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Meeting date: November 14, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 1, 2007
Subject:	Appointments to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes 473.303
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Peter Bell, Chair Natalie Steffen, MPOSC Appointments Committee Chair
Division/Department:	Chair's Office

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission: **GLEN SKOVHOLT**—Chair, **ROBERT WICKLUND**—District A; **ROBERT MOELLER**—District B; **RICHARD JABS**—District C; and **JESSE REINHARDT**—District D. Council Member Dan Wolter will serve as the Council's liaison to the MPOSC

Issue(s)

- Terms of the following positions on the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) expired January 2007 and need to be filled: Chair, MPOSC District A (Council districts 1 and 2), District B (3 and 4), District C (5 and 6), and District D (7 and 8).
- A Council member liaison to the MPOSC needs to be named (*no formal action required*).

Overview and Funding

- The MPOSC was created by the Legislature in 1974 to advise the Council on matters relating 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. Terms are four years, staggered.
- MPOSC appointments are made in accordance with state statutes 473.303 (Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission) and 15.0597 (appointments to multi-member agencies).
- Notices of vacancies were released by the Secretary of State's office and the Metropolitan Council in November 2006 and August 2007. In accordance with state statute, letters were sent to local government officials informing them of the vacancies and inviting their participation in the process. Legislators representing the four district areas were provided with the name, address and background of each applicant and invited to comment on these appointments. Applicant information was also provided to Metropolitan Council members.
- Ten applications were received for the five positions. Two public meetings were held (Oct. 24 and 30) to accept statements from and/or on behalf of persons who applied or were being nominated for appointment to the district positions. Council members Natalie Steffen (chair), Peggy Leppik and Dan Wolter served as the appointments committee. Eight applicants participated in the interview process.
- Following the public meetings, the appointments committee met to develop their appointment recommendations. The committee reviewed application materials, public meeting comments, and input received from other Council members, local elected officials, and legislators. The entire field of applicants was strong and each would have served the commission admirably. While the decision of who to select was difficult, the recommendation being presented is unanimous.
- Council Member Steffen has been serving as the liaison to the MPOSC. Because she is now the chair of the Community Development Committee, the decision has been made to reassign the MPOSC liaison position. Council Member Wolter has agreed to serve as the Council's liaison to the MPOSC.