

COMMITTEE FEEDBACK
MARCH 2017

CITY
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COMMITTEES

	Are day of the week, time & location of meetings convenient? If not, what would you change?	Current meeting frequency appropriate for your Committee? If not, what changes would you recommend?	Recommend any changes to the type of work/subject matter your Committee sees? What would you like to be more involved in?	What do you think is the most important role your Committee plays in the City today?	Public attendance at your committee meetings?	Any additional feedback for the Council?
Budget & Governance	Move to 2 nd Thursdays in February, May, October & December	Okay as is	Interested in improving flow of information, playing more of a role in the Committee's governance functions and working on Public Information strategies?	-	Light public attendance – probably due to complex subject matter.	-
Community Services	Move location to ECCL, Building B Conference Room	Okay as is	Satisfied with current scope of work	Able to provide a contact point to the Council for parents and teachers; able to provide insight into issues in the neighborhood of the Senior Center	-	All going well - appreciate the support of staff

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Public Safety	Okay as is	Okay as is	2x/year, invite presentations from Cal-OES, American Red Cross, FEMA, other relief agencies on disaster preparation, education & training on how to achieve public awareness about emergency planning.	1. Providing a clearing house for information between Council and the public. 2. Since public safety is the City's biggest cost, assure budget, public safety and development integration.	Light public attendance	Committee has started looking at public safety data in new ways and is interested in finding new ways to report out.
Public Works	Change start time to 10:0 a.m., all else the same	Okay as is	Okay as is – satisfied with work they undertake	Vetting ideas thoroughly before they go before the full Council	Light attendance, unless there is a big issue.	none

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Bicycle/ Pedestrian Advisory Committee	Current meeting schedule okay (1st Mondays, off Aug/Dec)	Okay as is	Might like to consider a new “up to” number if there is interest, need to determine how/if that affects quorum (ex officio?)	Currently have 2 business positions and 5 at large. Business reps were not aware they were designated as such. Perhaps if two seats were added, they could be designated to represent pedestrian interests.	All terms are now concurrent – support staggering with next appointments, setting some as 2 year and others as 3 year terms – draw lots, express interest or other means (Council decision) to determine who gets what length term	More members with pedestrian perspective – equity with bicycle advocates; also wheelchair access – not from ADA viewpoint but ease of travel.	Ability to guide/steer projects in a way that addresses bike/ped concerns; and provide a forum for the community. Affect change by making recommendations to Council. Provide oversight for planning accommodations, share perspectives and provide feedback on construction projects.	Open to resurrecting Council Member liaison, liked having access to the Council via direct communication; having one member who could perhaps provide a perspective on county-wide issues. Re developing a workplan, didn’t feel it was helpful, that their work depended on projects and events that come up and are not always foreseeable	Usually light unless there is a hot issue	Liked the ideas of going to Council to present annual report, already keep a tracking list of agenda topics for future agendas.

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Budget Advisory Committee	Keep time & location, but meet 2 nd Thursday of Feb, May, Oct & Dec to better align with budget schedule	Okay as is	Okay as is - usually no trouble establishing a quorum	Okay but Committee should assist in recruiting new members; will do its own study of composition and make recommendation to Council re: opening up to more at-large members if unable to fill specific roles.	Yes, stagger terms with next appointments	Committee's role is as a liaison between the public & Council; would like to develop a simplified budget infographic as a handout for the public - "Budget at a Glance".	Defend the GF, make recommendations on economic trends, foster maintenance of reserves, look for opportunities; monitor efficiency of Finance Dept. Improve transparency & emergency preparedness: anticipate future needs, analyze potential financial impacts of issues such as sea level rise; make sure we can bridge gaps in emergency. For labor, important to know about City's financial health.	Members generally in favor of returning to some form of Council Member liaison - as a conduit for getting information back to Council.	Usually light	None

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Commission on Aging	Okay as is	Okay as is	Okay as is	N/A	Terms are already staggered	Satisfied with advisory role, topics involved with, but confused about how items get on the agenda – would like more input.	Providing senior perspective, biggest issue is transportation. Concerned about affect current Administration may have on seniors such as Medicare, social security, etc. Would like to discuss potential local impacts.	Mentioned past practice of having a Council liaison – liked having that resource/conduit to the Council.	Light attendance	Discussed workplan and annual report to Council. Liked the idea of entire group coming to a Council meeting for a presentation.

