

**Rebecca Rudder, Constituent Services Specialist**

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**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

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**CITIZEN OUTREACH GROUP**

**Citizen Outreach Group      January 23, 2023**

**Members Present  
In Person and Via  
Virtual/Teleconference  
Meeting:**

Jim Godfrey, Sara Brittain Jack, Chip Frazer, Art Glynn, Ruble Henderson

**Members Absent:**                      Rafael Chanza, Kevin Cox

**Commissioners Present:**              Cami Bremer (Chair), Carrie Geitner (Vice Chair)

**County Staff Present:**              Ryan Parsell, Vernon Stewart, Rebecca Rudder

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**I.      Call to Order, Jim Godfrey - Chair:** The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

**II.     Administrative Items, Jim Godfrey - Chair:**

- a.** A motion was made to accept the absence of Rafael Chanza and Kevin Cox was made by Sarah Brittain Jack and seconded by Ruble Henderson.
- b.** A motion to approve the November 14, 2022, meeting minutes as written was made by Jim Godfrey and seconded by Sarah Brittain Jack.
- c.** Commissioner Liaison Comments:
  - i.** Commissioner Cami Bremer informed the Board members that she is now the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chair and is accessible to the Citizen Outreach Group (COG). She is looking forward to COG's thoughts on interacting with the public, and wants to ensure they have the tools they need so they can make better use of their time with strategic planning.
  - ii.** Commissioner Geitner is now the Vice Chair and is looking forward to getting to know the Board members.

**III:   Election of Chair and Vice Chair:**

- a.** Jim Godfrey opened the floor to nominations.
- b.** Sarah Brittain Jack nominated Jim Godfrey for a second term as Chair, and the nomination was seconded by Chip Frazer.
- c.** Sarah Brittain Jack moved to nominate Ruble Henderson as Vice Chair, and the nomination was seconded by Jim Godfrey.

**IV: Future Direction of the COG Final Discussion – Each item will include votes of what to include in plan for Commissioner Feedback:**

- a. Recommendation 1: COG Plans 1 Townhall per Commissioner per quarter in each Commissioner District. Commissioner district appointee leads with support from Townhall subcommittee.
  - a. Jim Godfrey suggested Commissioners introduce COG members at townhall meetings and explain what they do and what their statutory requirements are.
  - b. Commissioner Bremer stated that COG members would have a role to play at townhalls and remote BOCC meetings.
- b. Recommendation 2: COG plans and holds 2023 Citizens College, appoints subcommittee.
  - a. COG members will get started immediately and will connect with Stephanie Adams.
  - b. Ruble Henderson wants to be part of the discussion.
- c. Recommendation 3: COG represents the County at events as determined by an “Events” subcommittee. Events can be either community or county sponsored.
  - a. Vernon Stewart recommends focusing on the El Paso County Fair and the Pikes Peak Air Show.
  - b. Ryan Parsell restated the list of recommendations and suggested a non-public facing involvement such as the annual jail tour with the Commissioners and attending the State of the Region event.
  - c. Commissioner Bremer suggested COG members attend events when the Commissioners are not available (i.e. Tuesday mornings), but a County presence is needed.
  - d. Jim Godfrey suggested building a list of events, then bring it back to COG for a discussion and a vote.
- d. Recommendation 4: Instead of all Departments presenting to the COG, departments only present as COG sees fit or as required by statute/rule.
  - a. Ryan Parsell suggested bringing in Departments of interest to the COG members vs. visiting every department to check a box.
  - b. Jim Godfrey wants to narrow down list of events for COG to participate in, then form subcommittees. He requested that Vernon Stewart be the point of contact for events and committees to pursue.
- e. Recommendation 5: COG meetings shift from departmental updates to subcommittee reports, updates, and agreeing on future strategic direction of individual efforts.
  - a. How many Departments and events are involved will dictate how many subcommittees COG will have.
  - b. COG needs to exercise caution on how many subcommittees are established.
  - c. Establishment of subcommittees should be postponed until a decision is made on the events COG will participate in.
- f. Recommendation 6: COG subcommittee develops new mission, vision, and values statement to guide future activities.
  - a. Determine how COG will go about fulfilling its mission, not changing it.
- g. Recommendation 7: The COG presents the recommendations as a plan to Commissioners for feedback and additional discussion.
  - a. COG owes the BOCC a summary of what the members have gone through and the results of what they came up with. Jim Godfrey will take this on when the time is appropriate.

**V: Staff Update by Ryan Parsell:**

- Staff will work with the Chair and Vice Chair on new volunteer applications and ITC members to fill vacancies on COG.
- Staff provided a summary of current vacancies on COG.

**VI: Admin by Vernon Stewart**

- Name Badges will be ordered.
- COG members will be added to the Communications Department's e-mail distribution list.
- Reviewed new Communications tools, including El Paso Courier (external newsletter) and a podcast named Beyond the Dais.

**VII: Commissioners' closing remarks**

- a. Commissioner Bremer commented on COG's nice work and that we are headed in the right direction. We will look at who will work well with the members who have a strong vision and are serving right now.
- b. Commissioner Geitner thanked the COG members and looks forward to filling vacancies.

**VIII: Meeting Adjourned: 10:31am.**