

Returning to In-Person Board, Committee, Commission and Taskforce Meetings

144

Responses

04:41

Average time to complete

Closed

Status

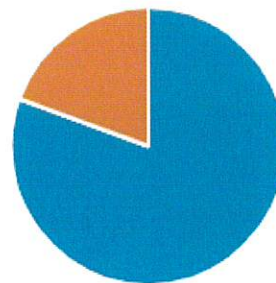
1. Please enter your name. If you prefer to remain anonymous, enter 'anonymous'.

144

Responses

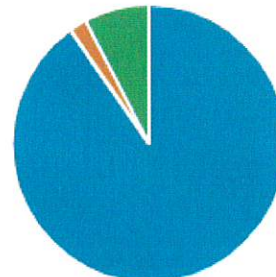
2. Are you comfortable attending in-person meetings

● Yes	116
● No	28



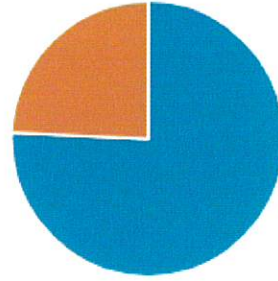
3. Have you received the COVID-19 vaccine?

● Yes	130
● No	3
● Prefer not to answer.	11



4. Do you want the members of your volunteer group to vote to go back to in-person? The majority vote will determine the meeting format.

● Yes	109
● No	35



5. Tell us your thoughts on in-person meetings.

144
Responses

Latest Responses

"The HPC has positive feedback on Virtual Meetings. "

"I am comfortable as long as people are vaccinated"

"Options should remain for remote attendance."

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Prompt: Tell us your thoughts on in-person meetings.

I'm good with meeting in person

I believe meetings (and work location) should be judged for a possible hybrid implementation. Meetings can be judged based on the agenda (heavy agenda may require a more in-person tactic for discussion purposes and for the public, whereas a lighter agenda may be a quick virtual meeting).

Would prefer virtual at this time.

The first question was hard for me to answer - I really wanted to answer Yes & No.

I am vaccinated and feel more comfortable with in-person settings, but I really take them on a case-by-case basis. I evaluate a lot of things before deciding my comfort level. I do this because I have no way of knowing who is not vaccinated and as an immunocompromised person, I plan to be extra cautious for a bit longer.

Our task force is a large group. In-person would mean 15 members, 2 co-chairs, one Fuse Fellow, myself and one other support person who would need to remote into an in-person meeting because they are moving away from Durham. That's up to 18 people in a room. I also have some concerns that if the public was to show up for meetings, that could increase the number of people in the room and I again not knowing whether or not people are vaccinated raises concern for me.

Ideally our space used would be large enough to allow us to sit apart (I'm still practicing social distancing personally) and I would probably still wear my mask the entire time I was in the meeting. If we were using City Hall spaces, it could be that masks are required for everyone anyway.

All that being said, voting seems the fairest way to go. I believe my task force WOULD vote to allow in-person meetings. They have expressed how they hope we can get together soon.

I will defer to the members of the group. I suspect that some of the committees will choose to continue to hold at least some of their meetings virtually, because it is more convenient and attendance has been better during the pandemic.

I need a City decision about returning back to the office before in-person Boards and Commissions meetings are decided. I feel uncomfortable with leaving it up to Boards and Commissions to decide this by a vote without a plan for how to protect staff. Thanks for asking this question and working towards clearer guidance!

I would like to continue to meet virtually.

I say "yes" but I would also be OK remaining virtual. I'm not a strong "yes" but a willing "yes" if that makes sense.

I am fine returning to in-person meetings if my board members vote to do this.

Returning to in person meetings may be a challenge due to lack of adequate physical meeting spaces. Our regular meeting locations were quite cramped even before COVID

I think engagement is waning with virtual meetings. A lot of folks having been inundated with virtual meetings since the beginning of COVID.

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Would prefer virtual as the majority of people are not vaccinated. We are far from here immunity.

I would prefer to go back in August

I think transmission rates of COVID are down. If there is a space available where we could meet and socially distance, I believe it would be safe to return to in person meeting with masks.

As long as all folks are vaccinated, I feel safe returning.

I am comfortable meeting in person.

I like the idea of a vote but am concerned about using a simple majority vote. I would not want someone on the Board to feel like they have to choose between continuing to be a member and doing something they are not comfortable with. What options would be available to folks who only felt safe doing a virtual format, if the Board voted to go back to in-person?

