



**Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions
City and Borough of Sitka**

Board/Commission/Committee: Sitka Bear Task Force

Name: Claire Turner Preferred Phone: _____

Address: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Fax Number: N/A

Length of Residence in Sitka: Resident Alien since 2018 Registered to vote in Sitka? ___ Yes No

Employer: Fortress of the Bear

Organizations you belong to or participate in:

Primarily Fortress of the Bear. Through my work at Fortress, I offer education programs and occasional art classes for visiting school groups.

Explain your main reason for applying:

To assist in the reduction of the bear-human conflict in Sitka, through education and demonstrations at Fortress of the Bear.

What background, experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership?

I believe my hands on experience working with bears in captivity for 12 years will be an asset to the Bear Task Force. I will also be running any trash can testing with the Fortress resident bears.

Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your appointment. These may include but are not limited to:

- A substantial financial interest of \$1000 annually that could be influenced by your appointment.
- An immediate family member employed within the scope of this appointment.

I do not think any conflicts of interest will arise from my appointment with the Bear Task Force.

Please attach a letter of interest, outline, or resume which includes your education, work, and volunteer experience that will enhance your membership.

→ *(To be considered, your application must be complete AND be accompanied by one of the above supporting documents.)*

Date: 03/09/2022 Signature: 

Your complete application and resume should be returned to the Municipal Clerk's Office by noon on the Wednesday prior to an advertised Assembly meeting.

Please note: all information submitted will be made public and published online. Appointments are normally made during open session of an Assembly meeting, however, Assembly members may vote to discuss applicant(s) in closed executive session. In this case, do you wish to be present when your application is discussed? ___ Yes ___ No

Return to:

Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk/Records Specialist, 100 Lincoln Street
Fax: 907-747-7403 Email: clerk@cityofsitka.org



To Whom It May Concern,

Please consider this my letter of intent to apply for a position on the Sitka Bear Task Force.

I am the current Curator and Bear Behavior Specialist at Fortress of the Bear. I have been associated with the facility since I first came from the UK to volunteer and conduct research for my dissertation during the summer of 2012. I went on to receive a BSc in Animal Behavior at the University of Exeter.

After finishing my degree, I returned to Sitka to volunteer with Fortress for an additional two 3-month periods, then accepted an 18-month training visa. Following this, I returned to Sitka on a 3-year work visa, during which received my alien residency green card to stay in America and work permanently at Fortress of the Bear in 2018.

Including my time at Fortress of the Bear, I have approximately 12 years of experience working with bears in captivity. Through my position, I think it is very important to utilize Fortress of the Bear's resident population of bears for education. As great captive ambassadors for their species, they will be able to aid the Bear Task Force through trash-can testing and public demonstrations, while also helping provide visual aid materials that can be used for social media campaigns.

Thank you for your consideration,

Claire Turner

Curator & Bear Behavior Specialist

Fortress of the Bear