



CLERK'S OFFICE MEMO

To: **Government Affairs Committee**

From: **Steven A. Braatz, Jr., City Clerk**

Meeting Date: **May 13, 2025**

Subject: **Standing Committee Topics**

A. Review

Staff reviewed the various topics between all four Standing Committees for all meetings in 2022 through 2024. Community Affairs Committee and Transportation Affairs Committee have both had several meetings during this time period.

Unfortunately, there is no perfect rebalancing of topics without completely recreating the Standing Committee structure, so we felt we were limited in suggestions.

We do believe there is an opportunity to dissolve the Board of Parks and Forestry Commissioners and transfer those duties to a Standing Committee to help balance workload. This is being recommended because the Board has a significantly reduced workload with the City's park system being built-out, as well as processes and procedures being carried out by staff. The majority of the Board's actions must also currently flow through a Standing Committee so it is a cumbersome process for the public, staff, and elected officials. This would allow for Alders to have quicker and more direct input on matters that affect the Wauwatosa park system.

B. Recommendation

Based on the review, staff has the following recommendations.

1. Move all licensing and permits from Government Affairs Committee to Community Affairs Committee. Based on past meetings, this will remove roughly 40% of the workload for Government Affairs Committee. However, this will free up Government Affairs Committee, who is typically limited to an hour of discussion time, to thoroughly discuss other legislative matters.
2. Dissolve the Board of Parks and Forestry Commission and assign the duties to what is currently the Transportation Affairs Committee.
3. Rename Transportation Affairs Committee to something broader to capture the current and new topics they would be assigned.

These changes will result in amendments to various sections of Title 2 of the Wauwatosa Municipal Code, as well as other potential sections of the Municipal Code.