I am generally in-favor of returning to in-person meetings as long as cases remain low. I think there is a possibility that cases in Durham could increase, and would want some sort of option to return to a virtual format if that were the case.

My answer Yes is conditional and is really a maybe. Any in person meetings will still need to follow safe practices related to ventilation, social distancing and mask wearing if all attendees are not fully vaccinated. Unfortunately, we still have less than 50% of residents vaccinated in Durham. There are still risks associated with indoor settings. I would only feel comfortable attending in person meetings if appropriate safety practices were being fully implemented.

I think that I would attend in person, but that a remote option such as zoom-in or call-in should be available, as that will reduce barriers to participation in committees and boards.

I would like to go to in-person meetings when it would be safe for us to do so unmasked (which would mean after all of us are vaccinated). Until then, I need the benefit of being able to read the mouths and facial expressions of my colleagues. I would enjoy a masked social gathering with no agenda, just to mingle and strengthen our appreciation and care for one another. But when there is work to do and decisions to be made, I want to be able to be unmasked and therefore we must work remotely.

Please remain virtual. It is easier.

While I am vaccinated, my younger daughter is too young for vaccination and I worry about bringing germs home to her. I have no comfort level with other people taking the proper precautions, especially now that masks are rarely mandated.

Remaining virtual will allow residents to attend from home or work who would normally have to take time off. There are many benefits of virtual meetings such as: no more parking issues, easier for residents to participate and provide public comments. Meeting space is often an issue and that would be eliminated.

A socially spaced in-person protocol should be established. However, the impact on staff members safety in carrying out in person meetings should be strongly considered.

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

We'll need to continue to live stream the meetings and allow "live" community input during the meeting in some form or fashion. Comments or questions in a chat or on FaceBook that the meeting host/co-host can monitor and read to those at the meeting.

I think it would be nice, especially if everyone is vaccinated.....

Virtual meetings are more convenient but less productive. I am happy to follow the will of the committee members. Thank you!

As a parent of two small children, I do like the ease of the Zoom meetings and would love to alternate monthly between in person and virtual meetings.

Very nervous but excited too.

Thank you for asking. I'm a little nervous about in person meetings, particularly in venues without good ventilation or circulation. Prefer masks.

Despite the challenges, City staff has done a great job handling the remote meetings. Having remote meetings gave me the ability to use 2 computer screens to display application materials, supporting info, etc. This allowed me to ask better questions and be a better BOA member. I will not have that capability with in-person meetings, and will have to return to a single screen controlled by others during meetings.

Most of the triangles municipalities have already gone back to in person meetings. It's time.

It would be great to be back in person but maintain some distancing and masking as a precaution. I'd prefer to begin this transition in August/September so there is time to work out the new routines and procedures of entering buildings, using bathrooms, and being in a room together. I also want to honor those that serve that are immunocompromised and think their needs should carry more weights within a group. I'm on HSAC and its very possible for us to continue meeting online and continue getting work accomplished.

I would prefer that if we meet in person we can have some clarity or agreement about vaccination status and a mask policy.

We should go back in person. Everyone who is not vaccinated must wear a mask.

I like how more of the public can drop in on a virtual meeting as opposed to in person

Fine, as long as meetings are accessible to those who are uncomfortable or unable to attend in person

My concerns are only in screening the participants before entering the chamber.

We have had a number of new people join the appearance commission in the past 16 months. Because we have not met in person, it has been almost impossible to get to know them. As a result, people are not engaged & losing interest. I think it is imperative to meet in person before people start dropping out.

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

I think the decision should be made by consensus of the group so that no one is forced beyond their safety level.

Need a large meeting space

Let's do it!

I would like to remain virtual.

I am comfortable with in person meetings, however, attendance to meetings from guests has been much higher in the virtual setting. I believe the virtual setting does provide access to our meetings to those who would otherwise not be able to make it in person. I would be open to a hybrid of both in person and virtual as well.

The return to in-person meetings would be acceptable from my perspective, so long as the proper safety precautions are taken into account (specifically, the safety guidelines laid out by the CDC).

I'm not sure if it's necessary to be honest.

DOST has been virtual since I have joined. It is really difficult to get a sense of whats going on and/or to connect virtually. For this reason, I think being in person would be better with helping me be more involved.

Happy for it. That said, our zoom meetings have been very effective and resulted, probably, in increased attendance from folks who didn't usually show up. I'd like in person as long as we can still engage via zoom. Is that possible?