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Economic Development Advisory Committee	Okay as is	Okay as is – recently changed meeting frequency from quarterly to bi-monthly and that is working well so far.	Okay as is	The composition is good as is, but would like the Roster to reflect the requirement for one representative from a non-profit workforce development organization (Reso 15-128).	Yes, would like terms to be staggered with next appointments in June - method to be determined.	Discussion happening at Committee level about their role – need to arrive at consensus and then develop the work plan. Would like to improve outreach, monitor/track businesses opening and closing as a way to spot trends; develop an inventory of unfilled commercial space – market it to bring in business with knowledge of appropriate spaces available for retail, restaurant, office, etc.	Improving the business climate in the City; providing feedback, assessments and recommendations to Council; conveying Council's goals and priorities to businesses and vice versa; developing residents' work skills, empowering, educating, adding to the work force; improving communication with businesses.	Would like to see the Council liaison role return – felt their input had greater impact when there was a direct line of communication. Is cautiously interested in concept of Annual Report being presented to Council by Committee (Does not want to wait through long agenda).	Light attendance	Appreciates snacks being provided as meeting is during the lunch hour.

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Housing Committee	Okay as is	Okay as is. If there is no business, meeting is cancelled. If an issue comes up before the next scheduled meeting, a special meeting is set.	The committee size works but the EUSD member is often absent. If EUSD unable to provide an active participant member, that seat could be converted to an at large community member spot.	The Housing Committee has not had vacancy issues, however, Community Member seats are not required to be residents of the city. Would favor changing the requirements so that the "at large" appointees must be city residents who would have more of a vested interest in the community.	Historically, the terms were three years, and were recently changed to two years a few years ago. Would prefer going back to 3-year terms, staggered so that not everybody expired at once. I would not favor "some" at three years and "some" at two years. Terms should be the same length for ALL members.	Cover issues related to Housing quite well, and feel our mix of issues coming before the committee is good.	Advocating for Family-friendly housing, as well as low and moderate income housing.	Action items on most agendas that communicate, by vote of the committee, our consensus on important issues related to housing in Emeryville. The results of these action items are then communicated to the Council.	Light attendance, except when there is a hot topic on the agenda	The committee works well, has dedicated members, and does a good job with important issues.

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Parks and Recreation Committee	Would like to move start time from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. to make it easier for working members to get there on time.	Would like to schedule a regular meeting for every month, instead of every other month, but hold no meeting in the months of August and December. With the current frequency, too long between meetings results in a loss of continuity and difficulty getting a quorum.	Would like to change the committee size from 9 to 7, making the quorum 4.	Current composition is challenging. Originally established with all the different designations to represent various aspects of the community, but makes it very difficult to recruit for members. As an example, the youth representative spot has never been filled. All favored simplifying. Prefer that all seats be at large.	Yes, stagger starting with June 2017 appointments, with method to be decided.	Not interested in creating a work plan – don't see the value. Would prefer to be agile in responding to issues that bubble up in community and that staff and Council need input on. Would prefer to establish general goals and principles and report back to Council.	Ability to hear from the community on important issues and pass the information along to the Council and vice versa. Provide focus on particular issues and drill down, provide feedback on what they're hearing. Demonstrate the City's interest in how the parks are serving the community and have had an impact on prioritizing projects and making recommendations to Council.	Satisfied with current level of interaction with Council – feel heard and valued. Not interested in returning to Council liaison model.	Light attendance	None

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Planning Commission	Okay as is	Okay as is	No	Composition established by EMC Section 2-3.304. For additional seats allowed to be business owners or employees, make sure no special interests are represented, and to make an effort to provide geographical distribution of Commissioners' residences, when possible.	Terms are already staggered	N/A	Preserving a level playing field for all and working to enhance the health, welfare and visual appeal of the community. Also, allows opportunity for applicants to explain their projects and get guidance about how to adhere to General Plan.	Contact w/Council fairly limited; would like to see an annual joint tour of either projects or the City's problem areas with Council & Commissioners, or possibly a retreat or annual meeting to discuss General Plan. Need more proactive engagement before things take place, rather than a report after completion.	Light, unless big issue on agenda	Make sure attendance requirements are monitored and enforced.
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Public Art Committee	Okay as is, but would like to hold October meeting on the first Thursday of October (instead of the 2 nd).	Okay as is	Like the flexibility of being able to bring on up to 4 non-members to form subcommittees to focus on an RFP, for example. Short, focused work. Possible model for others?	-	All terms expire at once – need to stagger expirations to offset.	Committee doing well, very informed and involved, satisfied with subject matter. Would like to be involved early in issues where they could assist with outreach, such as Community Grants.	-	Would like to see Council liaison role come back – Council gets enthused when they participate. Not the chair, not a voting member, not there to push an agenda, but instead to provide a conduit back to the Council for Committee’s ideas and goals and as a resource.	Light attendance	Very satisfied with the support received from their staff liaison, Amber Evans.