



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: City Council
Meeting Date: December 1, 2025
From: Jeff Aprati, Deputy City Manager
Subject: Advisory Board / Commission Applicant Meet & Greet

DECISION TO BE MADE:

Meet the eight applicants for various advisory board and commission seats, ask questions of the applicants as desired, and develop any relevant notes or feedback to inform appointment choices at the following City Council meeting.

APPLICABLE COUNCIL GOAL:

n/a

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

Beginning January 1, 2026, the following vacancies will exist on City boards and commissions: Planning Commission (two seats), Parks & Trails Advisory Board (four seats), Library Advisory Board (one seat), and Transit Advisory Board (two seats).

Recent public meetings guidance issued by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission has prompted a change to the City's traditional process for interviewing applicants for advisory board and commission positions. In lieu of the previous process, more extensive online application questions were asked, and this meet & greet event was scheduled as an opportunity for the Council to meet and ask follow-up questions of applicants in compliance with public meetings law. Representatives of the applicable advisory boards have also been invited to this meeting to provide additional feedback for the Council.

Actual appointment decisions are scheduled for the December 15, 2025 City Council meeting.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

After advertising the openings widely over a several week application window, the City received eight applications. They are as follows:

Planning Commission

- Darren Wegener (reapplying for an additional term)

Parks & Trails Advisory Board

- Will Toogood (reapplying for an additional term)
- Upekala Wijayaratne (reapplying for an additional term)
- Matthew Farvo
- Kim York

Library Advisory Board

- Arehn McCarty (applying for a seat reserved for the unincorporated service area)

Transit Advisory Board

- John Gipe
- Joe Smith

It should be noted that because there was only one application received for the Planning Commission, that body will have one vacancy starting January 1, 2026. Additionally, due to a miscommunication among staff, there was one vacant seat on the SandyNet Advisory Board that was not advertised. Both of these will need to be addressed in the coming months.

BUDGET IMPACT:

n/a

RECOMMENDATION:

During this meet & greet event, Council Members and board representatives will be provided with all application materials, as well as paper with which to take notes and prepare any recommendations. Notes will be collected after the event and will be provided to facilitate the appointment decision making process.

The plan for the event is to set up a number of stations around the Council Chambers and facilitate a rotating set of short conversations, similar to 'speed dating,' to allow all applicants to speak with all Council Members and board representatives.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

n/a

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

- Application materials and note taking pages