For selfish reasons I would rather remain virtual, because I don't get out of work until later and it's hectic to try to make the meetings on time in person! If we have to go back to in person meetings though, I accept that.

I would prefer for the meetings to remain virtual.

I am very comfortable with returning and in order to progress any sort of agenda I believe it's vital we do get back to in-person meetings. Being a new commission member it has been difficult to feel integrated into the group and there has been a noticeable difficulty in engagement across all members.

I am only in support of moving Community Safety and Wellness Task Force meetings in person if ALL members are comfortable and can freely consent to doing so. I know that, as of recently, some of our members had not yet been able to receive the vaccine. We should meet in person only if ALL of our members are able to do so. Otherwise, we should facilitate equal participation by remaining online. This is why I selected "no" for question 4. This should not be a majority vote. It should be full consensus.

I'm happy to return to in-person meetings, but would like to see meetings retain an option to join virtually. It makes this type of volunteer service more accessible.

Question 4 seems poorly worded--My response is "Either". Question 5: Virtual meetings are working quite well for conducting business. It would be helpful to meet in person occasionally, for relationship-building.

If it is safe and members and staff feel comfortable then I'm ok with it. However, I do feel a virtual option should be given to those who may want to opt out.

It is essential to persons that are unable to connect or have Wi-Fi or cable in their homes. It's easier to get the message out to communities.

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

I'm ready to return, I think it's time to return, and I think it is safe to return to person meetings. I'm comfortable with mask or no mask requirements, and I'm fine with social distancing or not social distancing, inside or outside meetings work as well.

na

Zoom is fine. Would be nice to see people in person.

In-person will give us the freedom to be more flexible, interactive, and familiar with each other and our work.

I am currently in my third trimester of pregnancy and am strictly teleworking. Therefore, I'll be unable to attend if meetings move to in-person. Virtual meetings would still allow me the opportunity to fully participate.

I'm open to safe in person return

In-person meetings should be for vaccinated people only. Others can attend virtually. Thanks for asking.

I am comfortable attending in-person meetings if we continue to practice social distancing.

I believe mask-wearing and social distancing should still be the priority if we return to in-person meetings. Especially while the COVID numbers are still a concern.

2020 virtual meetings have shown there's no need for in-person meetings and the virtual meetings are more efficient. A hybrid in-person/virtual meeting could be a good way to accommodate volunteers.

With in-person meetings people are more engaged appear to be listening.

I'm very comfortable going back to in-person meeting or do a hybrid meeting.

I would like for the group to meet in person. But ultimately I would like to go with the option the group is most comfortable with. I think we should honor the folks who don't feel comfortable doing the in-person meetings, oppose to folks who are--- even if they are outvoted.

I would like to have in person meetings with the option to have it virtually as well.

I like the idea of having in person meetings but I think there are many who would still like the ability to have remote access. I think it would be important to have a phone in/zoom in option for commission members and/or community members to participate.

I say let us return to some kind of normal.

I believe we should continue to offer virtual meetings, with in-person as a non mandatory option. Vaccination rate in NC is only 54% of population. Below the 64% national average.

All for it. Okay with masks and social distancing if that's what it takes.

I would like to continue attending the meetings. Neither I nor my son has had the COVID vaccine. My son has a complex health history and I am not comfortable with him getting the vaccination just yet. I prefer to remain remote. Is it possible to have in-person meetings and have members call in?

I feel comfortable returning to in-person, but need to consider the commute and work schedule/meetings don't interfere

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

There is not enough data regarding immunizations ,how long they last ,how they work with variants and it is far more convenient to attend virtually .I have been told attendance is up for many programs ,forums ,board meetings and the like due to virtual access.

Sounds good

As long as proper masking and social distancing procedures are followed indoors and folks are vaccinated I don't mind meeting safely in-person.

I think to meet quorum it's easier to do virtual meetings. I think we should do a hybrid where you meet virtual but 2-4x a year you gather in person. It's much easier to make a meeting with busy schedules virtually.

The move to the virtual format has reduced the length of the meeting, not the effectiveness. The lack of travel time has been huge a plus.

