

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title:

Appoint Julie Livingston to the Portland Design Commission for a 4-year term to expire May 6, 2019 (Report)

Contact name: Tim Heron, Bureau of Development Services, Land Use Section

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Presenter name: Tim Heron

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The appointment of this Commissioner is required by Portland City Code [Title 33] to fulfill quorum requirements for Type 2 and Type 3 Land Use Reviews.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The Commissioner appointments are citizen-volunteer positions, so no revenue or expenses are incurred by these positions.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The Bureau of Development Services continually advertises positions for the Commission through its webpage, public phone calls to the Commission Clerk and Staff, and as needed Media Announcements of upcoming positions. These Media Announcements are widely circulated in the design, development and neighborhood community news outlets and web pages.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

YES: Please complete the information below.

NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

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May 7, 2015

To: Mayor Charlie Hales
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Steve Novick
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

From: Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner of Public Utilities

Subject: Appointments to the Design Commission

Appointments

The Design Commission has two vacancies to replace the two "architect" positions held by Jane Hansen [stepped down in September 2014, position vacant since], and David Keltner [stepped down March 16, 2015, position now vacant].

1) Commission terms and notification: BDS web page, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, and Media Announcement in August 2014.

Note the attached link to the Design Commission webpage.

<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/168799>

The Office of Neighborhood involvement must receive a request for appointment, submit the required Interest Forms, and then ONI forwards them to the Commission Clerk and Tim. Tim has personally directed over 20 individuals in the past year to ONI for processing their interest forms, most since the Media Announcement was published.

BDS also sent a Media Advisory in August 2014 to solicit interest in the Design Commission. Since that time we have received a number of applications, but five rose to the top – not only because of their expertise in architecture for the positions needed, but their understanding of the commitment necessary to participate during a very busy construction period for BDS.

2) Current Membership.

We have a strong, capable group of commissioners representing the fields of architecture, landscaping, development and construction, marketing, engineering, and a member of the Regional Arts and Culture Council. Our last appointment was in September 2014 when Tad Savinar completed a short partial term and was appointed for his first full term.

The current Design Commission all have at least two to six plus years' experience, and have been fully engaged in development review since 2011 during this powerful growth of the City and the long economic recovery we have been experiencing since that time.

The Commission just recently completed their first Retreat of 2015 with Staff, and prepared their *State of the City Design Report* to City Council, heard at Council on April 8, 2015 at 9:30AM. This report highlighted the positive impacts the Commission has on our urban

environment these past three years, and what challenges they are prepared to help tackle as the City grows.

3) New Design Commissioner candidates rationale: We need strong architectural leaders.

Land Use Senior Planner Tim Heron worked directly with Design Commission Chair David Wark [RACC position] and developed a rationale to rank interested applicants for the positions based on the points below you have previously requested be followed. David and Tim spent the past few months reviewing more than 20 Interest Forms that were ultimately submitted. Two candidates rose quickly to the top: **Julie Livingston**, Project Manager at Home Forward, and **Garry Vallaster**, Principle at Vallaster Corl Architects PC. They both are experienced and respected professionals in their fields and by the high-quality work both their firms have completed both here in Portland.

Both outgoing Commissioners Jane Hansen and David Keltner have provided strong leadership in their respective architectural backgrounds. While staff recommend Julie Livingston and Don Vallaster, **I recommend that only Julie Livingston be appointed to the Design Commission in one of the vacant Architect positions.** Julie's 1st full, term would be from May 7, 2015 through May 6, 2019.

Julie Livingston, an architect and project manager for Home Forward, has demonstrated leadership in her commitment to well-designed affordable housing by several projects over the past decade. Her experience with "wrestling excellent design from modest budgets" is a telling statement of her commitment to and successful achievement of quality design at any budget and scale. Her experience of being a customer of the Design Review process will bring a good perspective to our process and raise the customer service bar with the Design Commission. More information about Julie is attached in her Interest Form below.

With this proposed appointment, the Design Commission will have two vacancies (Architect and Design categories) and one upcoming vacancy – in the Public at Large category in August 2015- where we will recommend reappointment. I have enclosed an updated Design Commission membership list for your records.

Enclosure

Design Commission:

The Design Commission, authorized under Portland City Code 33.710.050, provides leadership and expertise on urban design and architecture and on maintaining and enhancing Portland’s historical and architectural heritage. The Design Commission consists of seven members, none of whom may hold public elective office. The Commission must include a representative of the Regional Arts and Culture Council, one person representing the public at-large, and five members experienced in either design, engineering, financing, construction or management of buildings, and land development. No more than two members may be appointed from any one of these areas of expertise. The Regional Arts and Culture Council member is nominated by the Regional Arts and Culture Council chair and approved by the Mayor. The other members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The term shall be maximum 4 years, limited to a maximum of two full terms.

The Commission powers and duties include:

1. Recommending the establishment, amendment, or removal of a design district to the Planning Commission and City Council, except Historic Districts and Conservation Districts;
2. Developing design guidelines for adoption by City Council for all design districts except Historic Districts and Conservation Districts;
3. Reviewing major developments within design districts, except those projects involving or located within the following:
 - a. Historic Districts;
 - b. Conservation Districts;
 - c. Historic Landmarks; and
 - d. Conservation Landmarks.
4. Reviewing other land use requests assigned to the Design Commission; and
5. Providing advice on design matters to the Hearings Officer, Planning Commission, Historic Landmarks Commission, Portland Development Commission, and City Council.

The Commission meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 1:30 PM.

Current Design Commission Members are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Julie Livingston	Architect	5/6/19 [1 st term]
Vacant as of 9/30/14	Architect	8/15/16
Jeffrey Simpson	Public at Large	8/15/16 [1 st term]
Benjamin Kaiser	Land Development	8/14/15 [1 st term]
Guenevere Millius	Design	12/31/14 [2 nd term]
Tad Savinar	Urban Designer	9/30/18 [1 st full term]
David Wark	RACC Member	10/31/17 [2 nd term]

Primary Staff to the Design Commission: Tim Heron, 503-823-7726

This page revised April 2015