ASSISTANCE DOGS NORTHWEST

Unleashing Abilities.

City of Bainbridge Island
FEB 15 2018
Planning and
Community Development

Re: COBI Conditional Use Permit December 12, 2017

Dear Planning Department,

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve more people in the Pacific Northwest by establishing a program on Bainbridge Island that will benefit children and adults with disabilities and other special needs. We've received an increasing number of requests from people in the Pacific Northwest for Assistance Dogs over the past several years. We currently have several graduate teams in Washington and Oregon and many volunteers and supporters in the greater Seattle area.

Assistance Dogs Northwest is an LLC of Assistance Dogs of Hawaii, a nationally accredited, 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides children and adults with disabilities specially trained dogs that increase their independence and enhance the quality of their lives. All of our Assistance Dogs and lifetime follow-up support are provided to clients free of charge. We have two main programs: our Assistance Dog Program and our Community Outreach Program.

Assistance Dog Programs:
Each dog in our Assistance Dog Program must complete five levels of training, which takes about a year and a half, before graduating. Our students are carefully matched with an Assistance Dog and must complete a two week Team Training Camp before graduating. Our students receive 80 hours of initial instruction and must pass daily written and practical exams with a score of at least 90%. The types of Assistance Dogs we place are:

- **Service Dogs** assist people with physical disabilities by performing tasks such as retrieving objects that are out of reach, pulling wheelchairs, turning on lights, opening doors and finding help when needed.
- **Hospital Facility Dogs** provide love, companionship and therapeutic benefit to patients at hospitals and nursing homes. They work full time and live with a staff member who receives intensive training and is certified in Animal Assisted Therapy..
- **Courthouse Dogs** provide comfort and courage to children who are victims or witnesses of crime. These specially trained dogs work full time at the Prosecutor's Office or Children's Justice Center helping children to find their voice throughout the difficult legal process.
- **Social Therapy Dogs** provide unconditional love for children with special needs. These full time home companions provide physical, emotional and psychological benefits that enhance the quality of a child's life.

Community Outreach Programs:
While our Assistance Dog Program benefits people throughout the Pacific Northwest, our Community Outreach Program will primarily benefit people on Bainbridge Island and the greater Seattle area. Our current Community Outreach Programs will include the following:

- **Therapy Team Program**: Therapy Dog Teams visit residents and patients at local area nursing homes, hospitals, schools and rehab facilities on a weekly basis.

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- **Workplace Readiness**: One or two local high school students with special needs work part-time at our campus where they receive valuable training and experience that will help them obtain gainful employment upon graduating from high school.
- **Veterans Program**: We provide services to wide range of veterans, including those with physical disabilities and PTSD. Service and Therapy Dogs assist veterans needing help readjusting to life after deployment.
- **Educational Program**: We provide educational presentations for the community where we visit local schools as well as businesses and civic organizations.

Campus Activities:
Our vision for our campus on Bainbridge Island is to replicate the successful model we established in Hawaii over 17 years ago. The campus will utilize the existing structures on site for daily operations. The main structure and detached guest house will be used for visiting clients and staff. The main structure on site will also house a small office and classroom for clients. The large "barn" structure will be the primary site for dog training on campus.

The dogs will not be maintained in kennels. Instead, an average of 4-5 dogs will reside with the caretaker and staff in the living quarters. Additional puppies (average of 4-5) will live offsite in the home of foster families. These foster families will attend puppy classes once a week in the barn on campus. We look forward to maintaining a beautiful campus and creating a place that the local community will be proud of.

Our hours of operation will be Monday – Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm. We have visitors by appointment only and are not open to the general public at any time. A typical week includes visitors at the following frequency: workplace readiness students (1-2 students twice a week for 2 hours), puppy training class (once a week), and student volunteers (1-2 students three days/week). Team Training Class (twice a year for 2-3 students). There may be an open house and graduation 1-2 times per year. No retail activities will take place at the facility.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. Thank you so much for your assistance!

Sincerely,

Maureen Maurer
Maureen Maurer, CPA, MS
Executive Director