

Boards and Commissions

Boards and Commissions are an essential part of our democratic process. Volunteers offer City government a diversity of talents, an important perspective, and a high energy level for dealing with community concerns. Boards and Commissions are established to research and review City programs, projects, and issues and to advise and recommend action to City Council. Boards and Commissions give citizens a voice on issues early in the decision cycle, provide greater community participation in local government, and facilitate quality decisions by the City Council. Elected officials are ultimately the ones responsible to the community.

Commission members are appointed, and their areas of responsibility can be both broad and narrow in focus. For instance, the Planning Commission is expected to make recommendations on the city's overall development, including zoning and long-term planning, and approve specific development projects. Similarly, the Parks and Recreation Commission is expected to make recommendations on the overall development of City Parks and on purchasing specific playground equipment.

Arts Commission

Advises the Government Affairs Committee of Council

Members foster and promote the visual and performing arts within our City. It advises the Administration and the City Council on the prudent and productive use of financial resources for the purposes within its charge. Programs and events include the Photo Contest, Live at the Uni Concert Series, July 3 Patriotic Concert, a public art project, and a kids' art program.

Beautification and Tree Commission

Advises the Parks and Recreation Committee of Council

The Beautification and Tree Commission annually develops and updates a plan to care for trees, shrubs, and flowers in all public areas. It advises the Administration and the City Council on the prudent and productive use of financial resources for the purposes within its charge. Commission activities include Beautification Week flower planting, Garden Tour, Arbor Day Celebrations, Tree City USA recognition, Plant Swaps, Downtown Holiday Decorating and hanging basket planting, and tree workshops.

Board of Tax Review

Stand-alone board that does not advise a committee of council

Members review all rules and regulations and amendments or changes which are adopted by the Tax Commissioner under the authority conferred by the Ordinance. The Board shall hear and take action on appeals from any ruling or decision of the Tax Commissioner.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Advises the Planning, Zoning, and Landmarks Committee of Council

The Board of Zoning Appeals conducts public hearings and meetings to review and decide action on variance requests and other appeals related to the provisions and administration of the City's Zoning Code.

Civil Service Commission

Advises the Law and Safety Committee of Council

The Civil Service Commission oversees appointments and promotions, hears suspension, demotion or removal appeals as appropriate, and oversees examination processes to create eligible lists of candidates for the following classified positions:

- Firefighter/paramedic (full-time)
- Fire lieutenant
- Patrol officer
- Police sergeant

Diversity and Inclusion Commission

Advises the Government Affairs Committee of Council

City Council and administration believe the infusion of diverse cultures, faiths, and customs enriches social and civic life and is a positive development for the community. As a municipal government, there is a tremendous benefit in nurturing and promoting this diversity in the community, and it warrants a higher priority on the City agenda. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was created in January 2018 and was approved to be a formal City commission on December 1, 2021.

Environmental Advisory Commission

Advises the Public Works Committee of Council

Members provide education and information to the public and are a resource for the City on yard waste, recycling, storm water management, water resources management, air pollution control, noise pollution control, and soil and landscape protection and protection of flora and fauna. Commission members assist with recycling and educational programs.

Landmarks Commission

Advises the Planning, Zoning, and Landmarks Committee of Council

The Landmarks Commission makes recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council on matters of legislation and development that may affect the city's landmarks or heritage and working for the continuing education of the City's residents and businesses to foster greater awareness of the City's heritage.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Advises the Parks and Recreation Committee of Council

The Parks and Recreation Commission seeks to improve the quality of life of Montgomery citizens by promoting an integrated park and recreation program. The Commission provides advice and assistance to the Administration regarding the development and operation of the parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities and programs for the City. Members focus on current safety standards for the City's parks by conducting park "walk-throughs," helping to assess the recreational needs of residents and assisting with various special events.

Planning Commission

Advises the Planning, Zoning, and Landmarks Committee of Council

Members hold public hearings and make recommendations to the City Council concerning the City's zoning ordinances and regulations and cooperate with other governmental or private planning agencies to secure the maximum benefits to the City.

Sister Cities Commission

Advises the Government Affairs Committee of Council

The commission works towards "bringing the world together one friendship at a time." The commission is responsible for overseeing activities associated with the City's Sister City, Neuilly-Plaisance, France, as well as various annual activities, including the Bastille Day Celebration.