



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 11, 2019

DATE: May 15, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Tammy Wines-Jennings, Assistant Director, Regional Animal Services
353-8945, twines-jennings@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Shyanne Schull, Director of Regional Animal Services

SUBJECT: Recommendation to select and appoint or re-appoint two members to the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board to fill the two vacant positions specified in WCC 55.036(1)(c): a representative of a humane or rescue organization, with a term to expire on June 30, 2023, which is currently filled by Jill Dobbs and who is eligible for re-appointment: WCC 55.036 (1)(d) an individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County, with a term to expire on June 30, 2023, which is currently filled by Irene Payne and who is eligible for re-appointment. The following additional applicants include: Veronica Bath, Tonda Benge, Alicia Berkbigher, Alexandra Brenke, Jaime Brown, Piper Cates, Marianne Coduti, Sean Farnan, Sean Gamble, Andy Geisel, Rebecca Goff, Amy Hodgson, Natalie Jaureche, Jennie Jones Scherbinski, Keri Keller, Alferd Knepper, Shay Kurtz, Kaitlyn Mackinnon, Mark Miranda, Joanna Oneal, Mark Phillips, Nicole Pifer, Carol Schaye, Richard Simmonds, Joshua Stevens, Timothy Stoffel, Leslie White, Jarrod Williams. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Animal Services Advisory Board was created by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners in 2016 with the primary purpose to facilitate communication between community members and Washoe County Regional Animal Services to ensure that programs, operations and goals related to the care and safety of animals are consistent with the needs of our community. Currently, there are two membership terms that will expire on June 30, 2019. These two membership positions have an initial two-year term, and then a four-year term in accordance with WCC 55.036(2). It is the initial two-year term that will expire on June 30, 2019. The first position is a representative of a humane or rescue organization, and is currently filled by Jill Dobbs who is eligible for re-appointment. The second position is an individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County, and is currently filled by Irene Payne, who is eligible for re-appointment.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

The notice to announce the two upcoming vacancies and accept applications was published on April 15, 2019. Applications were accepted from April 15, 2019 through May 15, 2019.

Thirty individuals submitted applications for the two upcoming vacant positions. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Board appoint or re-appoint two members to the Animal Services Advisory Board who meet the qualifications of the two vacant positions in accordance with WCC 55.036(3), WCC 55.036(4), WCC 55.036(1)(c) and WCC 55.036(1)(d).

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Regional and Community Leadership

PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 12, 2016, staff requested and received direction from the Board on the proposed composition and duties of the Animal Services Advisory Board.

On June 28, 2016, the Board approved a request from the Washoe County Clerk to have the District Attorney's Office initiate amendments to WCC Chapter 55 (Animals and Fowl) in accordance with WCC 2.030, to create the Animal Services Advisory Board.

On August 23, 2016, the Board adopted an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by creating the Animal Services Advisory Board, which specified the roles and responsibilities of the advisory board.

On July 18, 2017, the Board appointed four members to fill the advisory board positions specified in WCC 55.036(1)(a)-(d).

BACKGROUND

The notice to announce the upcoming vacancies and to accept applications for the Animal Services Advisory Board was published on April 15, 2019. The announcement was shared on the Washoe County Board & Commission webpage, the Washoe County homepage slider, the Washoe County News & Announcements webpage, and the Washoe County Facebook and Twitter social media accounts. The announcement was also sent out through WCRAS' newsletter and through the following Washoe County email distribution lists: Animal Issues, Animal Services News, Business Issues, Citizen Involvement, and Media and Districts 1-5. The announcement was also posted on Commission District webpages D 1-5. Applications were accepted from April 15, 2019 through May 15, 2019. A total of 30 applications were received and are attached to this staff report. A brief summary of each applicant, garnered from the application materials, follows:

Veronica Bath is a Law Clerk for the Second Judicial District Court (2018 – Current). She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in English, American Studies from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor Degree in Law from the University of Virginia School of Law. She has volunteered at Yokota AB PAWS and Okinawan American Animal Rescue Society in Japan.

