

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-5410 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CAPITAL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Date: April 8, 2024
Department: Parks and Nature
Meeting Date: April 25, 2024

Prepared by: Beth Cohen

ISSUE STATEMENT

Independent community oversight has been essential to Metro's accountability and delivery on promises made to voters in its funding measures. In February 2021, the Metro Council established the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee, charged with providing independent and transparent oversight Metro's use of capital funds from the \$475 million 2019 parks and nature bond, the parks and natural areas levy and remaining funds from the 2006 natural areas bond, and confirmed the appointment of a slate of 19 members.

In order to ensure continuity in the committee and to avoid having the entire committee membership turn over at the same time, half the committee members were appointed to an initial one-year term and half the members were appointed to an initial two-year term.

The purpose of Resolution No. 24-5410 is to re-appoint individuals originally appointed for a two-year term in 2022 to serve on the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee for a second two-year term.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff requests approval of Resolution No. 24-5410 to re-appoint individuals to serve on the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The current makeup of the oversight committee reflects the Metro Council's direction for members to bring a deep understanding of conservation values and racial equity as well as multiple complementary backgrounds and knowledge across a range of topics including conservation, habitat and biodiversity, finance, working lands, understanding of the disability community and the urban Indigenous community and of issues around tribal sovereignty.

The Metro Council has asked the oversight committee to monitor how bond implementation activities are meeting the direction in the bond measure, to monitor

financial aspects of program administration and to share with the Metro Council related concerns or recommendations to help adjust work moving forward.

BACKGROUND

In February 2021, the Metro Council amended the Metro code to establish the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee and approved a slate of 19 members to serve on the committee to represent the region and bring diverse expertise racial equity values and will include members with technical expertise and lived experience in areas including, but not limited to: finance, land acquisition, land conservation, environmental issues, working lands, tribal sovereignty and issues relevant to the disability community and the urban Indigenous community. The Oversight Committee has been meeting since April 2021.

Metro Council Ordinance No. 21-1460, which established the oversight committee in Metro Code section 2.19.222, states that the Committee will be composed of no fewer than 9 and no more than 21 members and that committee members can serve up to three two-year terms. At the time of appointment, committee members were randomly assigned an initial term of one or two years so committee turnover wouldn't happen all at the same time. Beginning in 2022, in the spring of each year, the Metro Council has re-appointed current committee members to continue serving on the committee. In April 2024, the Metro Council will also be considering approval of Resolution No. 24-5410 for the purpose of re-appointing four committee members to a second term.

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 24-5410 (list of members for re-appointment)