



City Council Policy: CP001 - City Committees

Effective Date: April 5, 2021

Amends: February 1, 2021

Approved By: Governing Body

I. PURPOSE

To establish public committees which will allow citizen involvement and provide recommendations to the Governing Body.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

- a. Except as otherwise provided herein, the Mayor, with the consent of the City Council, will be responsible for appointing members to serve on the committees established by this policy.
- b. The Mayor will appoint a City Council Member to serve as Committee Chair and a City Council Member to serve as Vice-Chair for the Parks and Recreation Committee, Environmental Committee, Prairie Village Arts Council, Insurance Committee, Finance Committee, and Diversity Committee. Both Council Members will be voting members.
- c. The Mayor will appoint a City Council Member to serve as a voting member of the Pension Board of Trustees without the consent of the City Council, and will appoint one additional voting member to the Pension Board of Trustees, with the consent of the City Council.
- d. The Mayor will appoint a City Council Member to serve as a voting member of the Tree Board without the consent of the City Council.
- e. The Mayor will appoint a City Council Member as a nonvoting "Council Liaison" to the VillageFest Committee and JazzFest Committee.
- f. The Mayor will appoint a City Council Member as a "Council Liaison" nonmember observer to the Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals.
- g. Vacancies will be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council, where applicable.
- h. Each Council Member, Committee Chair, and Council Liaison (except Council Liaison to the Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals) will set direction, attend meetings, communicate the Governing Body's direction, priorities, and policies, prepare committee budget, in consultation with City staff, manage city resource requests, including the budget and staff time, and report back any necessary information and recommendations to and from the City Council.
- i. City staff will be responsible for publicizing meeting notices, providing budget and policy oversight, and assisting with committee objectives, as needed. They will attend meetings at their discretion. Committees will normally be responsible for taking their own minutes and submitting them to the Staff Liaison, once approved by the Committee.
- j. Committee members will have responsibility for a majority of administrative tasks and cannot delegate to City staff without prior approval from the Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, or City Administration.

- k. All committee meetings, including subcommittee meetings and special meetings, are considered open meetings if a quorum is present, as defined by Kansas Open Meetings Act.
- l. Committee meetings will be held on public property unless permission is granted from the Mayor and Committee Chair. The Committee Chair and/or Vice-Chair must be present at the business meetings.

III. APPOINTMENT PROCESS

- a. The following process is outlined as a guide for committee appointments. Minor adjustments may be made by the Mayor and City Administrator.
- b. Advertise opportunities in October, November, and December in the Village Voice, City website, news release, etc.
- c. Applications are due by January 1; online applications preferred. All materials will be sent to the City Council once the application period has closed.
- d. Committee Chair Council Liaison and City staff representative discuss incumbents, attendance and contributions to the committee along with applications and vacancies, and may interview candidates. The Committee Chair and Council Liaison for each committee, except the Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals, will recommend appointments to the Mayor.
- e. For Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals, the selection committee will consist of the Mayor, Planning Commission Council Liaison, Deputy City Administrator, Planning Consultant, and Council President. The selection committee will recommend appointments and reappointments to the Mayor.
- f. Mayor will make the final determination of recommended appointees for all committees.
- g. Recommended appointments will be included in the agenda packet prior to the Council meetings.
- h. Mayoral appointment of Council members to serve on committees, as directed by this policy, will typically become effective in January.
- i. Applicants who are not selected or approved will be notified by City administration.
- j. Appointments will typically be presented and voted on at a City Council meeting in February.
- k. In the event of vacancies after the regular annual appointments, the applicants who submitted applications during the prior application process will be first considered, and vacant positions will be re-advertised, if needed.
- l. All appointed Committee Members and non-appointed Volunteers must sign a liability/photo waiver and a Code of Conduct acknowledgement prior to serving on a Committee or volunteering for the City.

