

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: January 14, 2026

Business Item: 2025-317

Appointment to Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission – District B

District(s), Member(s):	Metropolitan Council Districts 3 and 4
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. §§ 473.303 and 15.0597
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Robin Hutcheson, Chair
Division/Department:	Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve Makiza Johnson for Metropolitan Parks and Open Space District B. This appointment is being made mid-term and it will run until 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 and open space system. 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).

This appointment to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission is being made during the middle of the District B term due to the retirement of former District B Commissioner Robert Moeller.

Notices of vacancies were published by the Secretary of State's office and the Metropolitan Council. Council staff worked to recruit candidates with park implementing agency partners and Council Members during July and August 2025.

On November 10, 2025, Council Members Wendy Wulff and Toni Carter conducted interviews for the vacant position. Council Member Wulff, who also serves as the Council Member liaison to MPOSC, led the process.

Rationale

The nominating committee felt that Makiza Johnson presented the strongest case for becoming the next District B Commissioner because of his passion for connecting people and the outdoors. The committee expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for all the applicants.

Imagine 2050 Lens Analysis

Appointing Commissioners to MPOSC is critical to providing support and guidance to the long-range direction of the Regional Parks and Trails System. MPOSC's work advances all five Imagine 2050's Goals by advising the Council on regional park and trail policies, planning, and funding.

Figure 1. Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission District

