

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-5408 FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CAPITAL PROGRAM  
PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

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## **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 and the parks and natural areas levy, and confirmed the appointment of a slate of 19 members.

There are 11 current committee members and after initial review of applications received through March 2024, staff are recommending 7 individuals for appointment. These individuals have demonstrated a commitment to the bond criteria and the potential to address a needed experience on the committee so that the committee can continue to provide effective oversight to the multiple layers of the Parks and Nature bond and represent the diversity of the region. Moving forward, a rolling application period will provide opportunities to identify additional individuals that address needed gaps in committee perspectives.

The purpose of Resolution No. 24-5408 is to appoint 7 individuals to serve on the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee.

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Staff requests approval of Resolution No. 24-5408 to appoint 7 individuals to serve on the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee.

## **IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

Direction from the Metro Council has shaped the ongoing recruitment process to ensure recruitment opportunity is shared as widely as possible and with most updated stakeholder list.

Ongoing direction from Council has also shaped priorities for recruitment of new members to ensure the oversight committee represents the diversity of the region, be committed to

the bond criteria of racial equity, community engagement and climate resilience and include members with experience on issues relevant to the bond and the committee's work.

In alignment with direction from Council, the recommend list of applicants includes representation from all three counties, individuals that demonstrate commitment to parks, trails and natural areas and an understanding of the bond criteria and addresses the following needed areas of experience/expertise:

- Accessibility
- Public finance and budgeting
- Familiarity with issues of tribal sovereignty
- Conservation, restoration, environmental issues
- Transit dependent
- Youth (18-plus)

## **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. 24-5408 (list of individuals for appointment)