Tonda Benge is the Founder/Owner of Professional Dog Mom LLC (2016- Current). She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Roosevelt University in Chicago and a Master of Business Administration from American Institute of Business in London. She is currently a volunteer for the Nevada Humane Society.

Alicia Berkbighler is an Account Clerk II for Washoe County Human Services Agency. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Nevada, Reno. She has volunteered at Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program and the Washoe County Registrar of Voters.

Alexandra Brenke was a Legal Secretary for Washoe County Juvenile Services (2009-2016). She holds an Associate of Science in Administration of Justice from Santa Rosa Junior College, California. She received a Certificate of Commendation from Senator Harry Reid for her commitment to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). She received recognition for service from Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for her work on a homicide investigation as an employee of Sonoma County Sheriff Department. She volunteered for the Northern Nevada SPCA.

Jaime Brown is an Outreach Manager for Humane Network (2018 – Current). She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Piper Cates is a State Certified Supervisory Community Manager for Associa Sierra North (2016-Current). She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Eastern Oregon University, Oregon. She received the Committee Team All Star honor for her volunteer time in chairing an industry event. Additionally, she received the Northern Nevada Community Manager of the Year Award on two separate years. She currently volunteers for the Community Association Institute and Loka Cares-Homeless Feed.

Marianne Coduti holds an Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies from MTI College.

Jill Dobbs is the Executive Director of SPCA of Northern Nevada (2016- Current). She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Public Policy from UC-Santa Barbara, California and a Juris Doctor Degree in Law from Gonzaga University School of Law. She received the W. Clark Santini Award from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is currently a volunteer on the Animal Services Advisory Board and has volunteered for the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe and the Lake Tahoe Music Festival.

Sean Farnan is the Development Director for the SPCA of Northern Nevada (2015-Current). He holds an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Suffolk County Community College. He is currently a volunteer for Tahoe Safe Alliance.

Sean Gamble is a statewide lobbyist for Super Heroes (2013- Current). He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech and Communication from the University of Nevada, Reno. He has volunteered with Nevada Blue Tie Ball Committee, Step2, Nevada State Board of Marriage & Family Therapists and Pioneer Theater.

Andy Geisel is a Grants & Communications Administrator for iCelerate/HSI/WARC (2015- Current). He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Radio/Film/Television from the University of Central Florida, Florida.

Rebecca Goff is a Practice Manager for Banfield Pet Hospital in Reno (2014- Current). She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre Arts from California State University, Fullerton, California.

Amy Hodgson is a Paralegal for Surratt Law Practice, P.C. (2013- Current). She holds an Associate of Science Degree in Paralegal from Morrison University. She currently serves as a Board Member on the Washoe County Human Services Advisory Board.

Natalie Jauretc is a Care and Admissions Coordinator for Northern Nevada Home Care (2017 – Current). She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications, with a minor in Business from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is currently a volunteer for the Nevada Humane Society.

Jennie Jones Scherbinksi is a Natural Resource Specialist for Great Basin Institute (2018- Current). She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Studies from University of Colorado Boulder. She is currently a volunteer for Paws 4 Love and has previously volunteered at Pinnacles National Park, Great Basin Institute and Nevada Division of Wildlife.

Keri Keller is a high school graduate from North Valleys High School.

Alferd Knepper is the Treasurer-Secretary-Manager for Comstock Aviation, Inc. (20017- Current). He also is a retired Special Education Teacher for the Washoe County School District. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Personnel Administration from the University of Arizona. He served as a volunteer for the United Way, Junior Achievement, Reno Air Races, Democratic Party and Honor Flight.

Shay Kurtz was previously an Elementary School Teacher at Mount Diablo School District (1998- 2001). She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from U.C. Berkeley, California, a Master of Arts Degree in School Administration from Saint Mary's College and a CLAD Teaching Credential from Saint Mary's College. She currently volunteers for Pet Network Humane Society, the National Charity League and Damonte Ranch High School.

