

MARICOPA COUNTY COMMISSION ON TRIAL COURT APPOINTMENTS

MINUTES

October 20, 2016

PRESENT: Justice Robert M. Brutinel, Acting Chair; Rob Dalager; Leonard Gilroy; Bill Hughes; Barbara Marshall; Warde Nichols' Walt Opaska; Steve Perica; Amanda Reeve; Ron Reinstein; Paul Senseman;

ABSENT: Barry Aarons; Andrea Donnellan and Tommy Richardson

Justice Robert Brutinel, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Introductions

Justice Brutinel introduced himself and welcomed the Commission members and the public. He explained the purpose of the meeting is to interview for the position created by the retirement of Judge Kristin Hoffman.

Public Comment

Justice Brutinel asked for public comment on the candidates that will be interviewed for the Maricopa County vacancies. He reminded the speakers that they are limited to three minutes each and asked them not to repeat comments by previous speakers about the same candidate.

Diana Thius spoke on behalf of Annielaurie Van Wie.
Rebecca Hewes spoke on behalf of Keith Nelson.
Cindi Nannetti spoke on behalf of Tracey Westerhausen.
Shawna Riggers spoke on behalf of Annielaurie Van Wie.
Glenny Carter spoke on behalf of Keith Nelson.

Approval of Minutes

Justice Brutinel asked if any member wished to submit changes or additions to the draft minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting. It was moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Interview Questions

A motion to go to executive session for the purpose of selecting interview questions was made at 8:47 a.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to public session at 9:44 a.m.

Due Diligence Reports

Commission members delivered the due diligence reports for Ronda Fisk, Charles Carson, Frank Conti, Lisa Vandenberg, Keith Nelson, Scott Minder, Tracey Westerhausen, Andrew Russell, Annielaurie Van Wi and Kimberly Demarchi.

Disqualifications and Disclosures

Justice Brutinel asked the Commission if there were additional disqualifications or disclosures since the screening meeting on September 21, 2016.

Candidate Interviews

From 11:09 a.m. to 11:57 p.m. the Commission interviewed Ronda Fisk, Charles Carson and Frank Conti.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Justice Brutinel called the meeting back to order at 12:58 p.m.

Candidate Interviews

From 12:59 p.m. to 2:48 p.m. the Commission interviewed Lisa Vandenberg, Keith Nelson, Scott Minder, Tracey Westerhausen, Andrew Russell, Annielaurie Van Wie and Kimberly Demarchi.

Discussion of Applicants and Interviews and Selection of Nominees

Justice Brutinel reminded the Commission of the constitutionally required balance of political affiliations among nominees. He explained he would only vote on a candidate in the event of a tie.

The Commission discussed the interviews and the qualifications of the candidates in alphabetical order. Justice Brutinel suggested that a non-binding straw vote would be helpful to focus discussion and determine if any strong consensus existed on the potential nomination list. The results of the straw vote were:

Charles Carson – 0
Frank Conti, Jr. – 5
Kimberly Demarchi – 9
Ronda Fisk – 9
Scott Minder – 10
Keith Nelson – 6
Andrew Russell – 10
Annielaurie Van Wie – 10
Lisa Vandenberg – 8
Tracey Westerhausen – 8

There was additional discussion regarding the candidates that received 3 or more votes. Charles Carson was eliminated from further discussion.

Justice Brutinel opened the floor for individual nominations to a non-binding list of nominees to be sent to the Governor.

Rob Dalager moved to add Ronda Fisk to the list. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 10-0-1 with Justice Brutinel abstaining.

Ron Reinstein moved to add Tracey Westerhausen to the list. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 7-3-1 with Justice Brutinel abstaining.

Leonard Gilroy moved to add Scott Minder to the list. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 10-0-1 with Justice Brutinel abstaining.

Paul Senseman moved to add Lisa Vandenberg to the list. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 8-2-1 with Justice Brutinel abstaining.

Barbara Marshall moved to add Annielaurie Van Wie to the list. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 10-0-1 with Justice Brutinel abstaining.

Steve Perica moved to add Kimberly Demarchi to the list. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 8-2-1 with Justice Brutinel abstaining.

Rob Dalager moved to add Keith Nelson to the list. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 6-4-1 with Justice Brutinel abstaining.

Ron Reinstein moved to add Andrew Russell to the list. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 9-1-1 with Justice Brutinel abstaining.

Walt Opaska moved to add Frank Conti, Jr. to the list. The motion was seconded and tied by a vote of 5-5-1 with Justice Brutinel abstaining.

Rob Dalager moved to close nominations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

After further discussion it was moved that **Kimberly Demarchi, Ronda Fisk, Scott Minder, Keith Nelson, Andrew Russell, Annielaurie Van Wie, Lisa Vandenberg** and **Tracey Westerhausen** be adopted as the final nomination list for submission to Governor Ducey. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Justice Brutinel thanked the members for their service. At 3:05 p.m., it was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Dalager
Commission Secretary