

Purpose of Commissions

Commissions are important to Somerville to educate the community on the highest priorities that need to be given attention, or more resources.

Action is key for commissions and each group organizes projects, workshops, and community meetings to educate and raise public awareness.

Commissions have a primary goal to bring people together to increase the power of an individual's time to share in the group.

Part of the strength of commissions include bringing very diverse people together to learn and share.

Recruitment

All of the commissions are recruiting interesting individuals to attend a meeting and to consider applying to become a commissioner. For more information, call the Office of Somerville Commissions. **Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend any of the commissions' monthly meetings.**



Pineapples have been a historic symbol of an open door and hearty welcome.

In all of the Commissions, everyone is welcome.



The Office of Somerville Commissions On-line

www.somervillema.gov/departments.cfm
facebook.com/somerville.commissions

Office of Somerville Commissions

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Office of Somerville Commissions

We cannot do **everything** at once, but we can do **something** at once.

— Calvin Coolidge,

Office of Somerville Commissions

- Somerville Commission for Women
- Human Rights Commission
- Multicultural Affairs Commission
- LGBT Community Outreach and Issues

Commissions & Commissioners

Commissions are an essential way for residents to impact key issues and priorities in the community. The history of each of the commissions in Somerville are based in many people caring passionately that neighbors and residents can make a difference, learn from each other, and work together to address needs and challenges.

SOMERVILLE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The SCW celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008. It's key priorities are anti-violence, women's health, and community engagement.

Meetings: every 3rd Wednesday at 7pm
At City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The HRC is responsible for educating residents about their civil rights, investigating complaints from anyone who feels their rights were violated, and works with the community to bring people together to end discrimination.

Meetings: every 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm
At the Stop & Shop, 775 McGrath Hwy

THE MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

The MAC was created during the Curtatone Administration to support the immigrant community to identify key priorities and voice issues to the City and community.

Meetings: beginning in September
At City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave.

LGBT COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ISSUES

The Office of Somerville Commission is working with local groups and advocates on community priorities and needs. The OSC is hiring an LGBT Liaison this Fall 2009. Stay tuned and watch our website and Facebook.

FAQs

WHAT DO COMMISSIONERS DO?

Commissions meet to talk about what is happening in Somerville. They work on special projects that improve relations, raise awareness, educate about key subjects, and choose their own priorities to work on.

ARE COMMISSIONERS PAID?

No. Commissioners are unpaid.

HOW OFTEN TO COMMISSIONS MEET?

Commissions meet once a month for about 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

HOW MUCH TIME DO COMMISSIONERS GIVE?

Generally, commissioners give about five hours a month. There are some folks who are able to give more, some a bit less. The goal is to be fully involved while still meeting other commitments.

WHAT'S THE PROCESS TO JOIN?

Interested Somerville residents begin to attend monthly meetings, learn about the commission, participate in discussions and take on a task or two. Then a prospective commissioner fills out an application, has an interview with commissioners, meets with the Mayor, meets with a committee of the Aldermen, and is called to attend a Board of Alderman's meeting to sign in as a commissioner. The process will take about three to four months.

All of the commissions encourage and welcome a diverse community to be involved and join.

Success comes from different voices!



WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF A TERM?

Three years.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN?

Commissioners must be residents of Somerville, commit to attend 90% of meetings and events, and participate fully.

CAN I VOLUNTEER?

Yes! There are many ways to be involved including attending meetings, working on projects, working in the Office of Somerville Commissions to assist with outreach efforts & other projects.

Projects

The commissions work on many different activities including events

like Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan), Women's History Month (March), workshops, dialogue sessions, professional taskforces, research and reports, and key policy announcements.

If they once become inattentive to public affairs, you and I, and Congress and Assemblies, judges and governors would all become wolves.

—Thomas Jefferson

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