

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-5628 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE OREGON ZOO BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Date: July 13, 2026

Department: Oregon Zoo

Meeting Date: July 30, 2026

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ISSUE STATEMENT

In May 2024, Metro area voters approved a \$380 million obligation of bond funds to support capital improvement projects at Oregon Zoo. As part of the public accountability plan for the ballot measure, Metro committed to establishing a community oversight committee to report annually on progress to Metro Council.

In July 2025, Metro Council passed Ordinance No. 25-1534 to establish the Oregon Zoo Bond Oversight Committee, which will convene periodically to receive reports and updates on the status of the bond program and determine whether such status and implementation are consistent with the voter-approved bond measure.

In November 2025, Metro Council passed Resolution No. 25-5522 to appoint the first members of the Zoo Bond Oversight Committee.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of Resolution No. 26-5628, confirming the appointment of three new members to the Oregon Zoo Bond Oversight Committee. In March 2026, Metro launched a special recruitment for Clackamas County residents, due to the resignation of committee member Robin-Michel Lenihan.

Per Metro's Charter, the committee will consist of residents from Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties who will serve staggered 2-year terms, with a maximum length of service of 6 years. Committee members hold expertise for a variety of competencies relevant to the implementation of the Zoo bond, including business and non-profit management, construction and capital improvement, finance, accessibility, and legal compliance.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

This action supports Metro's commitment to the public related to the May 2024 Ballot Measure 26-244.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommend that Metro Council make the following appointments to the Oregon Zoo Bond Oversight Committee:

- Greg Dirks for the remainder of Robin-Michel Lenihan’s 2-year term as Committee Member; and
- James Louderman and Connor Sumpter for 2-year terms as Committee Members.

Additional details can be found in Exhibit A of the Resolution.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Oregon Zoo Bond Oversight Committee is intended to assist Metro Council in holding the Oregon Zoo accountable for the expenditure of the general obligation bond funds. It is an independent committee which sets its own agenda within the limits of its purpose, authority, charter and Metro rules and requirements. The committee process allows voters the opportunity to be invested stakeholders in the outcomes of the bond, connects them more intimately to the operations of the Zoo and the impacts of the Metro Regional Government, and is a vital connection in ensuring public trust and support.

BACKGROUND

On May 22, 2024, Metro area voters passed Ballot Measure 26-244 authorizing Metro to issue up to \$380 million of general obligation bonds to fund Oregon Zoo capital projects to:

- Improve facilities to enhance educational opportunities for children and other visitors to learn about animals and habitat conservation.
- Conserve water and energy in operations and updated infrastructure.
- Improve facilities supporting the Zoo’s conservation work protecting and restoring threatened and endangered species in the Northwest and beyond.
- Increase accessibility for visitors of all abilities, including improved paths and exhibits.
- Improve protection from heat and extreme weather for animals and visitors.
- Improve facilities to prepare for animal care in a natural disaster or emergency.

The bond measure language included a public accountability plan which requires annual audits, and annual reports to Metro Council by a community oversight committee.

ATTACHMENTS

None