

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 17- 4788 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CAPITAL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Date: June 9, 2017

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BACKGROUND

In 2006, Portland-area voters approved a \$227.4 million bond measure to acquire and preserve natural areas throughout the region to safeguard water quality, protect fish and wildlife habitat and ensure access to nature. The bond measure seeks to achieve these goals through the funding of Metro's Natural Areas Program.

The bond measure requires an independent review of the program. To fulfill this requirement, each year the former Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee evaluated and reported on the program's structure, management, expenditures, personnel and progress toward the bond measures' defined goals.

Composed of residents from throughout the region, the committee has included members from the finance, accounting, real estate, land use, banking, philanthropy and conservation sector. The committee was charged with providing the Metro Council and residents of the region an independent, outside review of the program in order to help Metro achieve the best results for clean water, fish and wildlife and future generations.

The Metro Council included a requirement in the local option levy approved by voters in 2016 to provide similar oversight of capital projects funded by the levy renewal (covering years 2018-2023) and improve Metro's accountability. In June 2017, the Metro Council updated the Metro Code to create a new committee that could fulfill the requirements both of the Natural Areas bond and the 2016 levy, named the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee.

The purpose of the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee (committee) is to ensure transparency and build public trust in Metro's role operating and managing a system of parks, trails and natural areas. Specifically, the committee will review program performance and report to the Metro Council regarding progress in implementing the strategies, goals and objectives approved by the Metro Council in the 2006 Natural Areas bond measure as well as review performance and report to the Metro Council on capital projects funded by the local option levy approved by voters in November 2016. The committee may make recommendations regarding the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan to improve program efficiency, administration and performance.

The Committee will be comprised of some returning members as well as new members. Metro staff will continue to assist the new committee as necessary throughout the life of the Natural Areas Program and the 2016 local option levy. Staff performs such duties as making technical presentations and preparing reports to the committee, as well as coordinating and staffing meetings. Staff also supports the committee's work to draft the report presented to the Metro Council annually.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

None.

2. Legal Antecedents

Metro Resolution No. 06-3672B, For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection, approved March 9, 2006.

Metro Code Chapter 2.19, "Metro Advisory Committees," providing generally applicable rules for the creation of committees providing advice to the Metro Council and appointment of members to such committees.

Ordinance No. 07-1155A, Amending Metro Code Chapter 2.19 to establish the Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee, and declaring an emergency, adopted May 31, 2007

Ordinance No. 17-1399, Amending Metro Code Chapter 2.19 and establishing the Parks and Nature Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee. Scheduled to be adopted on June 22, 2017.

3. Anticipated Effects

By approving Resolution No. 17-4788, the Metro Council will appoint members of the new Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee, providing the independent oversight required by Metro-area voters. To provide some continuity, this resolution reappoints several members of the former Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee to an additional two-year term on the new committee and returns the previous committee chair for an additional two-year term. New members are appointed to up to three, two-year terms, as provided by Metro Code. All committee members will participate in conducting the required annual review of the capital program for the public and help ensure that the funds voters have authorized fulfill the Metro's Council's commitments and provide the greatest possible benefit to the region.

4. Budget Impacts

Staff time to provide information to the committee and prepare reports and notification to the public.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Council President recommends adoption of Resolution No. 17-4788.