

Appointment of Public Members to the Moss Park Arena Board

Date: November 15, 2024

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: City Clerk

Wards: 13

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Moss Park Arena Board.

SUMMARY

City Council has authorized the City Clerk to shortlist, interview and recommend candidates to Community Councils for appointment to the Moss Park Arena Board. This report recommends three candidates for appointment to the board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council appoint the following candidates to the Moss Park Arena Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on December 5, 2028, and until successors are appointed:

- Uttam Bajwa
- Ahsen Bhatti
- April Hodgins

2. Toronto and East York Community Council direct that Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential in its entirety as it relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Moss Park Arena.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held April 12, 2023, Toronto and East York Community Council appointed 1 public member to the Moss Park Arena Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term ending April 13, 2027, and until a successor is appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.TE4.64>

At its meeting held November 24, 2021, Toronto and East York Community Council appointed 2 public members to the Moss Park Arena Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term ending November 25, 2025, and until successors are appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.TE29.56>

At its meeting held February 24, 2021, Toronto and East York Community Council appointed 3 public members to the Moss Park Arena Board, at pleasure of Council, with 1 member serving a term ending June 26, 2023 and 2 members serving a term ending February 24, 2025, and until successors are appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.TE23.74>

COMMENTS

Composition of the Moss Park Arena Board

The board is composed of:

- The Councillor for Ward 13
- 9 public members, 1 of whom may be nominated by the Central Toronto Skating Club
- 1 non-voting staff member from the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

There are currently three positions under consideration

The three positions under consideration are the result of 3 public member resignations on May 23, 2024, July 22, 2024, and September 26, 2024.

Term of office

The term of office for public appointees to the Moss Park Arena Board is four years. The members appointed will serve terms of office ending December 5, 2028, and until successors are appointed.

The City Clerk recruits and recommends candidates for Arena Boards to Community Council

City Council has authorized the City Clerk to screen, interview and recommend candidates for the Moss Park Arena Board to the Toronto and East York Community Council.

City Clerk's staff conducted outreach to attract diverse, qualified individuals with relevant skills and qualifications, including non-profit experience, finance, and fundraising. To attract qualified candidates, City Clerk's staff promoted the opportunity to various professional and community organizations. Consideration was also given to ensure diverse representation on the Moss Park Arena Board.

Staff from the City Clerk's Office and Parks, Forestry and Recreation shortlisted eight candidates based on the City Council approved qualifications and eligibility criteria. Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff were asked to participate on the panel given their familiarity with the Moss Park Arena and community recreation programs and services in Toronto. The panel consisted of:

- Operation Support Officer, Community Recreation, Parks, Forestry & Recreation
- Acting People Services Consultant, Public Appointments, City Clerk's Office

The panel selected the recommended candidates by weighing candidate applications and interview performances, and the different perspectives and representation that each would bring to the board.

Diversity Outreach

The City Clerk's Office prioritized outreach to equity-deserving groups in order to foster diverse representation on the board, aligning with the values outlined in the City's Public Appointments Policy. The opportunity was promoted using social media, volunteer job boards, and to various professional and community organizations within the Moss Park Arena catchment area. These organizations provide services to a large diverse population in Ward 13.

In preparation for the recruitment process, staff from the City Clerk's Office communicated with the Moss Park Arena Board Ward Councillor and their staff to consult on board member requirements. Meetings with the Arena Manager and Board Chair were also held to discuss any current skills gaps on the Moss Park Arena Board.

These outreach and recruitment initiatives resulted in an increase of applications from members of equity-deserving groups.

Staff are recommending three highly qualified candidates for appointment

Parks, Forestry and Recreation and City Clerk's staff are recommending three highly qualified candidates for appointment to Moss Park Arena Board (see Attachment 1). These candidates cover the range of City Council approved qualifications for Moss Park Arena Board with the relevant knowledge and experience.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Recommended Candidates and Biographies for the Moss Park Arena Board

Confidential Attachment 1 - List of Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Moss Park Arena Board