

BCC Streamlining Project: Summary of Individual BCC Input on Proposed Changes

In January and February of 2025, Council and Mayor’s Office staff held discussions with nine boards, commissions, and committees (BCCs) about changes being considered to their BCC related to the BCC Streamlining project. A summary of the points made is detailed below. Full meeting discussions can be found online for more information.

Proposal:	Transfer “Tree Board” / Urban Forestry responsibilities from the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners to the Board of Public Works.
Discussed with:	Board of Park Commissions, 1/8/25; Board of Public Works, 1/15/25; Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee, 2/11/25.
<p>Summary of Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Park Commissioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supportive of moving to BPW ○ Can see and understand how issues relate to other utilities and right of way use more than habitat / park use ○ Agree that park-related tree issues should still flow through Parks subcommittee • Board of Public Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supportive of the move to BPW ○ Agree that it makes sense based on Urban Forestry’s move to Streets ○ Supportive of BCC Streamlining as a whole as it makes life easier for alders and residents • Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supportive of the move to BPW and understand the reasoning ○ Believe it is important to have someone with an ecological / urban trees background on BPW to support this change 	

Proposal:	Combine three CDD committees (Early Childhood Care & Education Committee, Committee on Aging, and Community Services Committee) into a single, new Community Resources Committee
Discussed with:	Early Childhood Care & Education Committee, 1/9/25, Community Services Committee, 1/22/25. Committee on Aging did not have quorum for discussion on 1/22/25.
<p>Summary of Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Care & Education Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that in combining committees, the expertise of the members who serve on this would be diminished. This could lead to a diminished understanding, a diminished focus, and time wasted educating more general members on the details and complexities of accreditations that these committee members already understand. If a diminished focus, it would be related to early childhood and the aging community – two vulnerable populations. • Question as to whether early childhood experts will be interested in dedicating time to a committee that addresses other issues as well. 	

- Feel the focus should on be more than just early childhood care, but also early childhood needs and issues generally.
- Felt they should have more time to consider the questions of how to move this body of work forward, and more specific detail of how it would be combined.
- Felt there should be more public information about this process.
- Of the work functions, accreditations are the most important.

- **Community Services Committee**
 - Members offered numerous perspectives, including:
 - A question about whether a merger will diminish resources or the focus on older adults or early childhood. Staff do not expect this to be the case.
 - Combining the committees will allow for more frequent meetings and more discussion topics for the committees that meet less frequently, which would be good.
 - The combination will allow a multigenerational perspective on community service questions, which would be good.
 - Fewer committees may make recruitment, including diversity in recruitment, easier.
 - Important to maintain in new structure:
 - A strong public voice
 - Strong committee input on funding proposals.
 - Suggestion that new committee should think about where the meetings are held and how the public accesses them – e.g. rotating locations in the community for meetings, helping train/educate members of the public on how to get involved.
 - Important in future membership: Including members with specific expertise related to aging and early childhood. Also maintaining more general resident seats to bring outside perspective or perspective on related issues such as budgeting.

- **Committee on Aging**
 - Committee did not reach quorum.
 - Since members had already received an emailed memo providing an overview of the topic, members were invited to email any feedback or questions they had. No emails were received.

Proposal:	Dissolve Downtown Coordinating Committee
Discussed with:	Downtown Coordinating Committee, 1/16/25
Summary of Comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixture of member sentiments about dissolving. Some supported it, some did not support it, and some were neutral but understood the rationale. • While there are other entities that support placemaking downtown DCC is the committee that is both solely focused on that and without a paid membership requirement. They also include a dedicated student/ASM seat, with differing opinions on how well this worked. • Others note the public often doesn't attend this forum and it is difficult and/or inefficient for members to pay attention to multiple venues. 	

- Some of the duties of DCC that would have to be reassigned include: providing a forum for business owners to dispute or ask questions about the BID budget; and a location for a hearing on mall maintenance fees.
- A suggestion was made that DCC could merge with Vending Oversight Committee, but acknowledge that vending is no longer limited to downtown.
- A suggestion was made to consider reducing the number of alders on the committee and sunseting the committee at a later date, after current bodies of work related to State Street pedestrian mall and Mifflin St Plaza are complete.

Proposal:	Dissolve Public Safety Review Committee
Discussed with:	Public Safety Review Committee, 2/12/25
Summary of Comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is value in avoiding redundancies, this committee provides public access and participation in a forum specific to public safety issues, and with specific expertise. Important not to lose that. • The committee is functioning well and could take on more work beyond what it currently focuses on. If it were enabled to do so, the work may not be limited to items where there is overlap with the Council and Finance Committee. 	

Proposal:	Resolution language directs staff to develop a proposal for combining the Economic Development Committee and the Vending Oversight Committee. Exact language will continue to be developed and will include input from these committees.
Discussed with:	Economic Development Committee, 1/15/25; Vending Oversight Committee, 1/29/25
Summary of Comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General agreement there is some overlap and an opportunity to combine committees. ○ There are questions about how to merge the two committees, but members were willing to help figure out the details. ○ Questions and comments about how to merge included: How to avoid long agendas / long meetings, which can also impact recruitment; reviewing quasi-judicial duties, and potentially empowering staff to do more, or look at whether other bodies could also play a role in licensing or appeals; looking at work plans and spacing out what topics are on what agendas. • Vending Oversight Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members generally understood the need for efficiency and saw some synergies between the two committees. Both committees have a goal to make sure they have thriving small businesses and a vibrant economy/city, and both work to give voice to small business owners. 	

- There were questions about how to work through differences in scope to develop a proposal, but understand that will be developed in future conversations.
- Important to maintain a forum for vendors to touch on things that matter to their business, such as outdoor spaces, patios, storage on patios, food cart review appeals, location of vending, and hours for late-night vending.
- VOC has a unique role of non-voting technical advisors that add a lot of value. There is a desire to maintain a role for technical advisors in a future structure.