

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 25, 2020

Subject: Appointment 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 appointments to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commissions:

District C – Nathan Rich

District D – Lolita Davis Carter

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 current District C and District D Commissioner terms end in January 2021. Both of these vacancies occurred because Commissioners needed to leave their appointments early. 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 and parks partner agencies since December. Council Member Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Council Member Robert Lilligren, Current MPOSC chair Tony Yarusso, and Eric Weiss from The Trust for Public Land served on the nominating committee, which hosted interviews on March 12 and March 17. Sixteen applications were received for the two district positions. 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 District C and D appointments would serve the remainder of the original four-year term ending on 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 by advising the Council on regional parks and trail plans and policies.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

N/A