



# Boards and Commissions

April 20, 2009

Council Workshop

# Overview

## 2 TYPES OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. OUTSIDE BOARDS - Appointment of Council Members and/or City staff to various outside Boards
2. INSIDE BOARDS - City of Des Moines Advisory Boards - Council Members make citizen appointments through a rotation process

# OUTSIDE BOARDS

## 23 Identified

Aging Resources of Central Iowa

Art Center Board of Trustees

Blank Park Zoo Foundation

BRAVO Board of Trustees

Civic Center of Greater Des Moines  
Board of Directors

Des Moines Area Regional Transit  
(DART)

Des Moines Community Investment  
Corporation

Greater Des Moines Committee on  
Foreign Relations

Greater Des Moines Convention And  
Visitors Bureau

Greater Des Moines Partnership

Greater Des Moines Public Art  
Foundation

I-235 Steering Committee

Metropolitan Advisory Council (MAC)

Metropolitan Coalition

Metropolitan Planning Organization  
(MPO)

Metro Waste Authority (MWA) Board

Multiple Education Pathways Blueprint  
(MEPB) Leadership Team

Neighborhood Development Corporation  
(NDC)

Neighborhood Finance Corporation

Operation Downtown

Polk County Housing Trust Fund  
(PCHTF)

Riverfront Development Authority

Wastewater Reclamation Authority  
Management Agency

# OUTSIDE BOARDS

## Suggestions

- Annual Mayor and Council review of all board assignments, (place an item on a Council agenda each January)
- Review board requirements/agreements of various entities where rules and requirements may be adjusted (example - MPO where we have 9 Primary and 9 Alternates for a total of 18 representatives)

# INSIDE BOARDS

## 22 IDENTIFIED

- Access Advisory Board
- Airport Board
- Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals
- Citizen Odor Board
- Civil Service Commission
- Des Moines Music Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Housing Appeals Board
- Human Rights Commission
- Library Board of Trustees
- Neighborhood Revitalization Board
- Park and Recreation Board
- Plan and Zoning Commission
- Power Engineers Examining Board
- Public Housing Board
- Sister Cities Commission
- Skywalk Committee
- Traffic Safety Committee
- Urban Design Review Board
- Water Works Board of Trustees
- Youth Advisory Board
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

# INSIDE BOARDS

## Current Process

1. Appointments/vacancies occur year-round
2. City Clerk provides Mayor/Council a list on a quarterly basis. City Clerk maintains applications/database of interested citizens
3. Appointments are placed on City Council agendas.
4. Council receives Board attendance reports in July and January of each year.

# INSIDE BOARDS

## Challenges

- Vacancies go unfilled
- Quorum issues occur
- Term Limits remove members
- Very “specific” member criteria needed for some Board seats
- Other challenges identified by Council?

# INSIDE BOARDS

## Suggestions

1. Encourage more citizens to apply for board appointments.
2. Devote 2 workshops each year to concentrate on Board appointments.
3. Review Quorum requirements (quorum could be calculated on number of “non-vacant” seats).
4. Enforce or Eliminate Term Limits, (or require a full Council exemption to continue beyond stated requirements).
5. Review all ordinances regarding makeup of boards looking toward standardization.

# INSIDE BOARDS

## Suggestions

6. Reduce the number of members on the larger Boards.
7. Reappointments to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term will be automatic with good attendance and recommendation of current Board chairperson, subject to Council action to the contrary.
8. Change term expiration dates on boards so 2 boards' terms expire each month (Council could narrow their focus).
9. Utilize City Clerk and City Manager staffs for support/screening of applicants, with the understanding that the responsibility for appointments will remain with the Council.
10. Make all appointments at one meeting each year.

Questions?