



BYLAW TEMPLATE FOR CITY ADVISORY BODIES

[Name of Body] (“Body”)

I. Body created on _____, by

- Portland City Code _____
- Council Resolution _____
- Council Ordinance _____
- Bureau _____; by whom _____
- Other _____

A. Purpose

[Describe why this Body exists. What is its subject matter, objectives, goals, timelines and deadlines? Is there a time limit by which its work is expected to be completed? Is this Body perpetual or temporary?]

B. Sponsor Bureau: _____ (“Bureau”)

C. Bureau liaison/title: _____

II. City Role

The Bureau will provide a staff person to assist with technical support, substantive expertise, logistical assistance, administrative assistance, and advice to the Body. The Bureau will also provide public notice of all meetings, post materials to a webpage, and prepare meeting summaries that outline the issues discussed, the areas in which there is agreement, and any remaining issues on which agreement was not reached.

III. Frequency of Meetings

The Body shall meet at least _____ times each calendar year and as otherwise necessary to conduct its business. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the operating procedures specified herein.

IV. Membership and Term

A. Total membership _____ seats

_____ seats for _____ years; _____ seats for _____ years; _____ seats for _____ years

B. Terms

Staggered All terms begin/end at the same time

C. Term Limits

1. Members may serve any number of terms not to exceed 8 years of total consecutive service. Completion of an unexpired term does not apply toward the eight-year cumulative.

2. Members must reapply to continue services upon the completion of 2 terms, if two terms total less than eight years.

3. At the completion of each term, regardless of term length, incumbents are required to discuss the mutual benefits of continuing on the body with the Commissioner-in-Charge.

4. Members interested in continuing service beyond eight years must sit out for 2 years or 1 term* before applying and potentially returning to a seat on the same advisory body.

D. Quorum¹

50% of seats plus 1

A specific number _____, per the authority of _____[other law]

E. Voting²

Majority of seats per ORS 174.130

Majority of quorum present per the authority of _____[other law]

A quorum shall be necessary of voting members to make decisions that represent the position of the Body and to fulfill any other responsibilities.

¹ Category III advisory boards advising an individual rather than Council are not required to have a quorum to deliberate. These bodies may use alternative means to arrive at recommendations.

² Likewise, for a Category III advisory board a formal vote is not required to make a recommendation.

Members may not have alternates. If a position is vacated during a term, it shall be filled for the unexpired term by an appointee selected by the Elected-in-Charge and subject to Council approval.

V. General Operating Procedures

A. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest [or other connection]

- A public official is required to make an announcement of the nature of a conflict of interest each time the issue giving rise to the conflict of interest is discussed or acted upon.
- The announcement needs to be made on each occasion when the public official is met with the conflict of interest. Each time a public official is met with a conflict of interest the nature must be disclosed.
- For example, an elected member of the City Council would have to make the public announcement one time when met with the conflict of interest, but only one time in each meeting of the City Council. If the matter giving rise to the conflict of interest is raised at another meeting, the disclosure must be made again at that meeting.
- Another example would involve an employee in a city planning department who would have to give a separate written notice before each occasion they encounter a matter that gives rise to a conflict of interest. [ORS 244.120(3)]

B. Meetings will be conducted to foster collaborative decision-making using either:

- Robert's Rules of Order culminating in a majority vote
- Consensus decision making: a creative and dynamic way of reaching agreement between all members of a group. Instead of simply voting for an item and having the majority of the group getting their way, a group using **consensus** is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least can live with.
 - Still requires a quorum
 - Still requires a final vote

VI. Removal of Members

A. All members serve at the discretion of the Elected-in-Charge³ of the Bureau and may be asked to resign or be removed at the Elected-in-Charge's discretion at any time unless authority [code, statute, etc.] exists requiring a different process.

B. Any member who does not give notice that they intend to be absent from a scheduled meeting three times or for more than 50 percent of the meetings in any year (counted from beginning of term) will be removed by the Bureau Director.

³ For Category III advisory boards, members may be asked to resign or be removed by the Bureau Director.

C. Process for removal

- For unexcused absences: Bureau liaison keeps attendance and informs Bureau Director of absences, who in turn informs the member in writing that they have been removed as a member of the Body.
- By Elected-in-Charge⁴: Elected informs the member in writing that they have been removed as a member of the Body.