I am comfortable as long as we keep a safe distance from one another

Honestly, I do not think that in-person meetings are necessarily critical to the productivity of the Board. The Chair(s) and the City/County staff have been exemplary at planning and executing the meetings to keep them on topic and on time, while also ensuring that all are able to participate. That said, I just have a personal preference for in-person. Getting to connect with my fellow Board members is, to me, one of the 'perks' of the role. I'd suggest that the City look into a camera designed for hybrid in-person + virtual meetings, something like the Owl Labs Meeting Owl Pro (<https://owllabs.com/products/meeting-owl-pro>). I recently acquired one for my own team to help with hybrid meetings.

While I'm willing to participate in an in-person meeting, I prefer the virtual video conference meeting option. I really like being in my personal space and I want to be able to use my laptop, taking notes/doing research while in session.

I would have chosen "maybe" instead of y/n to question #2 if it was an option. Meetings should still be offered in a hybrid format (in-person and remote). I would only return if there is a requirement that people be vaccinated to show up in person and we have facilities and rooms that will allow people to be 6ft apart.

virtual

Only if every member is vaccinated.

If Questions 2 and 4 had a Maybe, I would choose that. I am open to in-person meetings, but am a little hesitant in the short term, mainly for the sake of others who may want to remain cautious (though I suppose this survey will shed light there). Long term, I would prefer in-person meetings. Someone mentioned that attendance has been up with virtual meetings. Given this, and given what I'm guessing may be a mixed response to this survey, I wonder if one way forward would be hosting in-person meetings with a video option (big screen in the room, connected to video conference for those who prefer to be remote). If we return in-person, I would prefer there to be a rule that only those vaccinated may attend.

If vaccinated is ok with me

I am handicapped and cannot get to meetings myself. I find it much more convenient to attend zoom meetings than in-person meetings.

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Generally okay but based on the fact that I have relationships with the folks with whom I'm meeting in person. For public meetings/hearings, I would still prefer to limit capacity of attendees in the room at one time and adhere to some form of social distancing to the extent practicable.

I am still unsure about meeting in person. I am open to the idea but I am still unsure

Would prefer in-person over zoom.

I think that Zoom meetings are definitely effective for the work we do but I would love to meet everyone in person and I think that in-person meetings could foster more discussion. Personally, I often find it hard to speak up during meetings because it's difficult to navigate the social cues of when someone's done speaking and when it's appropriate to "unmute," so to speak.

If we have in-person meetings, only fully vaccinated persons should be in the room.

I think they're an important aspect of our work but that we should continue to provide a virtual option to make our meeting a more accessible. This may be messy at first but I think it would be a net benefit for our community.

I'm not sure that everything needs to go fully back to in person. I'd love to see a quarterly HSAC meeting that is in person with the other two meetings virtual. It seems like the virtual format helps with attendance.

I am interested in returning to in-person meetings and would feel comfortable doing so immediately, but in an abundance of caution, perhaps we should consider waiting until the September meeting in order to permit the state's vaccination rate to get a bit higher.

I'd still like to reasonably social distance, and have no problem with masks indoors.

Very comfortable meeting in person.

I am still very anxious over in-person meetings. I would prefer we continue virtual meetings for the rest of 2021. I think the world is moving too fast and we need time for the booster vaccine to be released so that it works for the new strains of Covid-19. I have been vaccinated but continue to wear masks everywhere. I rather be cautious and not put myself in jeopardy just to sit in a meeting that can be done virtually.

I have no issues with in person meetings, feel they could be engaging

I am fine with them. I also like online because it is convenient

As long as we follow CDC guidelines, I am fine.

I think we should resume in-person meetings still socially distance as long as the majority of individuals have received their COVID-19 vaccinations.

I am comfortable resuming in-person meetings provided everyone follows CDC guidance and recommendations. I also realize there are different perspectives and respect whatever determination the group decides.

I'm comfortable as long as the majority (if not) all members of the board I serve on have been vaccinated and, if not, that non vaccinated person are required to wear a mask.

I know we all want to get back to business as usual. However, I feel we can still accomplish the same amount of work virtually as we do in-person. Plus, virtual meetings save on both gas and travel time.

While I am comfortable returning to in-person meetings and feel it will help with Board engagement, I also respect the consensus and feel the majority should be comfortable before returning. I also suggest we have a virtual option available for those who do not wish to join in person.

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Unvaccinated persons should be masked and distanced properly.

I am fine with hybrid meetings or alternating between in-person and virtual to allow for greater accommodation and accessibility!

Those who have not been vaccinated should continue to wear masks to avoid potential infection for them and any others who have not been vaccinated.

