

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Renee Eisenbeisz , Assistant City Manager
DATE: January 5, 2026
SUBJECT: Committee/commission reappointments
ITEM NUMBER: 10.b
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

To reappoint the following individuals to their committees or commissions through January 31, 2029:

- Bikeways and trails committee
 - Briana Murphy
 - Neil Cavanaugh
 - Mark Stange
 - Amar Subramanian
- Economic development commission
 - Doug McCulloch
 - Ritesh Patel
 - Rachel Japuntich
 - Megan Larson
 - Denise Firkus
- Environmental quality committee
 - Jeff Bartlett
 - Jennifer Olson
- Human rights commission
 - Emily Salava Batres
 - Mary Johnson
 - Julie B. Williams
- Parks and recreation commission
 - Kevin Holly
 - Tom Lemke
 - Charlie Oltman
- Planning commission
 - Lee Helgen
- Public safety committee
 - Ethan Peterson
 - Andrew Mills

INTRODUCTION

The city council is being asked to reappoint several individuals to their respective committees or commissions.

In January of each year, the city council reappoints members to citizen advisory committees and commissions. It has been past practice to reappoint members that wish to continue serving on their respective committee or commission except for the planning commission. Planning commission members who have served two full terms must reapply for their position.

If a member resigns or does not wish to be reappointed, the vacancy is advertised.

DISCUSSION

Below is a summary of the committee and commission members up for reappointment. The 2025 attendance records for each committee or commission are also attached. Per the city's attendance policy, committee and commission members should try to attend at least 67% of regular meetings.

Bikeways and trails committee

Briana Murphy, Neil Cavanaugh, Mark Stange, and Amar Subramanian's terms are expiring at the end of January. All have expressed interest in being reappointed.

Economic development commission

Doug McCulloch, Ritesh Patel, Rachel Japuntich, Megan Larson, and Denise Firkus' terms are expiring at the end of January. All have expressed interest in being reappointed.

Environmental quality committee

Paige Ahlborg, Jeff Bartlett, and Jennifer Olson's term are expiring at the end of January. Paige Ahlborg is not seeking reappointment. Jeff Bartlett and Jennifer Olson have expressed interest in being reappointed. The committee reviewed applications earlier and will bring forward a recommendation for appointment in the near future.

Human rights commission

Emily Salava Batres, Mary Johnson, and Julie B. Williams' terms are expiring at the end of January. All have expressed interest in being reappointed. There is one other vacancy from resignations earlier this fall. The commission held interviews at their December 17 meeting and has a recommendation on the agenda for approval.

Parks and recreation commission

Kevin Holly, Tom Lemke, and Charlie Oltman's terms are expiring at the end of January. All have expressed interest in being reappointed.

Planning commission

Barb Yarusso and Lee Helgen's terms are expiring at the end of January. Barb Yarusso is not seeking reappointment. Lee Helgen is seeking reappointment but has not served two full terms and can be reappointed without reapplying. The city council will be interviewing applicants on January 20 to fill Yarusso's seat.

Public safety committee

Bill Siitari, Ethan Peterson, and Andrew Mills' terms are expiring at the end of January. Bill Siitari is not seeking reappointment. Ethan Peterson and Andrew Mills have expressed interest in being reappointed.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the city council reappoint the individuals listed above.

ATTACHMENTS

[2025 attendance](#)