CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Advisory Committee Purpose and Function

The specific purpose of each advisory committee varies; however, the primary function of every advisory committee is to give advice and suggestions regarding that particular committee's area of responsibility to the local board of directors. The democratic system is oftentimes slow in changing items, and it can seem frustrating to members of an advisory committee. When the legislature passed legislation creating advisory committees, it did **not** provide any financial resources to assist in implementing the recommendations of a committee. Please remember that as an advisory committee member, YOU PROVIDE INPUT; THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TAKES ACTION. Please be patient. Change does take time; concerns worth discussing do not lend themselves to quick solutions. Your efforts **will** make a difference.

Role of Advisory Committee Member

The primary role of an advisory committee member is to be a productive, positive member of the committee. In doing so, it is important to listen and respect the opinions of others. In an exchange of ideas, individuals will have different thoughts; however, when the committee makes a recommendation to the board of directors, it is important to support the majority decision of the committee. A committee will function best when all of its members work within the framework, bringing items of business to the committee.

Advisory Committee Membership

All advisory committee members are appointed by the local board of directors. The board may request input from individuals or committees, or it may seek volunteers to serve; however, the board retains the authority, and is the **only** authority, to appoint members to an advisory committee. Board of directors are also, by law, provided certain limitations or requirements regarding the membership of an advisory committee. One of the areas, for example, is the requirement of gender balance.

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