I answered all of the questions since responses were required; however, the answers for some of the questions do not fully represent my feelings. I'd like to clarify here. I am comfortable attending in person meetings if the vast majority of those attending in person are vaccinated. I would love for the number to be 100%, but think I would be comfortable if at least 80% of attendees are vaccinated. I admit that number is very arbitrary and I'm not sure why those are my feelings other than I'm still a bit anxious and am being very cautious with my actions as things start to open back up. Perhaps masks should be required for meetings where many attendees will not be vaccinated. I'm unsure what the policies around asking about vaccinations will be for different groups, but would definitely feel more comfortable knowing how many people I interact with will be vaccinated.

I would suggest delaying in person meetings until county is at 70% vaccinated rate or offer hybrid meetings.

It is too early to return to in person meetings. You will be putting other people a risk and eliminating the participation of people with other health issues.

In person meetings are good but it is more convenient to have Zoom meetings. Would it be possible to have a combination...in person and/or Zoom meetings?

Prefer to meet virtually - much more efficient use of time and limits the need to travel to/from meetings.

It'll be good to go back to in-person meetings eventually, but we've also been as productive if not more, meeting virtually.

It can be done safely and with any thoughtful additional precautions should be strongly considered over the next few months.

Our meetings last for hours, I am not comfortable doing that in person.

I am comfortable with it.

In-person meetings are picking back up but with many still being held remotely, it is complicating scheduling.

My caveat is that I only think in-person meetings should happen if all members of the committee(s) and the supporting staff are vaccinated, and if other precautions related to COVID 19 are followed (ex: wearing masks in common areas indoors).

I am new to the group and like the thought of getting to know one another in person. However, I don't feel strongly about it. If others prefer to stick with Zoom for safety and/or for convenience, I am 100% supportive of that. I also know that it may be hard for some people to miss work to drive to morning meetings. So, videoconference may be preferred. I am flexible either way and also vaxxed to the max.

I'm open to doing a hybrid approach where we have both in-person and virtual.

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

The flexibility of having these meetings from home, especially during the week, makes it much easier for those of us who work full-time and have families with children.

Game on :)

I am flexible either way.

I believe with the new variants that are increasing, the effectiveness of virtual meetings, and the time savings associated with virtual meetings, there is very little justification to return to in-person meetings on a regular basis. However, if others can truly justify the need for an in-person meetings, I am open. Most of the justifications that I've heard to date are based on social preferences and rather than impact on the effectiveness of the meetings.

We should wait until 2022 to go back in person to protect the health of the Durham Community.

No reservations.

I would prefer for those who attend in-person meetings to be vaccinated. Also, for the meeting room to be large enough for 1-2 seats between attendees.

First, I am comfortable attending in-person meetings only under certain conditions - masking, social distancing, etc. - but no such qualifiers are available in question 2 of this survey. I will be more comfortable once vaccines are available to all ages, including children. But I also believe virtual meetings work better for Planning Commission than in-person meetings.

The online meetings for Planning Commission in particular work very well as they are more accessible to individuals who have other commitments or obligations, whether personal, work-related, family, etc. I believe for Planning Commission, given the length of meetings and (cont) contentiousness of many cases, that the online format is far more effective at providing opportunities for attendance and voicing input.

virtual meetings are more convenient

I would love to be in-person again, but would prefer to wear masks.

I would recommend starting in - person meetings in July.

I think the in person meeting has a stronger impact on content and issues being discuss also adds to the camaraderie.

I would gladly attend an in-person meeting if only those who have been vaccinated attend. Those who have not been vaccinated or have chosen not to take the vaccine at all should remain remote. I have an medical condition that puts me at higher risk so if everyone was vaccinated (and could prove as much) I would feel safe to go back to in-person meetings.

I don't feel comfortable going back to in-person meetings just yet. Potentially in the Fall.

I am comfortable meeting in person if others are.

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, TASKFORCE SURVEY RESPONSES REGARDING
RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS

If in-person meetings are held, my strong preference would be to follow protocols for indoor gatherings including mask wearing and social distancing. It would also be helpful for me to know if there are people who have NOT been fully vaccinated who are attending. It is useful to keep in mind we are not out of this pandemic yet by any means, but I am open to changing my views as the situation changes in Durham and North Carolina.

Last, but importantly, I'm in favor of continuing virtual meetings as in most cases we can conduct the business just as effectively as with in-person meetings and it is often easier for more people to attend.

Options should remain for remote attendance.

I am comfortable as long as people are vaccinated

The HPC has positive feedback on Virtual Meetings.