

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

City of Orange, Texas



BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ISSUE

A significant portion of the City's business is performed by boards, commissions, and committees whose membership is solely comprised of volunteers. These dedicated residents are the backbone of City government. In this issue we will focus on the three boards and commissions that are staffed by the Planning & Community Development Department. The boards are: Board of Adjustment, Historic Preservation Commission, and Planning & Zoning Commission.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

This board was established according to applicable state law and City ordinance primarily to grant variances from the strict application of the Zoning Ordinance. It also is empowered to approve special exceptions.

The Board has the authority to:

- Exercise the appropriate power, authority, and duties pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas and ordinances of the City of Orange;
- Act on applications for variances to the zoning ordinance;
- Act on applications for special exceptions to the zoning ordinance;
- Decide appeals from an administrative decision of city staff; and
- Hold public hearings in conjunction with the city council, as necessary.

Once an application has been heard by the zoning board of adjustment and denied, the same or substantially similar subject may not be heard by the board until twelve (12) months have lapsed.

Meetings

The board meets as needed, at 5:30 PM. Meetings are held at the Neighborhood Facility Building located at 303 N 8th Street, Orange, Texas 77630.

Members

Linn Cardner
Mark Ferrell - Alt Member
Edward Freiberg
Isacc Henry III
William "Keith" Longlois
Todd Loupe



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Commission promotes the historic features of Orange to residents of Orange County; disseminates information to the public, owners of historic landmarks, and owners of property within historic districts about the preservation and enhancement of historic landmarks; and reviews building plans with applicants anticipating new construction in designated historic districts. The Commission also conducts research on the historic features of the city; makes recommendations on potential historic landmarks; considers landmark improvement plans, and other duties as set forth in the City of Orange Code of Ordinances.

The Committee was organized exclusively for these historical, educational, advisory and civic purposes:

- Promote the historic features of Orange to residents of Orange County;
- Serve as a partner to agencies, such as the Chamber of Commerce and State of Texas Tourist Bureau to attract visitors to Orange by promoting its historic features;
- Disseminate information to owners of historic landmarks and owners of property within historic districts about the preservation and enhancement of historic landmarks, as necessary;
- Disseminate information to the public concerning the preservation and enhancement of historic landmarks;
- Review building plans with applicants anticipating new construction in designated historic districts or applicants anticipating new construction on existing historic landmarks;
- Maintain a list and map of historic landmarks and historic districts which have been designated as such by the city council;
- Conduct research, as necessary, on the historic features of the city;
- Make recommendations on potential historic landmarks to the city council; and
- Consider landmark improvement plans which are submitted to the commission by the Director of Planning and Community Development.

Meetings

The board meets as needed, at 6:00 PM. Meetings are held at the Neighborhood Facility Building located at 303 N 8th Street, Orange, Texas 77630.

Members

Robin Craig - Hunt
Robert Manning
Bridget Trawhon
Codie Vasquez
Kenneth Wheeler



PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning & Zoning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council concerning proposed changes in land use or zoning that may affect the welfare of the community. In addition, the Commission also makes recommendations concerning proposed subdivision developments and is responsible for the development and maintenance of the City's Comprehensive Master Plan.

Meetings

The board meets as needed, at 5:30 PM. Meetings are held at the City Council Chamber located at 220 N 5th Street, Orange, Texas 77630.

Members

Tiffany Bell
Christopher Cowart
Michael Hennigan
George Mortimer
Robert Vigil
Becky Westmoreland
Jamie Wilson



Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The City is prepared to meet the demand of residents and visitors who own electric vehicles. On June 6th, the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed the proposed ordinance regarding electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The commission voted 4-0 to recommend that City Council adopt the ordinance.

During the June 13th (first reading), and June 27th (second reading) city council meetings, Director of Planning and Community Development, Kelvin Knauf asked council to consider the ordinance pertaining to electric vehicle charging stations. The proposed ordinance provides specific uses and zoning information as it pertains to electric vehicle charging stations. On June 27th council approved to adopt the ordinance providing regulations for electric vehicle charging stations. The ordinance can be found in the [City Code of Ordinances](#); Chapter 12 "Planning and Zoning"; Article 12.3000.

Homeowners charging vehicles at home are exempt from the EV ordinance, but may need an electrical permit before installing an electrical plug for charging a vehicle.



Research & Planning

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission hosted a SETDD Vista "State of the Region" project meeting. A welcoming introduction was given by Dean Robinson, Chair, SETEDD and research project overview presentation by Olive Gatling, EDA Vista Intern.



Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development, Divon Williams attended the project meeting to join the discussions regarding the region's economic recovery, and determine how they impact businesses and communities moving forward. Gatling explains that the project includes a data snapshot of Southeast Texas's economic health and regional competitiveness, using analysis of economic, environmental, and equity indicators. The research is used to interpret data points that will accurately reflect the quality of life in the region.

