



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Law

To: City Council

From: Disabilities Commission

Council Meeting Date: June 21, 2022

Re: Authorization to Extend Existing Virtual Meeting Program for the Participating Boards

Executive Summary

The Disabilities Commission is recommending that the existing virtual participation trial program be extended for the Disabilities Commission and Youth Advisory Council.

Discussion

On November 15, 2021, City Council passed Ordinance No. 024848 authorizing a six (6) month trial program for virtual meetings by three (3) designated advisory boards and commissions: Broadband Task Force, Disabilities Commission, Youth Advisory Council. This trial program lapses on June 30, 2022.

At its meeting on May 12, 2022, the Disabilities Commission made three separate motions for recommendation to the City Council to progressively expand virtual attendance and participation, which passed unanimously:

Step 1: Request the City Council to extend the virtual meeting trial program for the Disabilities Commission and Youth Advisory Council.

Step 2: Request City Council to authorize all boards and commissions permit virtual attendance for its meetings (i.e. - observing the meeting remotely, but no participation or comments).

Step 3: Request City Council to direct staff to develop and implement a city-wide virtual participation program for all boards and commissions, including City Council.

More information on the six (6) meetings the Commission conducted under this program is in the attached report to Council. The Disabilities Commission believes this extension is the first step in the Commission's wish to expand opportunities for virtual attendance and/or participation for all board and commission meetings in the future.

If Council concurs with the Disabilities Commission recommendation for Step 1, a motion to have an ordinance prepared to extend the trial program for a set period of time for the Disabilities Commission and/or the Youth Advisory Council should be adopted. If a motion is not approved, the existing trial program will lapse on June 30, 2022.

If Council desires to establish a virtual meeting policy to implement either (or both) of Step 2 and/or Step 3, a motion to request the City Manager to draft a policy for Council to consider



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implementation of virtual meeting attendance and participation for city boards and commissions and/or City Council.

Copies of the former agenda items are attached as supplemental information. For additional detail on the Council discussion on the agenda items, please see the dates shown below in legislative history.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Not applicable.

Long-Term Impact: Not applicable.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Inclusive Community, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
11/15/2021	B371-21 (Ordinance No. 024848): Authorized a trial program for virtual meetings and virtual public participation for certain designated advisory boards and commissions.
06/21/2021	REP47-21: Correspondence from the Disabilities Commission relating to a virtual meeting policy and accessibility.
04/19/2021	REP27-21: Correspondence from the Disabilities Commission for consideration of a draft ordinance for virtual meetings and virtual public participation.
03/01/2021	REP18-21: Correspondence from the Disabilities Commission relating to a virtual meeting policy and accessibility.
10/05/2020	REP57-20: Correspondence from the Disabilities Commission relating to virtual meetings.

Suggested Council Action

Consideration of the Disabilities Commission request.