

Sign Variance Committee – Selection of Candidates for Interviews

Date: April 21, 2015
To: Tribunals Nominating Panel
From: City Clerk
Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Sign Variance Committee.

SUMMARY

The Tribunals Nominating Panel must select candidates for interviews for the Sign Variance Committee. The Tribunals Nominating Panel will meet on May 28, 2015 to conduct interviews and make recommendations to City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Tribunals Nominating Panel interview the 15 candidates listed in Table 1 of Confidential Attachment 1 at its May 28, 2015 meeting for appointment to the Sign Variance Committee.
2. The Tribunal Nominating Panel, in making its recommendations, identify which candidates should serve two- and four-year terms, respectively.
3. The Tribunals Nominating Panel direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachments 1 and 2 remain confidential in their entirety as it relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Sign Variance Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

In August 2014, City Council approved changes to the public appointments process, including the establishment of five nominating panels to assist the Civic Appointments Committee in appointing members of the public to certain boards and committees: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.EX44.31>.

COMMENTS

Composition of the Sign Variance Committee

There are five members of the public on the Sign Variance Committee.

City Council appoints the Committee's Chair

Municipal Code Chapter 694, Signs, General, Section 694-33C states that City Council appoints one member to serve as Chair of the Sign Variance Committee.

Committee members' terms should be staggered

At its August 2014 meeting, City Council approved changes to the Public Appointments Policy to permit the staggering of terms of office for all boards and committees not otherwise prescribed by law so that the terms of half the members expire every two years. Staggering terms will help even the workflow of the City's nominating panels, and will provide organizational continuity and memory on boards and committees.

As a transitional measure during this round of appointments, two of the public members for the Sign Variance Committee will be appointed for two years and the others will be appointed for four years. The members appointed for an initial two-year term will not have that term count toward the term limit under the Public Appointments Policy, and may apply to serve again following their two-year appointment.

Municipal Code Chapter 694, Signs, General, Section 694-35A will have to be amended to allow for the staggering of terms.

Committee members should meet certain qualifications

Public members should collectively possess a range of qualifications including:

- a strong interest in the complexities and challenges of city building
- an understanding of the diverse neighbourhoods and communities across the City

- knowledge in one or more areas of: law, planning, architecture, government, economic development, community development, land development, or citizen advocacy
- decision-making, communication, and mediation skills to facilitate an open and fair meeting process

It is recommended that at least three public members should have adjudication experience and two public members should have public speaking and organization skills to be able to chair public meetings and maintain order in conflict situations.

Applicants were asked to relate their experiences to these qualifications.

Public members are ineligible for appointment to the Committee if they are an owner, employee, or agent of an advertising, communications, or media relations agency or a business which owns, controls, or has shares in a media outlet.

Former Council members who served in the immediately preceding term of Council are ineligible for appointment as public members.

We have consulted with City Building Staff

Public Appointments staff consulted with City Building staff in December 2014 and April 2015 to discuss Committee requirements and issues.

Next steps - Interviews

Once Tribunals Nominating Panel selects candidates for interviews, the City Clerk's Office will contact the candidates to schedule them for 15 minute interviews. Fifteen interviews at 15 minutes each will take approximately four hours to complete.

CONTACT

Kelly McCarthy
Manager, Public Appointments
City Clerk's Office
kmccart3@toronto.ca
416-397-7796

SIGNATURE

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 – List of Candidates and Qualifications Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Sign Variance Committee

Confidential Attachment 2 – Confidential Voluntary Diversity Information Summary