Kaitlyn Mackinnon is a Practicum Student at Virginia Palmer Elementary School (2017- Current). She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston and a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling from the University of Nevada, Reno. She was inducted to Chi Sigma Lota Honor Society in 2018. She is currently a Washoe County School District volunteer.

Mark Miranda was previously the owner of a Security Guard Dog Company, located in California (1987- 2011). He also has previously worked as a Veterinary Technician.

Joanna Oneal is an Independent Marketing Executive for Melaleuca Wellness Company and a Board Member for JOCHCO Investments, LLC(2013- Current) . She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University.

Irene Payne is Chief of Communications and Community Engagement for the Washoe County School District (2008-Current). She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Marketing Communications and Public Relations from Guildhall University, London. She has received the Leadership Through Communication honor, sponsored by the National School of Public Relations Association and the American Association of School Administrators and she received The Judges Choice and Best In Show awards in 2018. She volunteers with Animal Ark and currently serves as a Board Member on the Animal Services Advisory Board.

Mark Phillips is a driver for Matheson Postal Services (2018- Current). He holds an Emergency Medical Technician Certificate from Truckee Meadows Community College. He is an Animal Rescue Team (ART) volunteer for Washoe County Regional Animal Services and is a Nevada Humane Society and Feline Rescue of Northern Nevada volunteer.

Nicole Pifer is the Human Resource Coordinator for Coral Academy of Science (2019 – Current). She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Master of Education Degree from National Louis University.

Carol Schaye is the Director of Carols Counseling (2014- Current). She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Counseling from Marymount College. She was honored as Volunteer of the Year by KNPB/PBS. She volunteers at KNPB Channel Five and the Nevada Humane Society, and currently serves on the Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee.

Richard Simmonds is the Director of Laboratory Animal Medicine for Nevada System of Higher Education (1988 to Current). He holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from University of Georgia and a Master of Science in Physiology from Texas A & M University. He received the Veterinarian of the Year Award presented by The Nevada Veterinary Medical Association, the Charles A. Griffin Award by the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science and multiple awards and honors as listed on his application. He is currently a volunteer for Challenger Learning Center of Northern Nevada and Sparks Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, and previous served on the Rickville Animal Control Board (Maryland), Washoe County Animal Control Board, and Reno Animal Control Advisory Board.

Joshua Stevens is a Hearing Office Director for the Social Security Administration (2005 – Current). He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration & Computer Information Systems from North Carolina Wesleyan College and a Master of Science Degree in Business Administration from California Polytechnic University Pomona, California.

Timothy Stoffel has received the Registered Wild Feline Handler Advanced Level certification from the Feline Conservation Federation and the Certified Professional

Broadcast Engineer certification from the Society of Broadcast Engineers. He volunteers with the Sierra Safari Zoo, Sierra Nevada Christian Music Association, Astronomical Society of Nevada, American Association of Zookeepers- Reno Chapter, Fleischmann Planetarium and the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

Leslie White is an Administrative Assistant with Desert Air LLC (2018- Current). She holds an Associate of Science Degree from Linn Benton Community College and a Real Estate License from Northern Nevada Real Estate School. She is currently a volunteer at Nevada Humane Society.

Jarrold Williams is an Administrative Assistant IV for the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety. He holds an Associate of Arts Degree from Truckee Meadows Community College. He has volunteered with the Nevada Humane Society.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from this action.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners consider the applications and select and appoint or re-appoint a candidate to fill each of the two vacancies from interested persons willing to serve on the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board, specifically, to fill the vacancy described in WCC 55.036(1)(c): a representative of a humane or rescue organization; and WCC 55.036(1)(d): an individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County, and to appoint each of the members to the Animal Services Advisory Board with a term of service to expire June 30, 2023.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board approve, a possible motion would be:

Move to select and appoint or re-appoint _____ as a member of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board to fill the position of a representative of a humane or rescue organization, for a term of service to expire on June 30, 2023, and move to select and appoint or re-appoint _____ as a member of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board to fill the position of an individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County with a term to expire on June 30, 2023.