Creating Raving Fans by Delivering World Class Service

Public Service Opportunities

Information about Boards and Commissions

City government depends heavily on residents who volunteer their time and energy to participate as members of boards and commissions. The involvement of residents is important to setting the direction of Grand Prairie's future.

Qualifications for Appointment

The Grand Prairie code establishes that all members of city boards and commissions must be residents of Grand Prairie.

Selection Process

Members of boards and commissions are appointed by the mayor and city council. Appointees are selected in July each year and as vacant positions need to be filled. If the board has nine members, the mayor and each council member appoint one member. The mayor and council members serving even-numbered districts make their appointments in even-numbered years. Council members serving odd-numbered districts make their appointments in odd-numbered years.

Board and commission members are appointed by city council majority vote.

Terms are limited to three consecutive two-year terms except for appointees to the Grand Prairie Housing Finance Corporation, Inc.

Any member who is absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings is subject to removal. Citizens may only serve on one board or commission at the same time.

Boards and Commissions

Airport Advisory Committee

Serves as an advisory board to the city council and makes recommendations for operation, management, maintenance, expansion and improvements to the municipal airport.

- Meets first Wednesdays of odd months at 4 p.m.
- Nine members: two members must be pilots, one must be a registered engineer, one must be selected from a development-related profession, and three must have an interest and knowledge of aviation and will be selected at large.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Provides advice and recommendations to the city council related to the Animal Shelter and general animal control throughout the community.

- Meets quarterly, third Thursdays in February, May, August and November at 7 p.m.
- Nine members: one member must be a licensed veterinarian, one must have duties which include the daily operation of an animal shelter, one must be an official of the city and one must be a representative of an animal welfare organization.
- Two members are appointed by city staff, seven members are appointed by council members.

Building Advisory and Appeals Board

Makes recommendations to the city council relating to the Uniform Building Code and has the power to grant exceptions to the construction standards within the Building Code, and to hear appeals from the city's plumbing, mechanical and/or electrical inspectors.

- Meets first Monday at 6 p.m.
- Nine members: architect; licensed engineer (preferably in the structural field); home builder or contractor operating in the city; plumber or mechanical contractor; electrician; remaining members selected from among building-related professions.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Civil Service Commission

Monitors the city's personnel practices relating to the hiring, firing and administration of disciplinary action of police and fire civil service personnel, and ensures the provisions of Chapter 143, Local Government Code are enforced.

- Meetings are called as needed.
- Three members must be a resident of the city for three years, over the age of 25 and have not held a public office in the previous three years.
- Appointees must not conduct business as a supplier or vendor to the city.
- Appointments are made by the city manager and ratified by the city council.

Commission on Aging

Makes recommendations to the city council concerning transportation, medical, financial, housing and entertainment needs of the aging.

- Meets second Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
- Nine members.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Historical Commission

Advises and recommends projects to the city council related to the preservation of the city's history. The commission designates recipients of Grand Prairie significant landmark markers and recommends recipients of state historical markers.

- Meets fourth Wednesdays at 5 p.m.
- Nine members: one member must be the president of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization or a designated representative. Eight members are selected at-large.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Housing and Community Improvement Commission

Serves as an advisory board to the city council and makes recommendations concerning federal, state and local programs relevant to community welfare. It solicits the cooperation of local civic organizations and the local press in making the city a better place to live, work and play. The commission sponsors and initiates programs by citizens to improve the community, and makes recommendations to the city council for the allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds.

- Meets third Mondays at 6 p.m.
- Nine members.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Housing Finance Corporation

A legally incorporated entity which functions to stimulate the housing market in the city through the use of tax exempt bonds.

- Meets third Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.
- Five members: must have experience in the field of finance, real estate or public housing.
- Nominations are submitted by the mayor and council members based on qualifying factors and a consensus is drawn by the council.

Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful Commission

Proposes city-wide clean city and environmental program plans, including community pride advocacy; neighborhood beautification/cleanup; business beautification/cleanup, paint-up and fix-up. The commission also monitors city performance from data collected and examined under the Keep America Beautiful Inc. Clean Community System guidelines. The commission makes reports for the city council and seeks government and private sector recognition for achievement.

- Meets last Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Nine members: members must be residents of the city or own a business in the city. No more than three members can be non-residents.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Library Board

Advises the city council on library policies and issues, including the rules, regulations and by-laws which may be deemed necessary for the administration, government and protection of the library. Also helps determine the need for the purchase of books and related library materials; library improvements; establishment of branch libraries and facilities; and administration of gifts and bequests or legacies made to the city for library purposes.

- Meets fourth Mondays at 6 p.m.
- Nine members.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Park Board

Meets monthly for the purpose of making recommendations to the city council relating to the management and maintenance of parks, parkways, lakes, waterways, municipal squares and beautification of municipal grounds. The board also participates in the institution of condemnation proceedings whenever it deems private property should be taken for park property. Each member appointed to the Park Board automatically becomes a member of the Tree Board and Park Board of Trustees. The Tree Board meets at least annually and administers a plan for the care, preservation and planting or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas.

