

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: February 28, 2024

Business Item: 2024-61

Appointment to District D, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

District(s), Member(s): District 7, Yassin Osman and District 8, Anjuli Cameron
Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 473.303 and 15.0597
Staff Prepared/Presented: Charles Zelle, Chair
Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action – (Motion to amend a previously approved action)

That the Metropolitan Council approve David Yakes as the District D appointment to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, to fill the open Commissioner seat that was created by the redistricting process. The following term will run until the first Monday in January 2027.

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).

All nine Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission positions were up for reappointment due to the process of decennial redistricting (Minn. Stat. § 473.123) for Council districts, which happens in the year ending in “3.” MPOSC districts are defined as combinations of Council districts pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 473.303., subd. 2(c)

Notices of vacancies were published by the Secretary of State’s office and the Metropolitan Council. Council members and staff worked to recruit candidates with community organizations, park partner agencies, and elected officials since July 2023.

On February 23, 2024, Council Members Susan Vento and Dr. Tyronne Carter served on the nominating committee for District D. The committee interviewed two candidates for the open seat. They reviewed the application materials and their interview notes and made the appointment recommendation of David Yakes for Chair Zelle’s consideration. Staff also conducted legislative consultation, as required by Minn. Stat. 473.303, subd. 2(a).

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 473.303, subd. 4a, the candidate for District D will serve a four-year term ending on January 1, 2027, if approved by the Council.

Rationale

Recommended appointment for District D, David Yakes, was determined to be a highly qualified

and motivated candidate to actively contribute to conversations and decisions at MPOSC. His passion for the regional parks and trails system and strong understanding of how this system is intrinsically tied to our region's quality of life stood apart. Finally, his commitment to working collaboratively and his interest in better serving the interests of young people make him a great candidate.

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