[Note to staff: Assigned staff should inform Bureau Director if a member has accrued too many absences. No reason need be given to a volunteer removed by the Elected.]

VII. Officers and Subcommittees (optional)

The officers of the Body may consist of a Chairperson (Chair) and a Vice-chairperson (Vice-Chair) appointed by:

- Elected-in-Charge Bureau Director Majority vote of members

The Chair shall be responsible for conducting the meetings of the Body. The Vice-Chair shall act as Chair when the Chair is not available. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be active and voting members. Bureau liaison may serve as Chair in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, but shall not have a vote on any matters.

The Chair will encourage full and safe participation by representatives in all aspects of the process, assist in the process of building consensus, and ensure all participants abide by the Body’s operating procedures. The Chair will also serve as liaison between the members of the Body and the City. In consultation with the Facilitator (if there is one) and Bureau liaison, the Chair will develop meeting agendas, establish subcommittees if needed, and ensure an efficient advisory process.

The Body may divide its members into subcommittees authorized to act on behalf of the full Body for an assigned purpose. Subcommittee membership will be determined by the Chair. Subcommittee meetings are also subject to Oregon Public Meetings Law and must abide by quorum requirements when voting. While subcommittees may engage non-members, only members may vote to approve reports and recommendations to be forwarded to the full Body.

VIII. Facilitator Role (optional)

The City may contract with an independent, neutral third party whose role is to facilitate meetings, help develop recommendations, and produce approved reports. As a neutral collaborative process provider, the Facilitator will not act as an advocate on any issue, for any interest group, or for any member of the Body.

⁴ Id.

Specific facilitators' responsibilities are determined by the needs of the Bureau and advisory board, but may include:

- Ensure a welcoming meeting environment where all members can participate.
- Ensure a safe environment for minority opinions.
- Conduct meetings in a manner to foster collaborative decision-making and consensus building.

IX. Communications

Members agree that transparency is essential to all deliberations. In that regard:

- Members are requested to copy [both] the City staff liaison [and Facilitator] on all communications from/to interest groups (other than a group specifically represented by a member) commenting on the Body's deliberations. These communications will be included in the public record as detailed below and copied to the full Body as appropriate.
- While not precluded from communicating with the media, members agree to generally defer to the Bureau liaison to field and route all media communications related to the Body's processes and recommendations.
- Members agree to not negotiate through the media, or to use the media to undermine the work of the Body.
- Members agree to raise all their concerns, especially those being raised for the first time, at a meeting and not in or through the media.

X. Public Meetings and Records

Meetings of the full body and subcommittee meetings are open to the public and will be conducted under the provisions of Oregon Public Meetings Law (ORS 192.610-690). The Bureau liaison will provide notice to the public regarding the dates, times and locations of all meetings.

All records of the Body, including formal documents, discussion drafts, meeting summaries and exhibits, are public records. Communications among members related to the subject matter of this Body should not be treated as confidential and may be subject to public records requests.

"Communications" refers to all statements and votes made during meetings, memoranda, work projects, records, documents or materials developed to fulfill the charge, including electronic mail correspondence by and among the members. The personal, private notes of individual members taken at public meetings might be considered to be public to the extent they "relate to the conduct of the public's business," (ORS 192.410(4)).

XI. Amendment of Bylaws

The Body may vote to recommend to the Elected-in-Charge⁵ amendment or repeal of these Bylaws. The Bureau may also recommend changes to the Elected-in-Charge. The Elected-in-Charge must sign off on original bylaws and any amendments to the bylaws. Members have no authority to amend bylaws without approval.

Original Bylaws Created by: _____, on _____.
(name/title) (date)

Approved by: _____, on _____.
(Elected/Bureau Director) (date approved)

Amended: _____, on _____.
(name, title) (date amended)

Approved by: _____, on _____.
(Elected/Bureau Director) (date approved)

Amended: _____, on _____.
(name, title) (date amended)

Approved by: _____, on _____.
(Elected/Bureau Director) (date approved)

⁵ In the case of a Category III Body, the Bureau Director or designee may approve the am amendment of the bylaws.