Council Approves Play Area Equipment

On July 11th a City Council meeting was held. During the meeting, Grants Planner, Rita Monson asked council to consider a resolution awarding the contract for the purchase and installation of the children's village play equipment at Cove Recreational Area. Monson also discussed the bidding process and design options provided by each bidding company.

City Council approved the bid from All Play, Inc in the amount of **\$64,975.80**, and authorized the City Manager to proceed with the purchase and installation of equipment.



City Manager & Director of Planning Talk Community

As a city continues to grow, it is important to be analytical, strategic, and proactive. City Manager, Mike Kunst and Director of Planning and Community Development, Kelvin Knauf met up to discuss planning for residential, commercial, and public structures, as well as, resources that enhance the health, growth, and opportunities for the community.



2023 Grant Recipients Announced

In a City Council meeting held on July 25th, The CDBG grant recipients for Grant Year 2023 were presented by Grants Planner, Rita Monson. Monson shared, "this is only a draft, as we have not received our final funding letter from HUD."

In January, grant requests are taken and those who wish to apply have until the end of March to submit applications. The applications are reviewed by the Grants Planner and the Citizen's Advisory Committee. The committee is made up of local citizens.

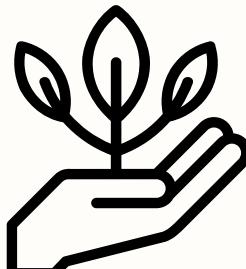
This year's recipients include:

Greater Orange Area Literacy Services (GOALS)	\$ 6,500.00
Jackson Community Center	\$ 6,500.00
Julie Rogers Gift of Life	\$ 4,515.00
Orange Christian Services	\$ 6,000.00
Orange Community Action Association	\$12,500.00
Southeast Texas Hospice	\$ 6,500.00
Stable Spirit	\$ 5,000.00

Total \$47,515.00

These agencies play a vital role in our City. Without these organizations, many low-income families would not get the help they need. **GOALS** offers GED tutoring and testing as well as English as a second language. **Jackson Community Center** assists citizens with free tax preparation, computer tutoring and tutoring for students. **Julie Rogers Gift of Life** provides mammograms at no cost and also prostate exams. **Orange Christian Services** helps pay utilities and rent assistance for those in need. **Orange Community Action Association** provides meals for home-bound senior citizens. **Southeast Texas Hospice** provides care for terminally ill patients. **Stable Spirit** offers equine therapy for children as well as veterans.

These recommendations are part of year five in the current five-year consolidated plan. The recommendations are also part of the 2023 annual action plan. The proposed budget will be published and public hearings will be scheduled to receive citizen input.



More Benches Have Landed in Orange!

Neighborhood Facility Building



Northway Park



Northway Park



Old City Hall



Sunset Park



Previously Installed Benches

City Hall



Navy Park



Stark Foundation



Sunset Park



A special **thank you** to the City of Orange - Public Works department for installing the butterfly benches. We appreciate all of the hard work, effort, and time contributed to this project.

EXPLORE OUR WEBSITES!

The City of Orange exercises appointment authority over **nine** Boards and Commissions. These committees act as advisors and were created by state or local legislative authorities and city ordinances depending on their functions.

For more information about all City's Boards and Commissions, you may visit the Boards & Commission [page](#) or call City Secretary, Patricia Anderson at 409-883-1040. To volunteer your service, kindly complete the [Volunteer Application Form](#) and return it to the City of Orange. You may also contact the Planning Administrative Assistant, Wendy Lloyd at 409-988-7400 if you have any questions about the three City Boards and Commissions referenced on pages 2-4.

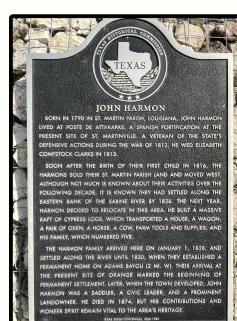
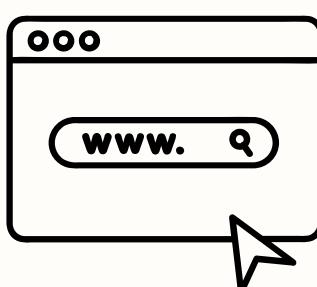
Scan the QR code or go to <https://orangetexas.gov/227/Boards-Commissions> to visit our boards & commissions page.

To view current agendas and minutes for all boards and commissions scan the QR code or visit our Agenda Center page: <https://orangetexas.gov/AgendaCenter>



Historical Markers Uploading

In accordance with the Texas Historical Commission, the City of Orange strives to preserve and protect historic and prehistoric communal elements. The Planning Department is excited to announce the addition of a historical markers section **coming soon** to the City of Orange website. The department hopes to provide resources of education, economic benefit, and enjoyment that will keep our great city and state alive for future generations.



Address:
303 N 8th Street
Orange, TX 77630

Phone:
409-883-1070

Office Hours:

- Mondays - Thursdays 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
- Fridays 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM