



ORDINANCE NO. 6002

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SECTIONS OF ALBANY MUNICIPAL CODE (AMC) TITLE 2, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, THAT RELATE TO CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUPS; CREATING AMC 2.21, TITLED PARKS, RECREATION, AND TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION, BY COMBINING THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND THE CITY TREE COMMISSION; ADOPTING A CHARTER TITLED PARKS, RECREATION, AND TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION CHARTER AS AN EXHIBIT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE; AND REPEALING AMC CHAPTER 2.20, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, AND AMC CHAPTER 2.23, CITY TREE COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the City Council asked staff to review the purpose of each citizen advisory group (CAG) in order to ensure that the goals and outcomes of these groups meet required state mandates and align with the City's goals; and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the CAGs in detail with the council on March 21, 2022, and suggested combining some of the CAGs in order to optimize the advisory group structure; and

WHEREAS, at the September 28, 2022, Council meeting, staff proposed new charters for the affected CAGs; and

WHEREAS, Title 2.20, Parks and Recreation Commission, and 2.23, City Tree Commission, have been combined to a new Title, 2.21, named Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The Albany Municipal Code (AMC) Title 2, Administration and Personnel, Chapter 2.20, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Chapter 2.23, City Tree Commission, are hereby combined and amended and named Chapter 2.21, Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission, as follows:

2.21.010 Term of office and compensation.

The Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission shall consist of seven members, each having their principal place of residence within the jurisdictional limits of the City of Albany. Each Council member shall have one counterpart, with nominations to be ratified by the Council. The members shall be appointed for a term of three years with the exception of those terms of office newly established under this section, which shall begin January 1, 2023, and will be staggered to provide for the expiration of the terms of office of two of the members each year except for each third year, when the terms of office of three members shall expire. Councilors should seek to recruit members who represent the following areas of knowledge or interest, although they are not required to do so: urban forestry; tree care; recreation; and natural open spaces. Commission members shall serve without compensation. Persons appointed to membership on the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Council and may be removed therefrom without cause by a majority vote of the Council.

2.21.020 Records.

The Commission shall annually select one of its members as chair. Records and proceedings shall remain in the office of the City Clerk as one of the public records of that office.

2.21.030 Advisory capacity.

The Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission would act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and Parks and Recreation Department on matters related to park, trail, and facility improvements, prioritization, and updates to the park master plan. The Commission would also advise on matters involving Albany's urban forest, recommend policies for planting, removal, and care of public trees, and support maintaining Albany's status as a Tree City USA since 1994.

General functions and specific responsibilities of the Commission are as follows:

- (1) General functions of the Commission:

- (a) To promote and build awareness of our recreation services and park system to other boards, community members, and civic groups.
 - (b) To define the objectives of public recreation services;
 - (c) To maintain the highest quality and standards of recreation service
 - (d) To interpret the importance of and need of recreation services to the general public;
 - (e) To keep public officials informed of the status and progress of recreation services;
 - (f) To recommend a sound fiscal plan to achieve recreation goals;
 - (g) To recommend an adequate system of recreation areas and facilities; and
 - (h) To evaluate the services of the recreation system in relation to its objectives.
- (2) Specific responsibilities of the Commission:
- (a) Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council, the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Director;
 - (b) Recommend policies as to recreation service for approval of the City Council;
 - (c) Advise the City Council on problems of development of recreation areas, facilities, programs and improved recreation services;
 - (d) Interpret the policies and functions of the Parks and Recreation Department to the public; and
 - (e) Review the annual budget of the Parks and Recreation Department before presentation to the City Manager and advise the Parks and Recreation Director on the development of long-range capital improvement programs.
 - (f) Develop criteria for the City Forester to apply in making decisions entrusted to his/her discretion;
 - (g) Designate heritage trees on public and private lands within the City as part of the Heritage Tree Program;
 - (h) Promote the planting and proper maintenance of trees through special events including an annual local celebration of Arbor Day;
 - (i) Obtain the annual Tree City USA designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation;
 - (j) Review the discretionary decisions of the City Forester;
 - (k) Consider grant opportunities; and
 - (l) Carry out such other tasks as may be delegated to them by the City Council.

2.21.040 Review by City Council.

The City Council shall have the right to review the conduct, acts, and decisions of the Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission. Any person may appeal any ruling or order of the Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission to the City Council who may hear the matter and make a final decision.

FURTHERMORE, the Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission Charter is hereby adopted to provide guidance for the new group; and

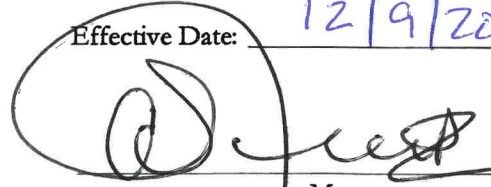
FURTHERMORE, the membership terms of the Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission will begin on January 1, 2023; and

FURTHERMORE, AMC Chapter 2.20, Parks and Recreation Commission, and AMC Chapter 2.23, City Tree Commission, are hereby repealed.

Passed by the Council: 11/9/2022


Approved by the Mayor: 11/9/2022

Effective Date: 12/9/2022



Mayor

ATTEST:


Allison F. Luise

City Clerk

Charter: Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission

Background: Albany's parks and natural resources, recreation events and activities enhance the quality of life and promote healthy living for our community. Albany's Parks & Recreation programs have won numerous awards that highlight our commitment to excellence, even as the economy and other forces outside our control have required us to be flexible, operate with reduced funding, and try new ideas. Trees are key to our parks and natural spaces, and Albany has been designated a Tree City USA since 1994.

Purpose: The Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Commission will act in an advisory capacity to the City Council, and Parks and Recreation Department on matters related to parks, trails, and facility improvements, project prioritization, departmental operational procedures, and updates to the park master plan. The Commission will also advise on matters regarding natural resources, especially management of Albany's urban forest; recommend policies for planting, removal, and care of public trees; and support maintaining Albany's status as a Tree City USA.

Membership: The Commission will have seven voting members nominated and appointed by the City Council. Each council member will make one appointment. Councilors should seek to recruit members who represent the following areas of knowledge or interest, although they are not required to do so:

- urban forestry
- tree care
- outdoor recreation
- natural open spaces