

## Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 27, 2017

**Subject:** Appointment to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

**District(s), Member(s):** District 7, Gary Cunningham and District 8, Cara Letofsky

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minnesota Statutes 473.303 and 15.0597

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Alene Tchourumoff, Chair

**Division/Department:** Chair's Office

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointment to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission: **Catherine Fleming** – 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

The District D Commissioner appointed in January 2017 to a four-year term resigned in May due to moving outside the district. A news release was issued by the Secretary of State's Office on June 15 seeking applicants for that vacancy directing them to the Secretary of State's application portal. A public meeting was scheduled to interview applicants for the positions on August 9 and a follow-up date was scheduled on August 21. Council Members Wendy Wulff, Gary Cunningham and Cara Letofsky interviewed five candidates for the appointment, all of whom represented a very strong, highly qualified pool. Following the interviews, Council Members Wulff, Cunningham and Letofsky reviewed the application materials and interview notes. They then consulted with Chair Tchourumoff and their appointment recommendation is noted above. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 473.303, Subd. 2 (a), the Council consulted with legislators in the affected district by giving each legislator the name, address, and background of each candidate for appointment. Legislators were given fifteen days to comment and none had been received by the deadline of September 21. If appointed, the individual will serve the remainder of the original four-year term ending January 1, 2021.

### 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