IV. REMOVAL PROCESS

The following process is outlined as a guide for the removal of a committee member. This does not apply to the members of the Planning Commission, whose removal is governed by Ord. 1901; PVMC 16, Article 1 and the adopted bylaws of the Planning Commission. Appointees serve at the pleasure of the Governing Body. A committee member may be removed prior to the expiration of his or her term by the recommendation of the Council Liaison and City Administrator, with

final approval by the Mayor. All committee members are expected to attend meetings and are subject to the code of conduct as outlined in this policy. This removal process applies to appointed committee members and non-appointed committee volunteers.

V. **COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

- a. Length of Terms - All committee terms will be approximately two years depending on the appointment schedule set forth above, except for Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission, and Tree Board, who, by code, serve for three years, and Committee Chairs, Council Liaisons, and youth representatives, who serve for an approximate one-year term. All committee members and youth representatives will serve without compensation.
- b. Attendance - All committee members must attend 75% of meetings held in a calendar year. A member who does not meet attendance requirements may be subject to removal prior to the end of the appointed term. Members who are unable to attend a meeting must notify the Committee Chair or Staff Liaison in advance to ensure a quorum will be present.
- c. City Operation Committees include the Insurance Committee, Pension Board/Employee Retirement Committee, Finance Committee, Tree Board, Parks and Recreation Committee, and the Civil Service Commission.
- d. Event Committees include the JazzFest Committee and the VillageFest Committee, which are responsible for specific city-sponsored events.
- e. Lifestyle Committees include the Environmental Committee, Arts Council, and the Diversity Committee.
- f. Statutory Committees include the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Board of Code Appeals as required by Kansas Statutes.
- g. Committee Resources - City Council reviews and approves the committee budget each year. No committee is allowed to lend or transfer given funds to another committee or another organization without staff approval except The Prairie Village Foundation. The committee budget is for specific items or events, which are the responsibility of that committee. If additional funds are needed, committee representatives must make a request to the City Council. No committee may use its funds to contribute funding support to another organization outside of required membership dues without specific City Council approval.
- h. If a committee desires additional staff time for an event, initiative, or program, that request will be communicated to the City Administrator through the Committee Chair or Council Liaison. Any significant new program or proposal that requires staff time or additional funding will need to come before the City Council to obtain City Council approval before the committee may proceed.
- i. Special meetings may be called by the Committee Chair, with approval of the Mayor, along with required public notification.
- j. A quorum for each committee is a majority of the then sitting, voting members of each committee.
- k. Notice of all meetings must be posted on the City's website.

VI. CODE OF CONDUCT

Committee members are subject to the following ethical standards of conduct, which will be reviewed annually with committee members following new committee appointments.

- a. Members are bound to observe the highest standards of professionalism and to discharge faithfully the duties of their committee, regardless of personal consideration, recognizing that public interest must be their primary concern.
- b. The conduct in official affairs must be beyond reproach. Members are expected to promote positive interactions with fellow committee members, City staff, and the community. A member's actions or statements should not discredit, embarrass, or reflect poorly on the City.
- c. No committee member shall engage in any business or transaction or shall have a financial or other personal interest which is incompatible with the proper discharge of duties.
- d. Members are encouraged to vote in any and all elections for which they are eligible; however, committees and members thereof should not use such committees or their individual memberships thereof to raise money, influence elections, or otherwise act as organized political organizations in their capacities as committees or committee members.
- e. As volunteers, members do not have enforcement authority and shall not get involved in enforcement actions that would otherwise be handled by a City department.
- f. Committees and members thereof shall not set up accounts, financial or otherwise, without prior committee or City approval and without coordination with City staff.

I. POLICY

There are established public committees with the following requirements for membership, meetings and duties:

1. Insurance Committee

- a. The Insurance Committee will consist of a voting Chair and Vice-Chair, each a City Council Member appointed by the Mayor without the consent of the City Council. The Mayor, with the consent of the City Council, appoints three other voting members who have an insurance background.
- b. The Insurance Committee will meet during the day as needed and adjourn no later than 6:00 p.m.
- c. The Insurance Committee will monitor and discuss insurance issues relating to the City and recommend insurance bid award, when applicable.

