee, shall serve as official spokesperson of the committee.

3.i. City Administrative Guidelines

The City of Olympia Administrative Guidelines for 1) Compliance with State and Federal Discrimination Laws, including Olympia Administrative Policy #3, 2) Standards of Conduct (#20), 3) Records Management and Disclosure (#19 and 27), and the 4) Technology Policy (#26) apply to committee members in their capacity as a City of Olympia volunteer.

3.j. Rules of Procedure and Ordinance Review

The committee shall annually review its ordinance and Rules of Procedure. The committee Chair shall report any recommendations to the Chair of the City Council's General Government Committee.

3.k. E-mail.

If a City email address is provided, advisory committee members shall use such email address for the conduct of their advisory committee business.

E.I. Open Government Training

Consistent with the Open Government Training Act, all committee members must complete basic training in public records and the Open Public Meetings Act by October 1, 2014, or within 90 days of being appointed or re-appointed to a committee.

ARTICLE 4. STAFF

City staff assigned by the City Manager or designee shall provide technical support to the committee. Staff will provide information, data, trends analysis, etc., necessary for the committee to make decisions. Staff may provide alternatives and professional recommendations to the committee on various matters before the committee. Staff will prepare minutes of each meeting. Staff will also provide, as necessary, tours of the community's infrastructures and prepare information for the committee's review.

APPENDIX A. ARTS COMMISSION.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. The Olympia Arts Commission requires its commissioners to be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people. Commission decisions and policy will be made in the proper channels of the commission structure and the Commission will act as a whole. Commission appointments will not be used for personal gain.
2. The members and staff of the Commission who are a board or staff member of any organization being considered will absent themselves from discussion of or voting on any proposals which would affect directly or are presented for review by that organization.
3. The Commission may accept invitations for members to attend functions as the guest of the sponsoring organization. Tickets will be distributed according to Commission policy. Invitations will be used to introduce the Commission to the activities of the organization. Complimentary tickets received by an individual or staff must be reported to the Commission.
4. Commission members are not eligible to apply for juried art projects and competitions or other juried events sponsored by the Arts Commission or City of Olympia. Commissioners are not eligible to be financially compensated in any project developed during their term of office for one year after their term of office ends.