



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 27, 2023

DATE: June 6, 2023

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Tammy Wines-Jennings, Assistant Director, Regional Animal Services
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THROUGH: Shyanne Schull, Director of Regional Animal Services

SUBJECT: Recommendation to appoint two members to the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board. One member shall fill the position specified in WCC 55.036(1)(c): a representative of a humane or rescue organization. Applicants include Diaz Dixon and Karrie Wirth. The other member shall fill the position in WCC 55.036(1)(d): an individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County. Applicants include Jill Fisher, Joe Rodriguez, Rob Pierce, William Robinson, and Irene Payne (incumbent). Both open positions have a four-year term which runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

On August 23, 2016, the Washoe County Commission adopted an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 which created the Animal Services Advisory Board (“ASAB”) and specified the roles and responsibilities of the advisory board. Advisory Board members generally serve four-year terms and may serve, with re-appointment, a maximum of two consecutive terms. An additional term may be considered for a member’s appointment if there are no other interested and qualified applicants.

Two Advisory Board positions have terms expiring on June 30, 2023. One of those positions is specified in WCC 55.036(1)(c) and must be filled by an individual with the following qualifications: “A representative of a humane or rescue organization.” The other open position is specified in WCC 55.036(1)(d) and must be filled by an individual with the following qualifications: “An individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County.” All Advisory Board members must be residents of Washoe County.

The notice to announce these open positions and accept applications was published on April 13, 2023. Applications were accepted from April 13, 2023 through May 5, 2023.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Two individuals submitted applications for the humane or rescue organization position and five individuals submitted applications for the individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County position. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Board appoint two individuals to the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board, one who meets the qualifications of WCC 55.036(1)(c) and one who meets the qualifications of WCC 55.036(1)(d) in accordance with WCC 55.036(2). The applicants for these positions are listed below.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 23, 2016, the Board adopted an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 which created the Animal Services Advisory Board and 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). These members were Dr. Annette Rink, Jennifer Linn, Jill Dobbs and Irene Payne, respectively.

On October 23, 2018, the Board removed Jennifer Linn from the Animal Services Advisory Board for missing four consecutive meetings and for failing to respond to all correspondence related to the Advisory Board. The Board declared a vacancy for the position specified in WCC 55.036(1)(b), which allowed staff to open the application process for a new member.

On February 12, 2019, the Board appointed Al Rogers to fill the Advisory Board position specified in WCC 55.036(1)(b) left open by the vacancy.

On June 11, 2019, the Board re-appointed Jill Dobbs and Irene Payne to fill the advisory board positions specified in WCC 55.036(1)(c) and WCC 55.036(1)(d), respectively.

On June 8, 2021, the Board appointed Julie McMahon and Trudy Brussard to fill the advisory board positions specified in WCC 55.036(1)(a) and WCC 55.036(1)(b), respectively.

BACKGROUND

The notice to announce these open positions and accept applications was published on April 13, 2023. The announcement was shared on the Washoe County Board & Commission webpage, Nextdoor, announced by Manager Brown during the Board of County Commissioners' meeting on April 11, 2023, and through the following Washoe County email distribution lists: Animal Issues, Animal Services News, Business Issues, Citizen Involvement, and Districts 1-5. Applications were accepted from April 13, 2023, through May 5, 2023. A total of eight applications were received and are attached to this

staff report for the Board's review. A brief summary of each applicant, garnered from the application materials, follows:

Humane or Rescue Organization Candidates:

- **Diaz Dixon** is the Director of External Partnerships and Collaborations for Human Animal Support Services. He has served as the CEO of Step2, Nevada Humane Society and Eddy House, System Vice President of CommonSpirit Health National Foundation and Board Treasurer for Nevada ADAAPTS. He has also served on boards for Renown (Community Advisory), UNR (College of Liberal Arts), Nevada Board of Counselors (Governor Appointed), and PBS.
- **Karrie Wirth** is the Director of Operations for the SPCA of Northern Nevada. She has served in the local veterinary community since 2004 as a veterinary assistant, surgical research technician, licensed veterinary technician, euthanasia technician, and practice manager.

Washoe County Resident with Interest in Animal Health and Safety:

- **Jill Fisher** is a former veterinary technician and operations manager for a Silicon Valley tech lobbying firm. She is currently on the State Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Committee.
- **Joe Rodriguez** is a Nevada Department of Public Safety Lieutenant with the State Fire Marshal Division/NV State Police. He currently serves on the Washoe County School Board of Trustees and is an alternate for the Sparks Citizen Advisory Board. He has also served on the Reno Historical Resource Commission and the Reno Access Advisory Board Committee.
- **Irene Payne** is the Associate Director of Kenyon International. She has served on the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board since 2017 and the Washoe County Manager's Advisory Committee. Ms. Payne is term-limited as she has served on the ASAB for two consecutive terms. Ms. Payne served an initial 2-year term that was specified after the enactment of WCC 55.036 and a consecutive 4-year term. Per WCC 55.036(4), even if term-limited, ASAB members may be considered for an additional term if there are no other interested or qualified applicants.
- **Rob Pierce** is retired and currently serves on multiple boards including the ANAP, Planning Commission, Board of Equalization, Parcel Map Review Committee and the Board of Adjustment. He has also served on the NCAB.
- **William Robinson** is a Senior Technician with Truckee Meadows Water Authority and is currently a member of the Citizens Advisory Board for the North Valleys.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from this action.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners appoint two members to the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board. One member shall fill the position specified in WCC 55.036(1)(c): a representative of a humane or rescue organization. Applicants include Diaz Dixon and Karrie Wirth. The other member shall fill the position in WCC 55.036(1)(d): an individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County. Applicants include Jill Fisher, Joe Rodriguez, Rob Pierce, William Robinson, and Irene Payne (incumbent). Both open positions have a four-year term which runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board approve, a possible motion would be:

Move to appoint _____ as a member of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board to fill the position specified in WCC 55.036(1)(c): a representative of a humane or rescue organization, and move to appoint _____ as a member of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board to fill the position specified in WCC 55.036(1)(d): an individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County. Both of these open positions have a four-year term from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.