2. Pension Board of Trustees/Employee Retirement Board

- a. The Pension Board of Trustees/Employee Retirement Board will consist of three voting members. One member will be a council member who is appointed by the Mayor, without the consent of the City Council. One member will be appointed by the Mayor, with the consent of the City Council. One voting member will be designated by the Police Department employees, with a term of service until the appointment of successor.

- b. The Pension Board of Trustees/Employee Retirement Board will meet as needed during the day and adjourn no later than 6:00 p.m.
- c. The Board has the powers and duties as designated in the Prairie Village, Kansas Police Department Revised Retirement Plan.

3. Finance Committee

- a. The Finance Committee will consist of six voting members, including a Chair and Vice-Chair, who are City Council Members, appointed by the Mayor without the consent of the City Council.
- b. The Finance Committee will meet as needed during the day and adjourn no later than 6:00 p.m.
- c. The Finance Committee will counsel and recommend policies and activities to the Governing Body and as directed by the Governing Body, including but not limited to, management of financial resources, financial/investment policies and provide direction and guidance to staff on financial issues.

4. Tree Board

- a. The Tree Board will consist of eight voting members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. A City Council Member will be appointed by the Mayor, without the consent of the City Council, to serve as a voting member. All voting members are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council.
- b. The Tree Board will normally meet at 6:00 p.m. six times per year.
- c. The Tree Board will study, investigate, assess, counsel and recommend to the Governing Body, and as directed by the Governing Body, a policy relating to trees, shrubs and other plantings upon city-owned property; to promote and preserve the beautification of the City; to provide the protection of the public health and safety; and to protect and encourage the preservation of trees, shrubs and plantings. (Ord. 1911, & 2075)

5. Parks and Recreation Committee

- a. The Parks & Recreation Committee will consist of voting members who serve as Chair and Vice-Chair, each a City Council Member appointed by the Mayor without the consent of the City Council. Ten other voting members who include one from each ward, two at-large, a tennis representative, and a swim representative are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. There may be two non-voting youth representatives.
- b. The Parks & Recreation Committee will normally meet at 5:30 p.m. six times per year.
- c. The Park & Recreation Committee will counsel and recommend policies and activities to the Governing Body, and as directed by the Governing Body, including, but not limited to, recreational activities in the parks, intergovernmental agreements pertaining to park and recreation facilities, use of park system facilities, development of park system facilities, short

and long-range plans for city parks, operations and activities related to the park system. (Ord. 1541 & 1875)

6. Police Civil Service Commission

- a. The Police Civil Service Commission will consist of five voting members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. A Chair will be designated by the Mayor, without the consent of the City Council. Members will not hold any other public office of the City.
- b. The Civil Service Commission will meet as needed and adjourn no later than 6:00 p.m.
- c. The Civil Service Commission responsibilities, as established in PVMC 1-807 & 1-808, including, but not limited to, assisting in determining qualifications and fitness of applicants for the position of commissioned police officer, for promotion of officers; and further will serve as an appeals board for commissioned officers. (Ord. 1468 & 1614)

7. JazzFest

- a. The JazzFest Committee is an open committee and the volunteer committee members are not appointed by the Mayor. A City Council Member will be appointed by the Mayor, without the consent of the City Council, to serve as the non-voting Council Liaison. A Chair will be appointed by the Mayor without the consent of the City Council.
- b. The JazzFest Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. as needed.
- c. The JazzFest Committee will coordinate and host the annual JazzFest event.

8. VillageFest

- a. The VillageFest Committee is an open committee and the volunteer committee members are not appointed by the Mayor. A City Council Member will be appointed by the Mayor, without the consent of the City Council, to serve as the non-voting Council Liaison. A Chair will be appointed by the Mayor without the consent of the City Council.
- b. The VillageFest Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. as needed.
- c. The VillageFest Committee will coordinate and host the annual VillageFest event.

