

Councillor Board, Commission and Committee Weighted Scale – Pilot Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Municipal Government Act* stipulates that members of Council have a duty to participate in committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed by Council. There is no legislated minimum or maximum membership requirement from each Councillor, other than the need for Councillors to sit on two Standing Policy Committees, in accordance with the Procedure Bylaw 35M2017, as amended. All other BCC memberships are voluntary. This report requests Council's approval to pilot a point-based system of weighing the time commitment of serving on each city and external Board, Commission or Committee (BCC), during the 2019 October 28 Organizational meeting of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the weighted scale as a guideline for Councillor appointments to BCCs (Attachment 1) for use as a pilot program at the 2019 October 28 Organizational Meeting of Council.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

None

BACKGROUND

The draft spreadsheet contained in Attachment 1 was created with the following assumptions:

- The draft spreadsheet assigns a weighting to Councillor appointments to BCCs based on:
 - whether the appointment is as Chair/President, Vice-Chair/Vice-President or general member;
 - frequency and length of meetings;
 - requirement for travel;
 - requirement to serve on sub-committees; and
 - other time requirements outside meetings.
- All BCCs to which a Councillor is appointed have been reviewed and a weighted score has been calculated.
- No weighting is applied when a Councillor is named as alternate member.

The intended outcome of piloting a BCC weighted scale system is to determine the feasibility of assigning a representative point score to the individual Councillor appointments. After piloting a weighted scale system, it could then be determined whether it is viable to create an expected point range for Councillors to fall within for their total score. This would ideally achieve a balanced BCC workload evenly shared amongst all Councillors

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The number of communities, community associations, and total population that contribute to the responsibilities relative to each Ward were factors not considered in the criteria when assessing the overall Councillor time commitments. Each Ward office is unique in how they delegate community responsibilities amongst Councillor and staff, and it would be difficult to capture a fair and tangible system when staff members are involved in the shared responsibility. Additionally, particular Ward office responsibilities can gradually evolve throughout a Councillor's term.

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Within the framework of an elected councillor's general duties, there are three distinct spheres of responsibility: Community-specific; Ward-specific; and city-wide responsibilities. The intent of the proposed weighting scale is to assist councillors with even distribution of city-wide responsibilities. As a result, this proposed pilot focuses on BCC commitments specifically to help achieve an objective point system. The proposed BCC weighted scale system can work to complement each Councillor's BCC choices, dependent on their current level of time commitments related to Ward specific responsibilities.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Councillor Sutherland and the Ward 1 office have consulted with the Manager, Office of the Councillors to design and propose a fair point-based system that represents the time commitment each BCC membership involves. Councillor Sutherland sought and incorporated feedback from members of Council on Attachment 1 throughout 2019 August and September. Administration was engaged on the mechanics of using Attachment 1 as both a selection tool and a points tracker, during Councillor appointments made at Council's annual Organizational meetings.

Strategic Alignment

This report aligns with One Calgary's citizen priority: A Well-Run City (*One Calgary 2019-2022*).

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

No social, environmental or economic impacts were identified.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

There are no current and future operating budget impacts.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no current and future capital budget impacts.

Risk Assessment

There are no risks associated with the report's recommendations.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Piloting a method of weighting the various Committees will help determine whether it is viable to create an expected point range for Councillors to fall within, in terms of their BCC commitments.

ATTACHMENT

1. Proposed Weighted Scale For Councillor Appointments to BCCs