

DEFINITIONS/DESCRIPTIONS EXHIBIT

City Council Committees

The purpose of City Council Committees is to provide a forum for more detailed reporting and discussion on specific areas of City responsibility than can be accomplished at a regular City Council meeting due to time constraints. City Council Committees can help set policy direction, establish program and budget priorities, and provide oversight of City programs and initiatives, by bringing the results of their research back to the entire Council for review and possible action. The City Council as a whole has the ultimate authority for adopting policies, establishing priorities, and providing oversight.

Only City Council members serve as voting members on City Council Committees, with membership limited to two members so as not to establish a quorum and violate the Brown Act. As noted above, recommendations from City Council Committees must be reviewed and considered by the full City Council for final action, if any, and Committees are not able to direct staff as only a majority of the City Council (through the City Manager) has this authority. Below is a list of the current City Council Committees.

1. Budget and Governance – meets quarterly
2. Community Services – meets monthly
3. Public Safety – meets monthly
4. Public Works – meets monthly
5. Sustainability – meets every two months
6. Transportation – meets monthly

Planning Commission/Housing Advisory and Appeals Board

State law requires every city and county to have a “planning agency” that reviews and has some regulatory powers regarding local land use. In Emeryville, the Planning Commission serves this function. Therefore, the Planning Commission has a scope of work that is distinctly different from the City’s other community advisory bodies and has its own set of by-laws. The Housing Advisory and Appeals Board consists solely of Planning Commissioners. Staff is not making any recommendations regarding the Planning Commission/Housing Advisory Appeals Board at this time although Commissioner feedback is included in the notes and analysis.

Community Advisory Committees (Standing and Ad Hoc)

Community Advisory Committees provide a way for community members to share their opinions and perspectives, study issues, develop policy and/or program recommendations, and provide feedback regarding City initiatives in a focused, small group structure. Community Advisory Committees are a valued component of public participation in government and the Emeryville is fortunate to have a large number of civic minded people who live and/or work in Emeryville and are willing to serve.

Community Advisory Committees may provide input and feedback to staff regarding City initiatives and/or projects, but may not direct staff's work. The primary role of these committees is to make recommendations to the City Council for consideration and possible action. The City has two types of community advisory bodies – Standing and Ad Hoc.

Standing Committees

Standing Committees are “permanent” (on-going) committees designed for community input on issues that are relatively broad in scope. The City's standing community advisory committees have appointed community members as voting members.

Currently, the City has the following standing community advisory committees:

1. Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee – meets monthly
2. Budget Advisory Committee – meets quarterly
3. Commission on Aging – meets monthly
4. Economic Development Advisory Committee – meets every two months
5. Housing Advisory and Appeals Board (consists solely of Planning Commissioners)
6. Housing Committee – meets monthly
7. Parks and Recreation Committee – meets every two months
8. Planning Commission – meets monthly
9. Public Art Committee– meets monthly

Ad Hoc Committees

Ad hoc committees or task forces are temporary committees designed for community input on a focused issue within a limited timeframe. Currently, the City does not have any ad hoc committees. Past ad hoc committees or task forces included the Street Vendor Task Force, Emery Go-Round Task Force, Fire Services Task Force, Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee, and General Plan and Zoning Update Steering Committee.