

The Oregonian

Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz names new chief of staff

*By Brad Schmidt
September 10, 2015*

Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz on Thursday announced a long-expected staffing shakeup, promoting a long-time aide to replace her recently retired top deputy.

Tim Crail, 53, will replace Tom Bizeau as chief of staff. Bizeau retired in 2014 but retained his position and continued to work part time – an arrangement that raised some eyebrows among those in City Hall.

When Bizeau was out on his weeks-long vacations, Crail worked as Fritz's interim chief. Crail "demonstrated his ability to support our team in working with others in City Hall and the bureaus to get results for Portlanders," Fritz said in a statement.

Crail said his interim work prepared him for the new role, which pays \$100,131 annually – about \$20,000 more than he'd been making.

"We'd already been modeling that prior to now," said Crail, adding that he's looking forward to the new role. "Now everybody kind of knows officially that I'm the person to come to."

Crail, who holds a law degree from Lewis & Clark, spearheaded work to create the City Budget Office in 2012 and led efforts this year to dedicate half of budget surpluses to infrastructure maintenance. He most recently advised Fritz on parks policy, a topic he'll continue to monitor in his new role.

Bizeau, 61, will also continue working part time for Fritz on policy initiatives.

Bizeau and Crail have each worked for Fritz since she took office in 2009. Fritz is up for re-election in 2016, seeking a third four-year term. She's planning a town hall on Sept. 30 to discuss her upcoming policy initiatives.

Fossil fuels proposal sends bad signal to investments committee: Editorial Agenda 2015

*By The Oregonian Editorial Board
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Portland's Socially Responsible Investments Committee met for the first time Wednesday. As one would expect, the initial meeting was perfunctory – with members introducing themselves and taking an oath, Mayor Charlie Hales speaking briefly and Kelly Ball from the Office of Management and Finance walking the group through the committee's responsibilities.

The real work comes in future meetings, when the committee will begin work toward its primary objective: presenting the City Council an annual list identifying companies that have

strayed so far from Portland-approved practices that the city should not invest in their financial securities. Since the city is not authorized to invest in stocks, this discussion is only about bonds and the financial stakes are relatively low – the difference in yield among investment-grade bonds is small.

The committee bears watching because of its potential to send a message that would burnish the city's progressive image, but perturb businesses and generally create mischief. In his brief appearance, Hales showed that the city is capable of doing all three without the committee's help. He asked the committee for its opinion about the city's upcoming decision to divest from fossil fuel companies. Hales plans to ask the City Council to consider a resolution to add the top 200 fossil fuel companies to the do-not-buy list. It's tentatively slated for the Sept. 23 Council agenda, conveniently timed for Climate Week.

Clearly, the committee will have limited influence on the fossil fuel debate if the mayor sticks to his time frame. Perhaps that's best, because essentially striking an entire industry would be inconsistent with the charge given to the committee to "balance a company's practices as a whole" and consider whether practices involve more than one of seven social values principles established by the city.

The criteria that the committee was told it should use as a screen were environmental concerns, health concerns, abusive labor practices, corporate ethics and governance, extreme tax avoidance, excessive market dominance and human rights. Even if you give all fossil fuels companies a strike for environmental practices, it's not reasonable to assume every one of the companies violates one of the other guidelines. And when balancing the companies' "practices as a whole," it's worth noting that fossil fuel companies provide some of the best-paying blue-collar jobs in the nation. The mayor apparently has no intention of considering the guidelines established for the committee.

