

## Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 24, 2021

**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:

**Chair (at-large)** – Tony Yarusso

**District A** – Monica Dillenburg

**District B** – Bob Moeller

**District C** – Cana Yang

**District D** – Assata Brown

### 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

Five Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission positions are up for reappointment due to term expirations including the representatives from Council geographic districts A through D and the at-large chair seat.

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 December. Council Member Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, MPOSC member Todd Kemery, and Eric Weiss from The Trust for Public Land served on the nominating committee. Nearly 30 applications were received for the five open commissioner seats. Of those applicants the nominating committee chose 14 finalists to virtually interview on February 22. 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 all these appointments would serve a four-year term ending on January 1, 2025.

**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

**Known Support / Opposition**

N/A