9. Prairie Village Arts Council

- a. The Prairie Village Arts Council will consist of a voting Chair and Vice-Chair, each a City Council Member appointed by the Mayor without the consent of the City Council. Twelve additional voting members appointed by the Mayor, with consent of the City Council, will also serve on the Committee. There may be two non-voting youth representatives.
- b. The Prairie Village Arts Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. each month, as needed.
- c. The Prairie Village Arts Council will counsel and implement policies and activities to the Governing Body and as directed by the Governing Body,

including, but not limited to, promotion and development of the arts in Prairie Village and development of cultural activities for the city.

10. Environmental Committee

- a. The Environmental Committee will consist of a voting Chair and Vice-Chair, each a City Council Member appointed by the Mayor without the consent of the City Council. Twelve additional voting members shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the consent of the City Council. There may be two non-voting youth representatives.
- b. The Environmental Committee will normally meet at 5:30 p.m. ten times per year. The committee will not meet in July, and the November and December meetings will be combined.
- c. The Environmental Committee will implement policies and activities as directed by the Governing Body, including, but not limited to, maintaining and enhancing air quality, reducing waste disposal in landfills, increasing awareness of the need to conserve natural resources and generally educating the public on methods to protect the environment.

11. Diversity Committee

- a. The Diversity Committee will consist of a voting Chair and Vice-Chair, each a City Council Member appointed by the Mayor without the consent of the City Council. Nine additional voting members shall be appointed by the Mayor, including a representative from the Planning Commission, with the consent of the City Council. A non-voting representative from the Police Department shall serve on the committee. There may be two non-voting youth representatives.
- b. The Diversity Committee will normally meet at 5:30 p.m. every other month.
- c. The Diversity Committee will implement policies and activities as directed by, and make recommendations to, the Governing Body, including, but not limited to, attracting and retaining diverse residents through housing and development policy, the arts, sustainability, affordability, events, policing, infrastructure, recruiting and hiring, funding, and communication. The mission includes diversity of race, religion, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability and more.

12. Planning Commission/Board of Code & Zoning Appeals

- a. The Planning Commission/Board of Code & Zoning Appeals will consist of seven voting members including a Chair, Vice-Chair and five other voting members all residing in or within three (3) miles of Prairie Village. Preference will be given to Prairie Village residents. All voting members are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected once per year by the Commission, with different leadership elected for the Board of Code & Zoning Appeals. The term of appointment on the committee will be three years. A Council Liaison appointed by the Mayor, without the consent of the City Council, will attend meetings as a nonmember observer.

- b. The Planning Commission will meet on the First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. The Board of Code & Zoning Appeals will meet as needed at 6:30 p.m. on the First Tuesday of the month.
- c. The duties of the Planning Commission are described in PVMC Chapter XVI covering such responsibilities as Comprehensive Plan, subdivision & zoning regulations, approval of plats. (Ord. 1901; PVMC 16, Article 1 and their adopted bylaws). The duties of the Board of Zoning Appeals are described in PVMC 19.54 covering the hearing of requests for variances to the zoning regulations and appeals of an interpretation of the zoning regulations (Ord. 1409; PVMC 19.54).

13. Ad Hoc Committee

- a. The Mayor will appoint a voting Chair and voting members to serve on Ad Hoc Committees, as needed, and without the consent of the City Council. Meetings of the committee will be held as designated by the Mayor, the Governing Body and/or the Chair of the committee. These committees will continue to meet as long as necessary, but will not be considered permanent committees.
- b. The Committee will discuss issues as requested by the Mayor and/or the Governing Body. Ad Hoc Committees will be established by the Mayor to discuss a particular subject and make recommendations related to the subject matter to the Mayor and Council.