

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Appointment of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services/Tree Board Members
DEPARTMENT:	Recreation, Cultural and Community Services (RCCS) Department
PRESENTED BY:	Colleen Kelly, RCCS Director
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

On March 31, 2023, the terms of three Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services (PRCS)/Tree Board members are set to expire. In addition, there is a mid-term vacancy to fill due to an early resignation from the Board late last year. To fill these four PRCS/Tree Board positions, the Mayor appointed a Council Candidate Review Subcommittee to review applications and conduct interviews for these vacancies. Members of the Council Subcommittee included Deputy Mayor Robertson and Councilmembers Mork and Ramsdell.

The Council Subcommittee has completed its work and is making a recommendation to the full Council for candidates to fill these positions on the PRCS/Tree Board. Tonight, the City Council is scheduled to make appointments to fill these four Board positions.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact created as a result of this Council action.

RECOMMENDATION

The Council Candidate Review Subcommittee recommends that the full City Council move to appoint Jonathan Garner, Katie Lorah and Cindil Redick-Ponte to the PRCS/Tree Board, each to serve one four-year term beginning April 1, 2023 and expiring March 31, 2027, and to appoint Sara Raab McInerny to complete the remainder of the term beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2025.

Approved By: City Manager **BE** City Attorney **MK**

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Shoreline Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 2.55, the City has established a Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Board (PRCS Board) to provide citizen input on park, recreation and cultural service matters. The PRCS Board also serves as the City's Tree Board and advises the City Council on management of trees located on City-owned public property and rights-of-way. The PRCS/Tree Board consists of seven (7) adult members and two non-voting youth members between the ages of 15 and 19.

The Board currently has position openings for three adult members to serve four-year terms, and one adult member to serve a remaining two-year term, all beginning April 1, 2023. The Board members whose terms are expiring are Bill Franklin, Jeff Potter, and Sara Raab McInerney. Board Member Noah Weil resigned his seat in December 2022, leaving a 2-year vacancy in his Board position. Mr. Franklin served two full, four-year terms in addition to serving on the Park Funding Advisory Committee. He is not eligible to reapply for another term due to the term limits for the PRCS/Tree Board in the SMC. Ms. McInerney and Mr. Potter both served one four-year term and also served on the Park Funding Advisory Committee. Ms. McInerney did submit an application for re-appointment to the Board for a second term, while Mr. Potter is not seeking reappointment.

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DISCUSSION

The City advertised these four PRCS/Tree Board vacancies on the City's website, through a general press release and social media posts and through other staff distribution lists. A total of 24 applications were received. The Council Candidate Review Subcommittee reviewed the qualifications of the applicants and selected the following 10 candidates to be interviewed on March 4 and March 6, 2023. The candidates that were interviewed by the Subcommittee are:

- Maria Cardona Gonzalez
- Jeremy Doane
- Jonathan Garner
- Melissa Hartley
- Katie Lorah
- Frieda Magin
- Sara Rabb McInerney
- Cindil Redick Ponte
- Kristi Rettman
- Cindy Willson

Following the interview process, the Subcommittee deliberated and is recommending that the City Council appoint the following candidates to the PRCS/Tree Board:

1. Sara Raab McInerny (2-year term)
2. Jonathan Garner
3. Katie Lorah
4. Cindil Redick-Ponte

A short biography of each of the Subcommittee-recommended candidates is included with this staff report as Attachment A.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact created as a result of this Council action.

RECOMMENDATION

The Council Candidate Review Subcommittee recommends that the full City Council move to appoint Jonathan Garner, Katie Lorah and Cindil Redick-Ponte to the PRCS/Tree Board, each to serve one four-year term beginning April 1, 2023 and expiring March 31, 2027, and to appoint Sara Raab McInerny to complete the remainder of the term beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Biographies of Recommended Park Board Candidates

Attachment A

PRCS/Tree Board Council Subcommittee Nominee Biographies

Johnathan Garner

Mr. Garner holds a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. He has also received multiple certificates of participation from numerous professional organizations specializing in urban forestry, park development, urban stream protection, and greenway preservation.

Mr. Garner currently works for the City of Seattle as a Land Use Planner responsible for reviewing development applications for compliance with the environmentally critical area regulations and tree protection code. Prior to this, he worked for the City of Austin, TX in a similar role and for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX as a member of a group developing and testing new strategies and benchmarks for sustainable landscape design and construction. His career began at the University of Oklahoma working throughout the state on city beautification efforts, particularly in cities along scenic byways seeking to attract more tourists to their communities.

In 2016, Mr. Garner served on the City of Norman, OK Parks and Recreation Board. He states that through his education and career experience he has developed a strong working knowledge of arboriculture, park design, public art, and operations and maintenance of public spaces and facilities.

Katie Lorah

Ms. Lorah holds a Master's in Urban Planning from MIT (2013) with a focus on public space planning and community process design and a BA from NYU (2005) in Urban Planning and Journalism. She grew up in northeast Seattle and moved to Shoreline in 2021 from Brooklyn, New York.

Ms. Lorah currently serve as Senior Advisor to Transportation Alternatives, a NYC-based transportation and public space advocacy organization, where she has worked since 2020. She also currently serves as Communications & Marketing Director for an organization called In Our Backyards (ioby) which is a nonprofit community development crowdfunding platform for resident-led civic projects. She has worked there since 2015. Prior experience includes working as a Senior Planner for the New York City Parks & Recreation Department, and as Communications Director at Friends of the High Line -- a nonprofit organization that designed, built, and maintains one of NYC's premier open spaces.

Ms. Lorah is a parent, an avid runner, and a cyclist, and someone who says that she uses Shoreline's parks, playgrounds, trails, and pedestrian and cycling infrastructure every single day.

Sara Raab McInerny

Ms. McInerny holds a B.A. in Biology from Vassar College and a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She is a professional landscape architecture with experience working as part of multidisciplinary design teams on a range of projects including civic and educational campuses, public parks, mixed-use developments, and streetscape design, with an emphasis on environmental sustainability. She currently manages the grantmaking operations, strategic planning and day to day operations of a small family foundation. This role requires research and planning into community need and also requires working with a board of trustees in collaborative decision making.

Ms. McInerny served as a member of the Parks Funding Advisory Committee in 2018-2019 and is currently completing a four-year term as a member of the Shoreline PRCS/Tree Board where she has served as the Chair of the Parks Committee.

Cindil Redick-Ponte

Ms. Redick-Ponte holds a Master's of Science in Social Work from Columbia University and a Bachelor's of Science in Political Science & Philosophy from Eastern Michigan University. She has also completed a post-graduate certificate in Scaling for Impact from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Currently, Ms. Redick-Ponte is employed as the Equity and Social Justice Manager of Prevention and Community Health for the Washington State Department of Health. In this role, she is responsible for leading strategy and implementation of division-wide equity and social justice initiatives focused on health equity and antiracism, including training/education, policy compliance, and community/Tribal/Urban Indian engagement.

Previous work experience includes:

- Assistant Executive Director, The Family Dinner Project at Massachusetts General Hospital
- Program Manager, The Family Dinner Project at Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Program Manager, Health Systems Team at the Earth Institute at Columbia University
- Crisis Intervention Case Manager, Coalition for the Homeless
- Assistant Director, Bryant Community Center at Community Action Network

Ms. Redick-Ponte is a recent resident of Shoreline and describes her efforts to be an active Shoreline resident as including taking her family to cultural events, exploring Shoreline parks with her two daughters and their rescue dog, intentionally shopping at local businesses, and participating in surveys and other engagement opportunities offered by the City of Shoreline and King County.