The best thing the committee could do is disband immediately. Of course, that's not going to happen. Encouragingly, however, two members – Robert Landauer and Sayer Jones – did acknowledge that they were not completely sold on the notion that a do-not-buy list is necessary or the best way to accomplish the city's goals for investing and social responsibility. Landauer and Jones, as well as the rest of the committee, should hold onto that attitude when they begin looking at individual companies. If any good is to come out of this exercise, the committee must do more than compile an annual blacklist. It must provide sound rationale for decisions and offer evidence that banning certain investments will do more good than harm. Here are some steps the committee should take:

Follow the guidelines set by the City Council. Some of the Council-approved criteria are so vague that they are virtually impossible to apply fairly. Any chief executive who doesn't try to dominate his company's market and reduce taxes as much as legally possible probably won't have a job for long. Those who have a problem with those issues should try to change tax and antitrust laws rather than punish companies that are playing by the rules. But so long as there's a playbook, the committee should follow it and avoid arbitrary or politically motivated decisions.

Look beyond public perception. Not surprisingly, the first meeting drew a couple dozen onlookers. One spoke in favor of screening companies involved in operating private prisons. Another wanted the city to avoid companies involved with the American Legislative Exchange Council. Over the course of a year, the committee is likely to hear dozens of suggestions from vocal activists. The nature of interest groups is to focus on one thing, but the committee must look deeper than a single issue.

Revisit past decisions. Only one company, Walmart, currently resides on the do-not-buy list. The Council couldn't wait for the committee input to ban the company that unions and other progressive groups love to blame for a host of societal ills. Since it was placed on the list, Walmart has announced pay increases that when fully implemented will affect about 600,000 workers, with no one paid less than \$10 an hour. It also has adopted a more progressive "animal welfare" policy for its food suppliers. Is that enough to convince the committee to remove Walmart from the banned-company list? That's for the members to decide, but it at least merits discussion. It's hard to imagine that after the changes of the past year Walmart scores worse on the Portland values scale than any other public company in the world.

Portland Business Journal

Portland signs off on \$3M energy efficient retrofit program

*By Andy Giegerich
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The city and county have passed a program aimed at helping Portland-area building owners boost their energy efficiency performance.

The Portland Development Commission has approved a new program that will allow PDC to provide loans to building owners hoping to make energy-efficient retrofits. Multnomah County approved its participation in the \$3 million Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program last week.

PDC will serve as the two-year pilot program's administrator, which is backed by tax-increment financing.

The offering will back as many as 10 projects in the Downtown Waterfront, Gateway Regional Center, Interstate Corridor, Lents Town Center, North Macadam and River District urban renewal areas. PDC and the county will push for minority- and women-owned businesses to receive the retrofit work.

PDC's board approved the program yesterday.

"With CPACE loans, we hope to remove a financial barrier to investment in energy efficiency while we also take steps to create wealth creation opportunities for construction firms owned by people from underrepresented populations," said PDC Executive Director

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Tim Crail Appointed New Chief of Staff at City Hall

By Nada Sewidan

September 10, 2015

Tim Crail has been appointed as new Chief of Staff to City Commissioner Amanda Fritz, according to a news announcement released today.

Over the past several months, Crail has filled in on numerous Chief of Staff roles and duties that demonstrated his qualifications for this position, which included leading the creation of the 2015 Council directive and the 2012 City Budget Office.

Crail has been both a policy advisor and liaison in Fritz's office since she originally started working back in 2009. He also previously served as a liaison for Portland's Parks & Recreation, a role he plans to carry on as Chief of Staff.

Among other positions he held over the years include serving as a liaison to the Bureau of Emergency Communications and Office of Cable Communications, as well as working as Fritz's budget advisor, media and labor liaison.

Both Crail and Fritz hope to continue making changes and improvements through new policy development.

"Commissioner Fritz is working on several policy initiatives which we are excited about, in addition to our bureaus' work. We aim to get a lot done by the end of the year," Crail said.

Crail graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School and is currently a member of the Oregon Bar Association. He was previously a Legislative Assistant, campaign treasurer and Chief Advisor.

Other staff appointments and changes in City Hall include a new lead liaison to Portland Parks & Recreation, Senior Policy Analyst Patti Howard, a new lead liaison to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Senior Policy Advisor Claire Adamsick and new Policy Advisors, Cristina Nieves and Jasmine Wadsworth.