- Meets fourth Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Nine members.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Reviews and makes recommendations to the city council on all applications for rezoning, site plans, requests for specific use permits, zoning ordinance amendments and sector plans. The commission has been charged by the state and by the city council to solely act upon and approve or deny all plats submitted by the city.

- Meets second and fourth Mondays at 7 p.m.
- Nine members.
- Appointees must not conduct business as a supplier or vendor to the city.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Public Health Advisory Committee

Serves as an advisory board to the city council on issues related to public health. These issues may include disabled services, communicable disease control, emergency planning, community health indicators, air quality, public health policies/regulations, and other health or environmental issues. The committee may recommend to the city council methods for promoting awareness and understanding regard

(continued, Public Health Advisory Committee*)*

ing public health issues within the community, make recommendations to the city council regarding those issues, and identify areas in which the city could enhance/modify public health services, policies and regulations.

- Meets at least four times a year.
- Nine members: Two members shall be employed in a medically-related profession, one shall be a disabled citizen, a care provider for the disabled, or a representative of any agency serving the disabled, one shall be an official of the Grand Prairie Independent School District, one shall be a representative of a local social services agency, and four shall be other residents. In the absence of a qualified applicant for any of the committee positions, the City Council shall have the right to appoint a non-Grand Prairie resident. A minimum of 7 of the 9 committee members shall be Grand Prairie residents.
- Mayor and council members appoint one member each.

Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Responsible for the requests of variances to the Unified Development Code due to unusual circumstances, unique or restricted physical limitation or hardships where absolute adherence to the UDC might or would preclude any development whatsoever of a piece of property. They also can consider expansions of non-conforming uses, and appeals to administrative decisions of staff.

- Meets third Mondays at 7 p.m.
- Nine members; 4 alternates.
- Appointees must not conduct business as a supplier or vendor to the city.
- The mayor and council members appoint one member each and alternate members are appointed by consensus of the council.

City of Grand Prairie • 2007 by the Numbers

Demographics

Land Area	81.4 sq. mi.
Population	161,571
Average Age	32
Avg. New Home Price	$250,000
Avg. Household Income	$58,395

Development

New Single-Family Building Permits Issued	1,066
Value of Average Single-Family Permit	$218,901
New Commercial/ Industrial Sq. Ft.	3,449,103
Value of Commercial/ Industrial Permits	$133,348,219
Number of New/ Retained Jobs	3,263

Top Ten Taxpayers (Property)

Bell Helicopter-Textron
Texas Utilities
Prologis Macquarie Tex LP
Catellus Commercial Group LLC
AT&T/Southwestern Bell/Cingular
Hanson Pipe & Products
Vought Corporation
Lockheed Martin
Calwest Texas Properties
Wal-Mart

Property Tax Rates
(Per $100 Assessed Property Value)

City of Grand Prairie	$0.669998
Grand Prairie ISD	$1.4650
Arlington ISD	$1.2780
Cedar Hill ISD	$1.4000
Mansfield ISD	$1.4500
Dallas County	$0.567214
Tarrant County	$0.636277

Retail Sales Tax Rates

City	1.00%
AirHogs Ballpark	.125%
Active Adult Center	.125%
Parks Improvements	0.25%
Street Improvements	0.25%
Crime Control District	0.25%
State	6.25%
Total Sales Tax	8.25%

Operating Budget

General Fund	$97,100,623
Water/Wastewater	$43,860,997
Other	$48,928,394
TOTAL	$189,890,014

Municipal Employees

Police/Fire Civil Service	420
General Employees	859
Total Full Time	1,279
Total Part Time	152

Libraries

Main Library Total Collection	142,650
Warmack Branch Library Total Collection	40,825
Bowles Branch Library Total Collection	8,515

Parks and Recreation

Acres of Park Land	4,989.25
Number of Park Sites	57
Rounds of golf played	72,204
Events at Ruthe Jackson Center	1,081
Loyd Park campers	89,025
Lynn Creek Park attendance	109,497
Cemetery spaces sold	263

Utilities

Water Production (Avg. Gallons/Day)	25.1 million
Fire Hydrants	6,204
Miles of Water Main	800.05 mi.
Collection Line	752 mi.
Customer Accounts	42,686

Solid Waste/Recycling

Garbage Disposed	187,349 tons
Commercial Recycling	*33,438 tons
Residential Recycling at the Landfill	7,597 tons

**Not including soil.*

Transportation

Municipal Airport Takeoffs and Landings	86,781
Grand Connection Bus Passengers	40,026

Take a tour of the City of Grand Prairie on the Internet at

www.gptx.org

Board/Commission Candidate Application

The information contained in this application will become public record. Any false information given will be grounds for removal from boards and commissions.

Name _____

Home Address _____, Grand Prairie, TX (Zip) _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Employer Address _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Email address: _____

Resident of city for _____ years. I live in city council district number _____

Board or Commission Applying for: (List top 3 choices)

1.

2.

3.

Have you ever been a member of a Grand Prairie Board or Commission? If so, indicate your previous appointment and approximate dates of service: _____

_____

Special knowledge, education, experience, interest or other information applicable to performing appointment function:

_____

_____

Applicant Signature

_____

Date _____

Return to: City Secretary
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