

Rebecca Rudder, Constituent Services Specialist

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Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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 April 17, 2023

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

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

Members Absent: None

Commissioners Present: Cami Bremer, Carrie Geitner

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

I. Call to Order, Jim Godfrey - Chair: The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. Administrative Items, Jim Godfrey - Chair:

- a.** A motion to accept as excused or unexcused absences of Board members was not necessary because no Board members were absent.
- b.** A motion to approve the January 23, 2023, meeting minutes as written was made by Sarah Brittain Jack and seconded by Ruble Henderson.
- c.** Commissioner Liaison comments:
 - i.** Commissioner Carrie Geitner is excited about the conversation about where the Board is going and the great things they are going to do for the citizens.
 - ii.** Commissioner Cami Bremer provided information regarding the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) “Commissioners on the Road” series whereby BoCC meetings will be held in remote locations throughout the county, and in every Commissioner District, to improve accessibility and openness to the BoCC meetings.
 - iii.** Commissioner Carrie Geitner spoke about April being National County Government Month and expressed her goals to improve awareness and build on what we are already doing.
 - iv.** Commissioner Cami Bremer provided an update on the county’s activity to address unfunded mandates, concerns with a Land Use bill, and other issues this Legislative session.

III: El Paso County Fair Focus Group Discussion – Pulled from Agenda but still seeking COG’s involvement with the Outreach booth.

IV: 2023 Citizens College Discussion, Jim Godfrey - Chair

- a. Would like to set up a Teams meeting to establish a subcommittee, meet with last year's group and do a scrub of that process, and establish initiatives to move forward.
- b. Start with an email/study to establish why people signed up but didn't participate.
- c. Ruble Henderson volunteered to take the lead on the subcommittee.
- d. The number one challenge is to get people to attend. Other challenges include participants only signing up for the events of issue/interest to them (i.e. residents from north El Paso County were only interested in the Planning meeting) and attendee limitations.
- e. Ryan Parsell volunteered to be a part of the subcommittee's topics discussion.
- f. Commissioner Carrie Geitner suggested a program that allows participants to attend just the sessions of interest to them but offer a certificate to those that complete the entire program.
- g. Commissioner Cami Bremer suggested a commissioner introduction video with a county overview.
- h. Ryan Parsell suggested an addition to the New Volunteer Video to include county overview and Citizens College.

V: Commissioner Redistricting, Ryan Parsell – Executive Director of Government Affairs:

- a. In 2021, the Colorado Legislature passed a House Bill that determines how certain counties, including El Paso County, do Commissioner redistricting.
- b. Redistricting was previously done every few years solely by the Clerk and Recorder.
- c. The 2021 legislation put additional perimeters on the redistricting process. Each county has to adopt some sort of county commissioner redistricting commission; The legislation provides three options including independent redistricting, BoCC commission, or either option with an independent advisory committee.
- d. The legislation only impacted Arapahoe, El Paso, and Weld counties. Weld County is home ruled and will not follow the new redistricting process.
- e. The legislation requires commissioner districts to be substantially similar in population with no more than 5% deviation, preserve communities of interest, follow the Voting Rights of 1965, and when all other considerations are fulfilled, to the extent possible, maximize the number of competitive districts.
- f. Takes effect in 2023, but the legislation contemplated 2021 census data, but the data was delayed to COVID. As such, 2023 is the first year of redistricting.
- g. There are some areas where COG can be helpful between now and August. Once the commission is formed, there will be public meetings throughout the county.
- h. Website will be established for citizens to comment or submit their own redistricting plans.
- i. COG members are encouraged to share information about the commissioner redistricting public meetings and encourage participation via their social media outlets and networks.

VI: Other Updates:

- a. Vernon Stewart stated that the El Paso County Courier is available electronically and is posted to the county's social media platforms. Free copies also available.
- b. Commissioner Cami Bremer reminded the members that the Space Symposium is happening this week, and people from all over the world are coming into our community. Also, people are still talking about the impending Space Force Decision.
- c. Ryan Parsell informed the COG members that the county created a new county volunteer orientation that he would like the members to complete by the end of April, then provide feedback.

VII: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

