

Citizen Board Handbook

Introduction

At the heart of local government is Home Rule which calls for local self-government by the citizens. This means that, ideally, local public policy and resulting decisions are a product of the input of all the citizens of the community, i.e., true democracy. A quality city government, and thus the quality of life in the community, can only be obtained through having knowledgeable citizens who actively participate in their local government.

If a citizen wishes to participate directly in city government, one means is to serve on a local government commission, board or advisory committee. In the case of cities, the charter generally states the local government's power to create commissions, boards and advisory committees when such needs arise, and includes the powers, duties and composition of any such permanent bodies. Temporary bodies may be created and abolished by resolution or administrative order.

Commissions and boards sometimes are assigned significant powers of policy-making and/or administration. Advisory committees serve an important function in providing expertise in certain areas of city or county concern. Usually established at the request of the Commission, they may be made up of both citizens and Commission members and may deal with issues and problems which are deemed worthy of special consideration and advisement. Committees add another degree of local government responsiveness to the public interest. They provide an excellent opportunity for citizens to actively participate in the operation of their local government. Advisory committees are not of the same significance as commissions or boards, lacking the power to make or administer policy on their own. Instead, advisory committees take up matters that deserve the extra attention and consideration that only a group of interested, concerned citizens can render.

The City of Daytona Beach has a Commission - Manager form of government. The Commission (consisting of 7 members, Mayor and 6 City Commissioners) has and exercises power and control via decision making, establishing policy for the City (legislative function), while the City Manager has the responsibility for ensuring that those decisions and policies are carried out (executive function).

The City of Daytona Beach has a total of 25 boards with two of that number consisting of membership from the City Commission. There are 23 citizen participation boards totaling approximately 200 members. The number of board members varies per board. Most of the boards meet monthly. Some of the boards are created by City Charter, others via ordinances and resolutions approved by the City Commission. Most boards require that a member be a resident of (or have a business in) The City of Daytona Beach and be a registered voter (qualified elector). Most boards also require the board member complete and provide to the Supervisor of Elections annually, a Form 1 - Financial Disclosure form. All board meetings of the City are covered under the Public Records Law, Chapter 119 and the Government-in-the-Sunshine Law. Most of the boards serve in an advisory capacity. All, as a result of the citizen involvement and participation, provide much

needed assistance in assuring that actions taken by the City are not only in the best interest of the City but also have the support and input of its citizens.

The City of Daytona Beach is pleased to provide the "City Commission Citizen Board Handbook" as our way of increasing citizen knowledge and awareness of local Government. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Board Member Candidate, please fill out and return the **Board Application Form**.

We thank you for your interest in providing service to The City of Daytona Beach.

History

Incorporated 1876. The region in and around what is currently known as Daytona Beach was originally inhabited by the Timucuan Indians. The Spanish Crown laid claim to Florida in early 1500s and later awarded Royal Land Grants to the British. It was from the purchase of these grants by northern Americans in the mid 1800s, after the Seminole Indian War of 1835, that the Daytona area began to become a permanent settlement. The name "Daytona" came to be by honoring the founder of the settlement, Mr. Mathias Day of Mansfield, Ohio.

On the 26th of July in 1876 the first town meeting of Daytona took place. At this meeting, the town was "officially" named and incorporated and held its first election naming a Mayor (Rev. Dr. L. D. Houston), a Common Council of seven, a Clerk and a Marshall.

Settlements were also being established near at hand during this same period. There were two colonies across the Halifax River from Daytona, one known as Seabreeze and one by the name of Daytona Beach. These three towns eventually joined forces and voted on January 4, 1926 to incorporate into one city known as Daytona Beach.

The City of Daytona Beach

Street Address:

301 South Ridgewood Avenue

Mailing Address:

Post Office Box 2451
Daytona Beach, Florida 32115-2451

Main Telephone Number:

(386) 671-8000

Population: 64,112

(per U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000)

Form of government:

Council-Manager (Mayor and six Commissioners)