



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 26, 2025

DATE: July 31, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Aaron Smith, Division Director, Operations
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THROUGH: Eric Crump, Director, Community Services Department
328-3625, ECrump@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the appointment of one (1) candidate to fill a partial term beginning on the date of appointment and ending on June 30, 2027, for the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission. Applicants for the vacancy include: Paola Agramon, Breanne Antos, Will Arndt, Michael Bosma, Patricia Cashman, Matthew DeMartini, Brian Erbis, Nicole Flangas, Gregg Gehlert, Patrick Gubbins, Sophia Heidrich, John Henderson, Jean Johnson, George Jostlin, Matthew Kaempfe, Kody Kendrick, Austin Lorenz, Michael Pintar, Matt Polley, Tami Rougeau, Michael Skolnick, James Stewart, Jennifer Uvira, Rita Vinci and Beau Walker. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Mark Neumann vacated his seat on the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission on May 28, 2025. He was serving a term from July 11, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

Nicholas-Martin Kearney resigned from his position on the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission effective April 18, 2025. He was serving a term from November 5, 2023, through November 4, 2027.

Michaelangelo Aranda resigned from his position on the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission effective November 5, 2024. He was serving a term from July 11, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

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 (3) vacancies in any year. All Park Commissioners should serve their term and hold office until their successors are appointed.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 10, 2025 – The Board of County Commissioners (Board) appointed Chris Baker to fill an unexpired term left open by Nicholas-Martin Kearney.

On March 11, 2025 – The Board of County Commissioners (Board) appointed Tracy Kuczenski to fill an unexpired 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.

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.

BACKGROUND

The Open Space and Regional Parks Commission is composed of nine (9) members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners from residents of Washoe County at large. The powers and duties of the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission are as follows:

1. To act in an 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 Open Space and Regional Parks 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 Parks 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 so that that the recreation and park program may receive adequate support from public and private sources.
6. To consult with the Director of Operations 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 the 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 the Board of County Commission district; however, practice has been to appoint at least one (1) Park Commissioner from each County Commission district where possible. The Open Space and Regional Parks Commission currently consists of the following Commissioners:

- Chris Baker – At Large
- Timothy Dake – At Large
- Miles Gurtler – At Large
- Sean Hill – At Large
- Kevin Joell – At Large
- Neal Jones – At Large
- Tracy Kuczenski – At Large
- Lisa Rode – At Large

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

Recommendation to approve the appointment of one (1) candidate to fill a term beginning on the date of appointment and ending on November 4, 2027, for the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission. Applicants for the vacancy include: Paola Agramon, Breanne Antos, Will Arndt, Michael Bosma, Patricia Cashman, Matthew DeMartini, Brian Erbis, Nicole Flangas, Gregg Gehlert, Patrick Gubbins, Sophia Heidrich, John Henderson, Jean Johnson, George Jostlin, Matthew Kaempfe, Kody Kendrick, Austin Lorenz, Michael Pintar, Matt Polley, Tami Rougeau, Michael Skolnick, James Stewart, Jennifer Uvira, Rita Vinci and Beau Walker.

POSSIBLE MOTION

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

“Move to appoint [selected applicant] to fill a term beginning on the date of appointment and ending on June 30, 2027, for the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.”

Attachments:

Open Space & Regional Parks Commission Applications