

# METRO COUNCIL

## Work Session Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** May 2, 2017

**LENGTH:** 20 minutes

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Expanding the charge of the Natural Areas Bond Performance Oversight Committee

**DEPARTMENT:** Parks and Nature

**PRESENTER(S):** Heather Nelson Kent, x1739, heathernelson.kent@oregonmetro.gov

### WORK SESSION PURPOSE & DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Purpose: Update Metro Council on the need for amendments to Metro Code section 2.19 establishing the Natural Areas Bond Performance Oversight Committee; expanding the scope of the committee, terms of members serving on the committee and updating the name of the committee to reflect the changes.
- Outcome: Council understands and agrees that the Code amendments are necessary and recommended.

### TOPIC BACKGROUND & FRAMING THE WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

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 independent outside review for the Metro Council.

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 since 2008, it has produced annual reports that have been presented each fall to the Metro Council. 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.

The local option levy the Metro Council referred to voters in 2016 requires similar oversight of capital projects funded by the levy renewal (contained within the Explanatory Statement). This ordinance would expand the duties of the existing Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee to include this additional capital project oversight. In addition, the ordinance would update membership terms and requirements, and change the name of the committee to reflect its expanded role to the “Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee.”

Metro’s Parks and Nature Department would continue to provide staff support to the new committee, similar to the support provided to the current oversight committee. The new committee would continue its oversight throughout the life of the Natural Areas Program and the voter-approved 2016 local option levy (funding from 2018-2023). 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.

Staff has met with the current Oversight Committee Chair, Peter Mohr, who was very receptive to the changes. The chair thought this would be a good addition to the current committee’s responsibilities. He is willing to continue serving as chair for an additional 2-year term.

The current Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet on April 17 and Interim Parks and Nature Director Don Robertson will provide an update to the committee on the proposed code changes.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

- Is Council in agreement with staff’s recommendation to expand the scope of the existing oversight committee rather than establishing a separate committee to meet the requirements of the 2016 local option levy?
- Is Council in agreement with staff’s recommendation to reduce the minimum number of positions on the Oversight Committee from 13 to 9 and extend the terms of service, allowing members to serve an additional two year term?
- Does Council agree that the timing is right to sunset the Capital Grant Review Committee, since all funding earmarked in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure for Nature in Neighborhood grants has been awarded?

#### **PACKET MATERIALS**

- Would legislation be required for Council action ☒ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- What other materials are you presenting today? Draft ordinance