



Boards and Commissions - Generally

Sikeston's boards and commissions provide its citizens with an opportunity to participate in the governing process. Interested residents are appointed by the City Council to collectively provide the Council with recommendations on a variety of issues.

Appointment Authority:

Under the City's Charter, the Sikeston City Council holds the authority to make all appointments to the City's Boards and Commissions.

Terms, Effective Date:

All City appointments, with only a few exceptions, are effective on the first Monday in October of each year. Term length varies with each individual board and commission.

Citizens Resource Bank: Throughout the year the City accepts applications from citizens seeking appointment to a board or commission. Citizen Resource Bank Applications may be submitted on-line or downloaded from the City's website, www.sikeston.org. Application forms may be requested from the Department of Governmental Services by calling 471-2512. Completed applications should be mailed to Sikeston City Hall, ATTN: Dept. of Governmental Services, 105 E. Center Street, Sikeston, MO 63801, or faxed to us at 471-1526. We also accept applications over the phone. A listing of all applicants seeking appointment will be submitted to Council whenever an appointment is required. Applications remain active for a period of 24 months following submission.

Eligibility:

City Code and/or State Statute establish the eligibility requirements of each board and commission. Generally, all appointees are required to be resident of Sikeston. The length of this residency and requirements for special skills or knowledge will vary. Board and commission candidates and appointees are expected to remain in good standing with the City through timely payment of all municipal taxes, fees and fines.

Term Limits: As a general procedure, the Council has historically tried to limit appointees to two (2) terms on any board. In some instances the statutory eligibility requirements make it difficult to find qualified applicants. In these cases Council has been known to appoint individuals to more than two terms.

Appointment Process: In late-July the City Council will receive an update on appointments to be made in September of that year. It includes a listing of each appointment that is needed, eligibility requirements, the existing membership of the board/commission and a listing of individuals who have submitted a Citizens Resource Bank Application. Meanwhile, a media campaign is conducted to inform citizens of the appointments to be made, and how to submit an application. In September Staff compiles an updated listing of Resource Bank Applications and submits it to Council for their consideration during the appointment process.

Oath of Office: The City Charter requires all appointees to take an oath of office. At the Mayor's discretion, the City Council hosts a meeting of all new appointees in late September or early October. During this meeting new appointees are sworn in, and provided with an overview of the City and its organizational structure. Each appointee is also provided with a handbook that summarizes this information and the responsibilities of their respective board or commission.

Board of Adjustments:

5-year term. The Board of Adjustments is a quasi-judicial body created by State Statute and City Ordinance. Its purpose is to make rulings on appeals resulting from decisions made by a zoning officer and to grant relief from the literal enforcement of the zoning ordinance in certain hardship situations. The Council, other than by appointment, does not interact with the Board of Adjustments. The decisions of the Board can only be appealed to state courts. The Board meets on an as-needed at 4:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Members must be a citizen of Sikeston.

Board of Appeals: 3-year term. The International Property Maintenance Code, as adopted by the City of Sikeston, establishes minimum requirements and standards for all existing premises, structures and buildings, and fixes the responsibility of owners, operators and occupants. The Board of Appeals hears all appeals relative to the enforcement of this code. It meets on an as-needed basis. Members are required to be either a registered architect or registered engineer, or be from the following professions: licensed general contractor, electrical supplier, licensed heating and cooling contractor, plumbing supplier, licensed plumber, building supplier, licensed electrician or licensed real estate broker. (Should qualified candidates not be available from these professions, Council may duplicate or substitute a field.)

Board of Municipal Utilities Commission: 4-year term. Members of the BMU Commission oversee general operations of the City's Board of Municipal Utilities. Issues they address include employment of the Director of Utilities; adoption and general administration of the BMU's' operating budget; general oversight of electric generation and distribution, water supply, treatment and distribution, operation of sanitary sewer systems and waste water treatment. Additionally the BMU Commission submits recommendations for utility rate changes. All utility rates are established by the Board and approved by the City Council. The Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 4 PM.

Enhanced Enterprise Zone Board: 5-year term. This board advises Council on the designation of enhanced enterprise zones and any other advisory duties as determined by the City Council. After designation of an enhanced enterprise zone the board reviews and assesses zone activities, and submits reports as required by law to the State of Missouri. It meets on an as-needed basis.

