



BOARDS & COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE

January 9, 2024 at 1 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

[City of Asheville's YouTube Channel](#)

[Agenda disponible en español](#)

The Boards and Commissions Committee was established to review citizens' applications to boards and commissions and recommend appointments to City Council. The Committee also provides guidance on establishing new boards and commissions and develops process timelines for appointments.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Vice-Mayor Sandra Kilgore (Chair); Councilmember Kim Roney; Councilmember Antanette Mosley

AGENDA

[En Espanol](#)

CALL TO ORDER

A. APPROVAL OF THE [NOVEMBER 14, 2023 MINUTES](#)

B. PUBLIC COMMENT (live comments, up to a half hour)

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Appointments - [VACANCIES](#); [APPLICATIONS](#)

- **Resource:** Jerri Goldberg, Assistant City Clerk
- **Description:** Review of Board and Commission applications for recommendation to City Council.
- **Action:** Vote on recommendations for full council board appointments for the following committees:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE -(3 year term) - One vacancy

- Chair recommends appointment of Alvarez Abernathy

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD - (3 year term) - One vacancy

- Robin Cape was interviewed and appointed to serve at the pleasure of Council as Chair in October 2022 for which she is still serving. Her term expired November 13, 2023. We did not reappoint her. Would the Committee like to reappoint or open up the application process?

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - (3 year term) - Four vacancies - two regular seats and two alternate seats

- Board chair and staff liaison recommend reappointment of Suzanne Godsey (regular seat), and appointments of John Michael Kledis (regular seat -was alternate), Annette Wise (alternate), and Jillian Ballard (alternate).
- We will revise our ordinance to align with state law so we will only be looking to appoint 2 regular seats and 2 alternate seats.
- The ordinance revision will be coming to the Boards & Commissions Committee in the near future.

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE - (2 year term) - Three vacancies - One Downtown seat and two at-large seats.

- No applications were received from any Downtown Commission members.
- Chair and staff liaison recommend moving Ricardo Seijo from at-large seat to Downtown seat (Ricardo is interested in that).
- Chair and staff liaison then recommend the reappointment of Bryan Moffitt (Downtown Commission seat), and Michael McDonough (at-large), and the appointment of Steven Lee Johnson to the at-large seat vacated by Ricardo Seijo, if that move is approved.

DOWNTOWN COMMISSION - (3 year term) - Three vacancies

- Chair and staff liaison recommend the reappointment of Nur Edwards (moved outside City limits) and the appointments of Stu Helms and Ben Gladstone.
- As an alternate option, they recommend Billy Cooney.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION - (2 year term) - One vacancy

- Chair recommends appointment of Andy Bobowski

METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT - (3 year term) - One vacancy - No term limits for this board

- Gwen Wisler is eligible and interested in reappointment.
- Councilwoman Mosley, Councilwoman Smith and Vice Mayor Kilgore are interested in the appointment.
- No other applications were received.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE - (3 year term) - One vacancy

- No applications received for 28801 rep

NOISE ADVISORY BOARD - (3 year term) - One vacancy

- No applications received for Restaurant Industry rep.

PUBLIC ART and CULTURAL COMMISSION - (3 year term) - Two vacancies

- Chair and staff liaison recommend the appointments of Alexandria Monique Ravenel and Rachel Hanson

COMMUNITY REPARATIONS COMMISSION - (undefined term) - One vacancy

- Staff recommends the appointment of the Council appointed alternate member, Osondu McPeters
- Staff does not recommend replacing the alternate member as it is too far into the reparations process

RIVERFRONT COMMISSION - (3 year term) - One vacancy

- Commission chair and staff liaison recommend postponing appointment. Since ordinance was revised with different membership categories, Commission would prefer the new appointing entities (Black Mountain and Explore Asheville) appoint their members first.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - (3 year term) - Two vacancies

- Staff and Board recommend the reappointments of Tim Ormond and Steve Baron

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION - (3 year term) - Three vacancies

- Chair and vice-chair recommend the reappointment of Karen MacNeil and the appointments of Scott Alba and Patricia Grace

2. Introduction of New Application Form

- **Resource:** Sarah Gross, Deputy City Clerk and Jerri Goldberg, Assistant City Clerk
- **Description:** Review of new board and commission application form.
- **Action:** No action; feedback requested.
- **Materials:** [Presentation](#)

3. Demographics Report

- **Resource:** Sarah Gross, Deputy City Clerk and Jerri Goldberg, Assistant City Clerk
- **Description:** Annual review of the Boards and Commission's demographic report for membership and applications.
- **Action:** No action; update only.
- **Materials:** [2023 Final Report](#)

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

E. INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES

- [2023 Committee Year in Review](#)
- Annual reports - due 1/19/24 - will be posted on website by 1/31/24.
- Transit passes
- The Realignment Working Group presentation to Council is scheduled for January 23
- Cancel the February 13 meeting - no agenda items

F. PUBLIC COMMENT (live comments, up to a half hour)

ADJOURN

Please visit the [Committee's webpage](#) for more information on the Boards and Commissions Committee.

Future Agenda Items *(note: for planning purposes only and subject to changes)*

- Proposed amendments to the Civic Center Commission Ordinance
- Accommodations for Board and Commission members
- Report and Issue Form for Public Meetings - Code with Asheville

VERBATIM RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM DOWNTOWN COMMISSION CHAIR:

Stu Helms. In losing Andrew, we lose a lot in terms of a downtown resident, familiar with our wage earners, connected to the sidewalks. Stu checks some of those boxes and is familiar with the restaurants and restaurant staff.

Ben Gladstone. We have a couple of planner/landscape architect applications, and Ben's strikes me as the best. He doesn't bring the same experience, connections, design, etc. of SLJ, but who does? Ben brings a solid sustainability portfolio to the DTC.

Alternate: Billy Cooney - downtown resident, urban planner

FROM UFC CHAIR:

Karen MacNeil - Last year, Karen was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Urban Forestry Commission. She has a proven body of work while on the commission, including her current roles as chair of the Appropriate Species List Working Group and as co-chair of the Enforcement Working Group. We recommend her re-appointment to a full three-year term.

Scott Alba - Scott is an ISA Certified Arborist, currently a Board-Certified Master Arborist, and owner/consultant of Black Mountain Arborists. He has a stated experience in forest ecology, urban ecology, and urban forest management.

Patricia Grace - A resident of South Asheville and now retired, Patricia has expertise in horticulture, landscape design and maintenance, and sustainability. She received a BA from the University of South Florida (Sociology), a BS from Florida A&M, University (Landscape Design and Management), a Masters Degree from the University of Florida (Agricultural and Extension Education and Communications) and a PhD from Virginia Tech (Agricultural and Extension Education).