

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 17-1399 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING METRO CODE CHAPTER 2.19 AND ESTABLISHING THE NATURAL AREAS AND CAPITAL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Date: May 18, 2017

Prepared by: Heather Nelson Kent

BACKGROUND

The 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure established an oversight committee to review and suggest improvements to the implementation and administration of the Natural Areas Program.

The purpose of the committee is to provide additional accountability to Metro area residents and the Metro Council in order to help the region achieve the best results for clean water, fish and wildlife, and future generations. The committee was charged with reviewing program performance and reporting annually to the Metro Council regarding Metro's Natural Areas program's progress in implementing the strategies, goals and objectives approved by the Metro Council for property acquisition and protection in 27 target areas, as described in Council-approved refinement plans. In addition, the committee is required to review and report to the Metro Council on local share projects and the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program. The committee may also make recommendations regarding the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan to improve program efficiency, administration and performance.

Members of the committee are drawn from all areas of the region and from a variety of technical and professional disciplines, including finance, auditing, accounting, real estate, banking and law. Committee members share their technical and professional expertise to ensure that expenditure of bond measure funds satisfies the requirements of the program.

In accordance with Metro Code 2.19.220, the Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee has met consistently since created in 2007 and has produced and presented to the Metro Council annual reports starting in 2008. The committee has led staff in development of a new regional acquisition performance measurement system, advised on the implementation of the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program and property stabilization practices, and has reviewed program administrative costs and definitions.

Metro local option levy approved by voters in 2016 requires similar oversight of capital projects funded by the levy renewal. This ordinance would expand the duties of the existing Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee, update membership terms and requirements, and change the name of the committee to the "Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee."

Metro staff will continue to assist the 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. 16-4690, For the Purpose of Referring to the Voters of the Metro Area Renewal of Metro's Local Option Levy for Protecting Water Quality, Restoring Fish and Wildlife Habitat; and Connecting People to Nature.

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 Resolution No. 16-4690, For the Purpose of Referring to the Voters of the Metro Area Renewal of Metro's Local Option Levy for Protecting Water Quality, Restoring Fish and Wildlife Habitat; and Connecting People to Nature, approved June 30, 2016.

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.

3. Anticipated Effects

By approving Ordinance No. 17-1399, the Metro Council will expand the charge of the existing Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee to include oversight of capital projects funded by Metro's local option levy. The committee will be renamed the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee. Existing eligible members will continue to serve on the new committee effective July 1, 2017, including the committee chair. Committee members will participate in conducting the annual review of these capital programs for the public and help ensure that the funds voters have authorized 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 Ordinance No. 17-1399.