Housing Authority Board of Commissioners: 4-year term. The Sikeston Housing Authority is a Municipal Corporation operating under State Law with Federal Contracts to provide decent, safe, and sanitary non-luxurious housing at an affordable cost to low income families and individuals. Its Board of Commissioners oversees general Housing Authority operations, approves the Authority's operating budget and staffing levels and establishes local policy and regulations for all property owned, operated or managed by the Authority. The Commission meets at noon on the second Monday of each month.

Industrial Development Authority (IDA): 6-year term. Organized under Chapter 349 of State Statutes, the IDA is a not-for-profit corporation that promotes and solicits industrial and economic development projects. Members must be taxpayers who have resided within Sikeston for five years prior to their appointment. No director shall be an officer of the county or city. The IDA meets on an as-needed basis.

Land Clearance Development Authority (LCRA) Commission: 4-year term. Authorized by Sikeston's voters in 2001, the LCRA Commission is charged with identifying "blighted" areas within Sikeston, developing, and implementing a plan to provide well-organized residential neighborhoods of decent homes. Following development of the urban renewal plan, the Commission acquires properties within the development district, based on the condition of the structures acquired they will either be sold for rehabilitation or removed. Lots ready for new construction are sold to home developers. The LCRA Commission meets at 11:30 AM on the fourth Monday of each month.

Library Board of Trustees: 3-year term. Trustees serve as a liaison between the Library and the community, and have oversight responsibility of Library operations. Members must be citizens of Sikeston. The board meets at 4:30 PM on the first Monday of each month.

Park Board: 3-year term. This Board advises City Council on issues related to park services, facilities and necessary funding. It meets at 5:15 PM on the second Monday of each month in the Clinton Community Building.

Planning & Zoning Commission: 4-year term. Advisory in nature, the Planning & Zoning Commission is charged with developing and adopting the City's comprehensive plan – a plan for the City's physical development that includes recommendations for the use of land, general location of streets, public grounds and public utilities. The Commission develops and submits recommendations for the City's annual street and stormwater improvement program, provides recommendations related to all zoning issues and recommends approval of subdivisions within the City. It meets at 4:00 PM on the first Tuesday of the month. This meeting time is subject to change to accommodate scheduling of public hearings

Public Safety Advisory Board: 3-year term. Advisory in nature, the board recommends programs to enhance public cooperation and acceptance of DPS. Applicants must be a registered voter of Sikeston. The Board meets at 6:30 PM on the third Monday of every other month.

Rental Ordinance Appeals Board: 3-year term. This Board was created to help preserve the quality of Sikeston's housing inventory and to protect its neighborhoods from neglect and deterioration. The Appeals Board is charged with hearing and making a determination on appeals resulting from the application of Sikeston's Rental Property Standards as outlined in the Section 8 Guidelines for Housing Quality Standards. Members must be a resident for one year prior to their appointment. Members consist of landlords, tenants, construction trade professionals and citizens at-large. Meetings are held on an as needed basis.

Strategic Plan Implementation Commission: 3-year term. In March 2009 the "Vision for Tomorrow" Strategic Plan was released following twelve months of research and collaboration with the general public. The Strategic Plan Implementation Commission was established to promote the findings and goals of that effort. The Commission makes recommendation to the City Council on prioritization of municipal projects, assists with implementation and troubleshooting that may be associated with implementation of the strategic plan, and communicates the plan's progress to the community. The Commission meets at 11:30 AM on the third Thursday of each month.

Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Commission: 4-year term. Advisory in nature, the TIF Commission is convened to study the economic viability of proposed development projects seeking to use tax increment financing. Meetings are held on an as needed basis.

Tourism Advisory Board: 3-year term. The Sikeston Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) was established to promote and market the tourism industry. The CVB is an operational division of the City of Sikeston. Community input is provided by its Advisory Board on strategic marketing. Dedicated funding for CVB operations is provided by the City of Sikeston's four percent (4%) lodging tax. The Board meets quarterly.

Traffic Committee: 3-year term. The Committee hears requests and makes recommendation to Council on traffic-related matters. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis.

SEMO University – Sikeston Campus Advisory Council: Three year terms commence on January 1. Established under the funding agreement between the City of Sikeston and Southeast Missouri State University, the Advisory Council provides input to the SEMO Board of Regents on local curriculum. The Council meets at 10:30 A.M. on the last Wednesday of each quarter in Room 112/113 at the Sikeston Campus.