

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-5058, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE OREGON ZOO BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Date: November 18, 2019
Department: Zoo Bond Program
Meeting Date: December 12, 2019

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Presenter(s) (if applicable): None
Length: 3 minutes (Consent Agenda)

ISSUE STATEMENT

ACTION REQUESTED

Reappoint five members to the Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Reappointment of committee members per Metro Code Chapter 2.19 that establishes the Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee ("Oversight Committee or the Committee"). The terms for approximately half of the Oversight Committee members expire each calendar year. To maintain Oversight Committee membership, Resolution No. 19-5058 reappoints five members.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

Citizen oversight of the zoo bond program implementation.

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

The Metro code allows for members to serve two, two-year terms. The five members eligible for reappointment have served their first two-year term diligently and desire to continue serving a second term. They bring needed professional expertise in the areas of animal welfare, veterinary medicine, biology, enhancing guest experiences and learning in zoos and aquariums, financial management and compliance, business and nonprofit management, legal expertise in public and construction contracting and public meetings and records.

Another option for the Council would be to not reappoint members and require staff to conduct a recruitment for new members. This would result in the loss of experienced members with vital professional expertise, and thus hamper the Committee's progress already underway to prepare its next annual report and its final, comprehensive program report when the program finishes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Adoption of Res. 19-5058.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- How is this related to Metro's Strategic Plan (to be developed in 2019) or Core Mission?
The Oversight Committee helps the zoo bond program implement Metro's mission to inspire, engage, teach and invite people to preserve and enhance the quality of life and the environment for current and future generations. The program helps Metro create great communities, protect a healthy environment, provide regional services and especially ensure responsible operations and wise investments. As a third party overseer, the Oversight Committee helps the community build trust in Metro.

The zoo bond program aligns with and promotes the Oregon Zoo's newly adopted Strategic Plan 2020-2023.

- How does this advance Metro's racial equity goals?
Not applicable to reappointment.
- How does this advance Metro's climate action goals?
One of the initiatives of the zoo bond program is to support sustainability improvements at the zoo. The Oversight Committee oversees implementation of the bond measure and helps assure that bond public funds are wisely invested for energy efficiency and water conservation improvements at the zoo to meet the promises of the bond measure.
- Known Opposition/Support/Community Feedback
None.
- Explicit list of stakeholder groups and individuals who have been involved in policy development.
 - Zoo Bond Steering Group
 - Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee
- Legal Antecedents
 - Measure 26-96, \$125 million zoo bond measure to protect animal health and safety; conserve, recycle water and improve access to conservation education. Approved by voters of the region in November 2008.
 - Ord. 10-1232, Amended Metro Code Chapter 2.19 to establish the Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee in January 2010.
 - Res. 10-4112, Confirmed appointment of initial 20 members to the Oversight Committee and designated a chair in January 2010.
 - Res. 18-4880, Confirmed appointment of nine new members to the Committee in May 2019.

- Res. 16-4726, Confirmed appointment of the same five people (Daniel Aja, Heidi Goertzen, Jill Mellen, Katherine Porras and Christine Taylor, who are proposed for reappointment) to the Oversight Committee for their first two-year term in October 2016.
- Anticipated Effects

Reappointing these five members will enable the Committee to continue its diligent oversight of the zoo bond program: monitoring spending, reviewing progress on project improvements, and considering and recommending project modifications to account for inflationary increases in construction costs. It will also allow these experienced members to continue the work they have already begun to reflect their findings for 2019 in the Committee’s next annual report to the Metro Council and people of the region in May 2020.
- Financial Implications (current year and ongoing)

Funding for the Oversight Committee is included in the zoo bond program budget, funded by bond funds.

BACKGROUND

In 2008 Portland area voters expressed the value they place on animal welfare and water and energy conservation when they passed the \$125 million bond measure that funds habitat and infrastructure upgrades at the Oregon Zoo. As mandated by Measure 26-96, the Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens’ Oversight Committee provides independent citizen review to help ensure the public’s money is well spent. The committee’s charge is to determine if the zoo improvement program is on the right path in terms of structure, expenditures and achievement of defined goals.

In May 2019, the Committee presented its annual report to the Metro Council. It stated that bond funds continued to be spent wisely, bond projects were advanced on schedule and within budget, and overall the bond program is on track to deliver on voter expectations.

Most recent council policy direction for the zoo bond program was in February 2019 with approval of Res. 19-4960 that allocated the remainder of the unallocated funds for the final combined construction project, Polar Passage/Primate Forest/Rhino Habitat, and program administrative costs. Construction is underway and on schedule and budget. The current schedule for substantial completion is early 2021, followed by a six-month close-out period.

The most recent appointment of committee members was in April 2018 when the Metro Council approved Res. 18-4880 confirming appointment of nine new members to the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A is attached to Resolution 19-5058. No attachments to this staff report.

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- What other materials are you presenting today? None