

MEMORANDUM



July 14, 2021

Land Conservation & Stewardship Board

TO – City Council
FROM – Land Conservation and Stewardship Board
SUBJECT – Maintaining LCSB membership and experience

Maintenance of Membership

Kelly Ohlson resigned from the Land Conservation and Stewardship Board in April to assume his seat on City Council. With Kelly's resignation, our Board lost nearly eight continuous years of experience and reduced its roster from nine to eight members. That loss led us to contemplate the further deficit of membership and experience that will happen at the end of 2021.

Terms of four members expire in December (particulars are listed below). Thus, it is possible that the LCSB will have only four carry-over members, and without additional appointments or re-appointments, the LCSB will not have a quorum.

Assuring a continuous quorum is essential. *Our first request, therefore, is that Council immediately fill the LCSB position vacated by Kelly Ohlson.* An immediate appointment will allow a new member to gain several months of important experience before the potential turnover of half the Board in 2022.

Maintenance of Experience

Matters before the LCSB are numerous and complex. The Board not only considers land purchases; it also advises the Natural Areas Department (NAD) and Council on matters of policy, granting of utility easements, balancing of conservation and recreation values, staffing levels for NAD, intergovernmental collaboration on open spaces, budget planning, and many other matters. None of these subjects occurs in isolation, and insightful advice comes from understanding their interactions and their history. That takes time.

To ensure that meaningful and relevant participation continues during this time of great change in City leadership, NAD senior management, and the LCSB itself, we urge flexibility and forward thinking in managing membership of the LCSB. Actions that might be taken on behalf of the LCSB would benefit other Boards as well:

- Maintain a roster of applicants with strong qualifications.
- Complete vetting of one or two candidates in addition to those needed for immediate placement; ask these candidates whether they would like to be held on a wait list for future vacancies as they occur.
- When a vacancy occurs, fill it quickly so that the new member can start the learning process.
- Track the years of experience of all the members on the Board.
- Project the years of experience that will be maintained when appointments expire or resignations occur.

We ask whether current staff levels and processes are sufficient to support these functions.

Schedule of LCSB Term Expirations

Ray Watts (current chair) is completing eight years on the Board and is ineligible for reappointment. David Tweedale is completing a four-year term. Joe Piesman and Vicky McLane are ending interim one-year appointments, and their reappointments are uncertain. Four members have terms extending into 2022, one of whom (Cole Kramer) was appointed in 2021, leaving only three members (Andrea Elson, the current vice-chair; Alycia Crall; and Mike Weber) who have multiple years of experience on the Board.