

IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 21-1460, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
AMENDING METRO CODE CHAPTER 2.19.220 TO ESTABLISH THE NATURAL AREAS
AND CAPITAL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Date: January 28, 2021
Department: Parks and Nature
Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

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Length: 15 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

Independent community oversight has been essential to Metro's accountability and delivery on promises made to voters in its funding measures. The establishment of the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee provides an opportunity to meet a high standard for inclusive, equitable community oversight.

The purpose of Ordinance No. 21-1460 is to amend the Metro Code Chapter 2.19.220 to establish the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee (the "Oversight Committee").

The purpose of the Oversight Committee is to provide independent program oversight on behalf of the Metro Council to ensure that Metro will be accountable and transparent in its use of capital funds from (a) the \$475 million 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure, (b) the 2016 Parks and Natural Areas Local-Option Levy, and (c) any remaining expenditures from the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff requests approval of Ordinance No. 21-1460 to amend the Metro Code Chapter 2.19.220 to establish the Oversight Committee.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The establishment of the Oversight Committee in the Metro Code will establish the purpose, authority, membership, and meeting structure for the committee. The Oversight Committee's roles and procedures will be consistent with existing Metro Code and the structure of other Metro oversight committees. The Oversight Committee's primary roles are to:

Purpose and Authority. The purpose and authority of the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee (the "Committee") is to review whether the six programs described in the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure 26-203 are meeting the goals and objectives

established for the program by the Metro Council. The Committee will also review capital expenditures related to the 2016 Parks and Natural Areas Local-Option Levy (Measure 26-178) and the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure (Measure 26-80).

The Committee will annually report to the Metro Council and such report will:

- (1) Assess progress in the implementation of the bond programs under Measure 26-203, including Metro's efforts to (i) protect water quality and wildlife habitat and (ii) meet the racial equity, community engagement and climate resiliency criteria described in Measure 26-203.
- (2) Provide recommendations, if any, to improve efficiency, administration and performance of the bond programs under Measure 26-203.
- (3) Review (i) 2016 Parks and Natural Areas Local-Option Levy expenditures for compliance with program requirements and (ii) any remaining bond expenditures from the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

Parks and Nature staff are launching a process in early 2021 to identify a set of outcomes through which to measure bond success based on the principles and criteria listed in the bond resolution. Staff will seek Council direction on this effort in the first quarter of 2021. Once the Metro Council confirms the outcomes, staff will share that information with the Oversight Committee to use for evaluating bond progress.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve Ordinance No. 21-1460 to establish the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee will provide Metro Council and the region's residents an independent, outside review of Metro's progress in the implementation of the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure programs.

BACKGROUND

On November 5, 2019, Greater Portland voters overwhelmingly approved the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure with the following program areas and allocations:

- Protect and restore land (\$155 million)
- Support local projects – "Local Share" (\$92 million)
- Nature in Neighborhood capital grants (\$40 million)
- Take care of Metro parks (\$98 million)
- Create trails for walking and biking (\$40 million)
- Advance large-scale community visions (\$50 million)

The 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure identifies 11 foundational principles to guide the bond's investments and implementation including:

- Serve communities through inclusive engagement, transparency and accountability.

- Advance racial equity through bond investments.
- Protect clean water for people, fish and wildlife.
- Protect and restore culturally significant native plant communities.
- Protect, connect and improve habitat for native fish and wildlife.
- Take care of what we have.
- Make parks and natural areas more accessible and inclusive.
- Connect more people to the land and rivers of our region.
- Invest in trails for biking and walking.
- Support community-led parks and nature projects.
- Make communities more resilient to climate change.

In addition, the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure includes three overarching themes - advancing racial equity, climate resilience and community engagement. These principles and criteria will shape how the bond is implemented and the lens through which bond progress will be evaluated.

At an October 1, 2020 work session, Metro Council provided direction on a structure and membership for an Oversight Committee that will be able to hold Metro accountable for accomplishing the goals of the bond. The Metro Council emphasized the following considerations when recruiting and appointing members to the committee:

- Committee members should bring multiple complementary backgrounds and knowledge across a range of topics including conservation, finance, working lands and understanding of issues relevant to the disability community, the urban Indigenous community and around tribal sovereignty, among others
- Committee members should bring a deep understanding and commitment to conservation values racial equity
- Committee members should reflect the diversity and geography of the region and allow for a range of perspectives on Metro and its work

In October 2020, staff launched a broad recruitment process, sharing the opportunity with many organizations and individuals across the region. A staff committee reviewed the 118 applications received according to the aforementioned set of values determined by the Metro Council and provided a recommendation to Parks and Nature leadership, which finalized a recommendation to the Metro Council for consideration and approval.

There will be other opportunities for individuals who applied, but were not selected to serve on the Oversight Committee in future years as well as to help shape the implementation of the Parks and Nature bond in other ways.

ATTACHMENTS

None