

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 25, 2017

Subject: 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: Adam Duininck, Chair

Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission: **Tony Yarusso** – Chair; **Richard Theisen** – District A, **Robert Moeller** – District B; **Margie Andreason** – District C; and **Anthony Taylor** – District D.

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).

Rationale

Four MPOSC district positions (A-D) and the Chair are up for appointment due to term expirations in January 2017. A news release was issued on November 8, 2016 seeking applicants for those five openings directing them to the Secretary of State's application portal. Two public meetings were scheduled to interview applicants for the positions on January 3 and January 9. Council members Wulff (chair), Barber, Letofsky, Rodriguez and Elkins served as the appointments committee. Twenty-eight applications were received for the five positions and represented a very strong, highly qualified pool of candidates. Following the interviews, the panel reviewed the application materials, interview notes and input from other Council members. The panel consulted with Chair Duininck and their appointment recommendations are noted above. If appointed, each individual will serve a two-year term ending January 1, 2019.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Appointing members to MPOSC is necessary to keep the committee functioning. MPOSC's work advances all five Thrive Outcomes through shaping regional parks plans and administering state funding.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

N/A