

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Committee of the Whole: March 1, 2023

Business Item: 2023-57

Appointments to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes §§ 473.303 and 15.0597
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Charlie Zelle, Chair
Division/Department:	Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following 4-year appointments to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission through January 1, 2027:

- District F – Cecily Harris
- District G – Anthony Taylor

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following 2-year appointment to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commissions to help fill the vacant District D until January 1, 2025:

- District D – Tess Bouska

Background

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) was created by the Legislature in 1974 to advise the Council on matters related to the regional recreation open space system. The MPOSC has nine members appointed by the Council—eight district representatives and a chair who represents the region at large. MPOSC terms are four years and are staggered. Appointments are made in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 473.303 (Metropolitan Park and Open Space Commission) and 15.0597 (Appointments to Multimember Agencies).

Five Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission positions are up for reappointment due to term expirations in MPOSC Districts E – H, and one mid-term resignation in MPOSC District D.

Notices of vacancies were published by the Secretary of State's office and the Metropolitan Council. We have worked to recruit candidates with community organizations, parks partner agencies, and Council Members since October 2022.

On January 12, 2023, Council Members Vento and Lee, and MPOSC Chair Tony Yarusso served on the nominating committee to fill the open seats. The committee interviewed seven candidates for four (4) of the open commissioner seats. They did not interview anyone for District H because there were no applicants from this district. We are still actively recruiting for this seat. Following the interviews, the committee reviewed the application materials and interview notes, and made appointment recommendations for Chair Zelle's consideration. The Chair's final recommendations are as noted above.

If approved, the appointments for Districts F and G would serve a four-year term ending on

January 1, 2027. If approved, the candidate for District D would serve out the remaining approximately 2-year period and end on January 1, 2025.

Rationale

Recommended appointments for Districts F and G are incumbents in good standing who actively contribute to conversations and decisions in MPOSC. The recommended appointment for District D brings a knowledge of the regional system, an ability to see the big picture, and a commitment to advancing equity in the regional parks and trails system.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Appointing members to MPOSC is necessary to keep the commission functioning to meet its statutory charge. MPOSC's work advances all five Thrive Outcomes by advising the Council on regional park and trail policies, planning, and funding.

Funding

N/A

