

Sherri Cassidy, CPFO, Chief Financial Officer
&
Ryan Parsell, Chief Public Information Officer

Board of County Commissioners
Holly Williams, District 1
Carrie Geitner, District 2
Stan VanderWerf, District 3
Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., District 4
Cami Bremer, District 5

CITIZEN OUTREACH GROUP

Citizen Outreach Group - January 24, 2022

Members Present In Person and Via Virtual/Teleconference

Meeting: Stephanie Adams, Sarah Brittain Jack, David Brown, Rafael Chanza,
Kevin Cox, Kelvin Dean, Carl Frazer, Jim Godfrey

Members Absent Arthur Glynn, Lauren Hug

County Staff Present: Sherri Cassidy, Deanna Ruschioni, Natalie Sosa

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Chair, Stan VanderWerf
Commissioner Vice-chair, Cami Bremer

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members Absent at the January 24, 2022 COG Meeting

A motion was made to accept the absence of Arthur Glynn and Lauren Hug as unexcused absences unless they should attend later in the meeting; it was seconded, and all members present were in favor (8-0) with two members absent and one opening to be filled.

Natalie Sosa, Deputy Public Information Officer welcomed each of the 2022 Citizen Outreach Group members and introduced the new At-large members, David Brown, Kevin Cox, and Carl (Chip) Frazer.

Election of COG Officers for 2022

A motion was made to nominate Jim Godfrey as Chairperson of the COG for 2022. With no further nominations the motion was seconded, and all members present were in favor (8-0) with two members absent and one opening to be filled. Jim Godfrey accepted.

A motion was made to nominate Carl Frazer as Vice Chairperson of the COG. With no further nominations the motion was seconded, and all members present were in favor (8-0) (with two members absent and one opening to be filled. Carl Frazer accepted.

Administrative Items

- 1) A motion was made to approve the November 15, 2022 meeting minutes as written; it was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously by all members present (8-0), with two members absent and one opening to be filled.

Commissioner Liaison Comments

Commissioner Chair, Stan VanderWerf and Commissioner Vice-Chair, Cami Bremer

Commissioner Bremer thanked the members for their volunteer services on the COG. She spoke to the ARPA funding the County received from the Federal government and mentioned that it is the Commissioners' philosophy to push that funding out as quickly and efficiently as possible to the citizens who are most in need. The awards in the Community Impact Grant portion will be announced later this week as to who the recipients of this funding will be. The County received so many more applications than expected and it gave them a good sense of what the true need in the community is and how many different organizations are helping our citizens out at the ground level.

Commissioner VanderWerf mentioned that he appreciates the COG's interest in the allocation of the CARES and ARPA funding. On the tourism side he wanted to share the good news that the County allocated \$1M to the Penrose Event Center, and that's at least in part due to their capturing a semi-final rodeo competition. These funds, which meets ARPA requirements, will help them to update some of their facilities, making them a little more Covid safer, and be beneficial in the long-term for anything they try to recruit there.

2022 El Paso County Citizens College Update/Discussions

Stephanie Adams outlined the Mission of the El Paso County Citizens College:

To serve as an introductory program to better connect citizens (of all ages) to the services and major functions of El Paso County.

Goals:

- Build familiarity for citizens with County departments & elected officials
- Reduce the unnecessary negative mystique associated with local government
- Create access for citizens to better understand County operations and facilities
- Create greater awareness for our award-winning County

A taskforce consisting of four of the COG members was established to meet outside of the regular COG meetings to work on finalizing some of the micro-logistical details. Such meetings will be posted in accordance with The Colorado Open Meetings Law should it be required.

Commissioner VanderWerf mentioned he liked the outline of the program. He offered ideas such as, in conjunction with our Public Information Office's media/marketing plans, to reach out to the Colorado Springs Chamber to assist with advertising the El Paso County Citizens College program on their website with the intention of reaching business leaders and VPs of some companies who might be interested in attending one or two of the sessions. Also, with the goal of registering up to thirty citizens for the program, he liked the idea of changing the registration limitation from only full-program participation to allowing both full-program and single-session participation; with the goal of having at least ten full-program participants who will be able to graduate from the college at the end of the program. He feels it is important to reach the youth in our community as well and would encourage their participation in most of the programs.

The El Paso County Public Information Office will work on building a website to provide an overview of the Citizens College and a place for the public to register, with a possible Save the Date flyer mentioning the registration opening the first of March, 2022. Press releases, social media, and working with the Colorado Springs Chamber and other civic minded organizations to occur during the months of February and March, 2022.

The taskforce will provide an update to the COG members at their next meeting scheduled for February 28, 2022.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:55 a.m.