



Advisory Boards

Volunteer Today

It makes the whole community stronger

The City of Bonita Springs is thankful for the volunteers that allow the City to practice government light. The city relies heavily on the input and time, volunteerism and expertise of the volunteers that make up these committees.

The City of Bonita Springs Official Citizen Advisory Committees are: Art in Public Places, Historic Preservation Board, Special Events Committee, Zoning Board, Local Planning Agency, Street Light Advisory Committee, Veteran's Advisory Committee, Tree Advisory Board, Technology Advisory Board, Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee and Outreach Advisory Committee. Each of these volunteer committees taps into the talent that is here in Southwest Florida. These individuals step up and volunteer their time in order to make the City better.

The City of Bonita Springs is always seeking volunteers to serve on various advisory boards and committees that have been established to assist the City Council on a number of civic issues when vacancies occur. The terms and conditions of these committees vary. Please visit http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org/services_departments/city_clerk/boards_and_committees to download the Advisory Committee application and to see current openings.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please submit your application to City Clerk, Debbie Filipek.

Advisory Boards

Art in Public Places Board

The Art in Public Places Board is devoted to developing a public art collection by selecting, locating, placing and maintaining art in public places, exposing the community to the arts, fostering education programs and advancing economic growth. The Board acquires art for the City utilizing private and public sponsorships. By bringing artwork outside traditional contexts, the Art in Public Places Board provides increased access to the art. One of the Art in Public Places projects is Art in the Sun. This project brings art donated by local and national artists along Old 41 so the public may enjoy them. A few of the pieces on display include: Setting the Pace by Jane DeDecker, the Secret Bench of Knowledge by Lea ViVot and Lobster Claw Heliconia by Dave Kellum.

Historic Preservation Board

The purpose of the Historic Preservation Board is to identify, evaluate, preserve and protect historical and archaeological sites and districts within the City of Bonita Springs. The Board reviews historic sites, areas, structures and buildings for possible designation as historic resources and determines the historical significance of a designated historic resource. Prior to changes to an historic structure or property, the Board issues certificates of appropriateness to protect these resources. The board also encourages historic preservation by creating programs of technical assistance and financial incentives for preservation practices. They work to stabilize and improve property values through the revitalization of older residential and commercial neighborhoods. They also promote historic preservation activities and cultural and educational programs aimed at fostering a better understanding of the community's heritage.

Special Events Committee

The Special Events Committee helps promote and support the city events. The three major events they assist with are Celebrate Bonita, 4th of July and Holiday in the Park. They also provide recommendations to City Council on any changes to the special events ordinance. The committee is also called upon from time to time to advise Council for events.

Zoning Board

The purpose of the Zoning Board is to look at cases and make recommendations to Council based on evidence, experts, and sworn testimony. The Board reviews applications of property owners wishing to change the use or zoning of their property. After reviewing the application, the Board makes recommendations to City Council based on evidence, experts, and sworn testimony.

Local Planning Agency

Under Sec. 163.3174, F.S., each local government is required to establish, by ordinance, a Local Planning Agency (LPA). The Local Planning Agency reviews rezoning and comprehensive plan amendments in Bonita Springs. The LPA consists of appointed members selected from the community. It has the responsibility for making recommendations to the City Council regarding development of, or changes to, the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code as well as a variety of other items, to ensure that they are consistent with, and serve to implement, the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Street Light Advisory Board

The Street Light Advisory Board reviews citizens' requests for new lighting by individually going out to the area and investigating things like where are the transformers, shrubbery that would interfere, private property or roads that would restrict the service and many other issues. They visit in the daytime as well as night to become aware of the situation. The board also studies the city lighting map to investigate areas that need additional lighting. The volunteers investigate and report back to the board. They also investigate streetlights that are out and obtain the number on the pole. The number on the pole is like a street address for the pole, making it easier for FPL to repair at the exact location. The board members are a dedicated group that take action and get the job completed.

Veteran's Advisory Committee

This committee has several duties. The committee assists the City in providing input regarding any and all veterans affairs, assists the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary in the administration of the Gold Star Blue Star Mothers Program, acts as a resource agency for setting standards for the flying of our National Flag, and also assists the Bonita Springs Assistance Office through an outreach program for homeless vets. They also network with the VA and the Lee County Veteran's Service Office regarding veteran's affairs. In addition, the committee acts as a liaison to the City for all three veteran's organizations in Bonita Springs; American Legion Posts #303 and #388, and Veterans of Foreign War Post #4254. The last several years, they've also co-sponsored (along with the three aforementioned veterans' organizations and the City) "Star Spangled Bonita" on July 4th, and both the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies at Riverside Park. The committee, by City Charter, is comprised of nine members comprised of one member from each of the following five veterans organizations: the VFW, the American Legion, the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, and the Purple Heart Association (combat wounded veterans); along with four veterans at large. Please e-mail Bobby Hunter at bhunter024@yahoo.com for more information on the Veteran's Advisory Committee or for a concern or need for a Veteran in our community.

Tree Advisory Board

The Tree Advisory Board was founded by Mayor Ben Nelson. The Tree Advisory Board realizes the importance of trees to our community, our world and our lives. The Board works to keep the City of Bonita Springs a Tree City USA. The Board also protects heritage trees such as live oak, banyan trees, and slash pines not only for history and longevity, but how they positively impact eco-systems. The Board reviews land development and zoning sites prior to redevelopment to ensure heritage trees are protected and preserved. They also work to inform the public about native plants that are healthy for our community and invasive exotics that should be avoided as well as good pruning practices. Also, the Board deals with non-native invasive plants.

Technology Advisory Board

The purpose of the Technology Advisory Board is to research various topics that relate to new technologies and their impact on the City of Bonita Springs. The committee is made up volunteers with diverse and extensive real world experience, a willingness to share ideas objectively and a long term view of the functions of local government. The committee's initial assignments are to understand the integration needs and issues of the City's various existing technologies, to deal with any "green" issues as they relate to emerging technology, to review existing security practices and to explore social networking opportunities for the City. The committee will eventually formulate recommendations for Council to consider along these lines.

Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee

The Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee strives for the enhancement of bicycle and pedestrian paths for the safety of residents and visitors of Bonita Springs. BPSAC objectives include improving the conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians, promoting bicycling and walking as a means of transportation, and enhancing safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. The Committee also reviews relevant ordinances, organizes public events and works with other bicycle and pedestrian organizations at state and national levels. A main component of this five person committee is to coordinate with other groups so that Bonita Springs will interface and have connectivity with the other bicycle and walking organizations.

Outreach Advisory Committee

The Outreach Advisory Committee provides input to the City Council with a view towards fostering broad and inclusive participation by members of the Bonita Springs community in civic affairs without regard to race, creed or gender. Input may include suggestions regarding city programs, events and advisory committee participation.