

# Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: May 13, 2026

## Business Item: 2026-97

Appointment to Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, District F

**District(s), Member(s):** Metropolitan Council Districts 11 and 12; MPOSC District F

**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 appoint Lisa Freese to serve as commissioner for District F on the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. This appointment is being made mid-term and will run through January 2029, or until replaced.

### 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 Minn. Stat. § 473.303 (Metropolitan Park and Open Space Commission) and § 15.0597 (Appointments to Multimember Agencies). As defined in Minn. Stat. § 473.303, subd. d(2), District F consists of Metropolitan Council districts 11 and 12 (Figure 1).

This appointment to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission is occurring during the middle of the District F term due to the retirement of former District F Commissioner Cecily Harris.

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, Council Members, and Community Liaisons during March and April 2026.

On April 8, 2026, Council Members Wendy Wulff and Mark Jenkins conducted interviews for MPOSC District F. There were two applicants that applied for the position: Lisa Freese and Dennis Peine. The nominating committee found both candidates well prepared, thoughtful, and committed to serving the region. Both candidates possess excellent backgrounds for the position. Lisa Freese previously worked as a Scott County Transportation Division Director along with numerous other high-level leadership positions. Dennis Peine has a deep understanding of the District F geography, and he currently serves on the Dakota County Planning Commission.

## Rationale

After careful consideration, the nominating committee recommended Lisa Freese for the position because she had an exceptional interview, and they believe she will complement the current MPOSC Commission. The committee expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for both applicants.

## Imagine 2050 Lens Analysis

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

Figure 1. Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission District Map

