



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 27, 2025

DATE: April 18, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Eric Crump, Division Director, Operations
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THROUGH: Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the reappointments of Neal Jones and Kevin Joell for terms beginning July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2029, for the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission. (All Commission Districts.) [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION]

SUMMARY

Neal Jones and Kevin Joell are currently serving partial terms on the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission. Kevin Joell began his partial term on April 26, 2022 and Neal Jones began his partial term on July 11, 2023. If either or both reappointments are confirmed, the terms will begin on July 1, 2025, and end on June 30, 2029.

Pursuant to WCC 95.040, vacancies on the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments. The Code also states that the terms shall be staggered so there are no more than three vacancies in any year. All Park Commissioners should serve their term and hold office until their successors are appointed.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On March 11, 2025 – The Board of County Commissioners (Board) appointed Tracy Kuczenski to fill an unexpected term left open by Michaelangelo Aranda.

On March 19, 2024 – The Board of County Commissioners (Board) appointed Sean Hill to fill an unexpired term left open by Max DiNatale.

On October 10, 2023 – The Board reappointed Nicholas-Martin Kearney for a term beginning November 5, 2023, and ending on November 4, 2027.

On July 11, 2023 – The Board reappointed Timothy Dake to a full term; appointed Michaelangelo Aranda and Charles (Mark) Neuman to full terms; and appointed Neal Jones to fill an unexpired term left by Omer Rains.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On February 28, 2023 - The Board appointed Miles Gurtler to fill an unexpired term left by Darla Lee to the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.

On June 28, 2022 - The Board appointed Omer L. Rains to fill an unexpired term left by Chris Nenzel to the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.

On April 26, 2022 - The Board appointed Kevin Joell to fill an unexpired term left by Jennifer Oliver; and Timothy Dake to fill an unexpired term left by Heidi Anderson to the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.

On January 11, 2022 - The Board appointed Lisa Rode and Maxwell Dinatale; and Nicholas-Martin Kearney to fill an unexpired term left by Gregory Shorts to the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.

BACKGROUND

The Open Space and Regional Parks Commission is composed of nine members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners from residents of the County at large. The powers and duties of the park commission are:

1. To act in advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners in promoting, aiding, and encouraging public recreation including the development of recreation and park facilities.
2. To act in an advisory capacity to the Director of Community Services in maintenance, development, and operation of all county-owned or operated recreation areas and facilities and to develop rules and regulations governing the use of those facilities.
3. To establish general procedures to carry out the purpose of the Commission and recommend rules and regulations to the Board of County Commissioners as it may deem necessary to facilitate the carrying on of a recreation and park system.
4. To study and make recommendations on the Department's operating procedures and policies, fiscal policies and plans, and acquisition and development plans and policies.
5. To interpret the recreation program to public officials and to the general public in order that the recreation and park program may receive adequate support from public and private sources.
6. To consult with the Director on methods of financing a county-wide parks and recreation program and make recommendations thereon.
7. To make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on deviations from, alterations to, or additions to the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation.
8. To make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on a schedule of priorities for acquisition and development of park property in accordance with the Master Plan.
9. To recommend to the Board of County Commissioners a time schedule for acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities.
10. To review and recommend annual budgets to the Board of County Commissioners.
11. To recommend to the Board of County Commissioners, rates, tolls and charges for services and the use or availability of facilities.
12. To recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the purchase, lease, or exchange of lands for recreation or park purposes.

13. To review and recommend contemplated contracts to the Board of County Commissioners for the operation, construction and development of park and recreation facilities.
14. To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Board of County Commissioners.

The appointment of commissioners to the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission is not based on Board of County Commission district; however, practice has been to appoint at least one Park Commissioner from each County Commission district where possible. The Open Space and Regional Parks Commission currently consists of the following Commissioners:

- Timothy Dake – District 2
- Miles Gurtler – District 5
- Sean Hill – District 5
- Kevin Joell – District 2
- Neal Jones – District 1
- Tracy Kuczenski – District 2
- Charles (Mark) Neumann – District 3
- Lisa Rode – District 2

While the Board of County Commissioners has provided direction to staff through the Washoe County Strategic Planning Process specifically related to boards and committees appointed by the Board, it is important to point out current policy of the Board. The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners Rules of Procedures handbook most recently updated in October of 2022 includes the following section related to re-appointment:

Article 8 – Boards and Commissions

8.2 Terms of Service of County Appointees on Boards. Except as otherwise provided herein, the limit of service of an individual appointed to a board is two consecutive terms. The limit of services for an individual appointed to a Citizens Advisory Board is three consecutive terms. An individual filling an unexpired term with $\frac{3}{4}$ or more of that term remaining shall be considered as having served for a full term. An additional term may be considered for an individual's appointment if there are no other qualified applicants. Consideration should be given to assuring broad County wide representation on boards. Appointments are not to be limited to individuals from the unincorporated area unless otherwise specified or intended by law.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to Washoe County for appointments to the Open Space and Regional Park Commission as per WCC 95.020(3)(e), commissioners shall serve without compensation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the reappointments of Neal Jones and Kevin Joell for terms beginning July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2029, for the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with this recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to reappoint Neal Jones and Kevin Joell for terms beginning July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2029 for the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.”

Attachments:

Neal Jones Application
Kevin Joell Application