

Bainbridge Island Ethics Board – Advisory Opinion

RE: AO2007-1

DATE of REQUEST: September 18, 2007

SUBJECT: City Commissions

DATE of ISSUE: October 8, 2007

Thank you for your inquiry to the Ethics Board.

You have requested advice regarding ethics issues and city commissions, particularly the Open Space Commission (OSC). Because the OSC is a citizen commission, it is not covered by Resolution No. 2006-25, which established the Ethics Board and the ethics policies for elected officials on Bainbridge Island. Therefore, we do not have jurisdiction to address potential requests for advisory opinions about OSC. (Note that citizen commissions are different than City Council Committees, such as the Land Use Committee, which would be within the purview of Res. No. 2006-25.) The only exception would involve substantive interactions by an elected official with the OSC's business.

Action by the City Council would be necessary either to add city commissions to our jurisdiction or to establish a separate ethics entity to address such issues.

One role of the Ethics Board is to make recommendations to the City Council for changes to the Ethics Code. We will consider your suggestion in deciding what changes to recommend.

cc. City Clerk  
City Attorney