

**Rebecca Rudder, Constituent Services Specialist**

**O:** 719-520-6423

**M:** 719-238-8218

RebeccaRudder2@elpasoco.com

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 18, 2022**

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

Stephanie Adams, David Brown, Sarah Brittain-Jack, Seth Davis, Kelvin Dean, Carl “Chip” Frazier, Arthur Glynn, Jim Godfrey, Ruble Henderson

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

**Commissioners Present:**        Commissioner Vice-chair, Cami Bremer

**County Staff Present:**            Ryan Parsell, Natalie Sosa

**Guests:**

---

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

### **Members Absent at the April 18, 2022, COG Meeting**

**Action Item:** A motion was made to accept the absence of Rafael Chanza and Kevin Cox as unexcused absences unless they should attend later in the meeting; it was seconded, and all members present were in favor (9-0) with two members absent.

### **Administrative Items**

- 1) A motion was made to approve the March 21, 2022, Meeting Minutes as written; it was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously by all members present (9-0), with two members absent.
- 2) **Commissioner Liaison Comments**  
Commissioner Vice-chair, Cami Bremer did not have any comments
- 3) **2022 Calendar Discussion – The Rest of the Year by Ryan Parsell, Executive Director Government Affairs**  
Ryan Parsell stated that on Deanna’s last day, she advised that everything after the April meeting is in flux with the exception of the County Fair and Citizens College. There was some discussion in a previous meeting about adding something about the homelessness issue to a future agenda. Ryan brought the tentative calendar of events for the rest of the year and do a temperature check on it. He had planned to do a Strategic Plan update, but it needed a little more time so at a minimum, it will need to be rescheduled.

**Action Item:** Looking at the rest of the year, Ryan would like the board members to decide what to bake in, move around, add, then formalize that and have staff work on getting it set up for the rest of the year.

- 4) Jim Godfrey asked the members if there are additional agenda items they are accustomed to seeing, would like to see, or burning issues they would like to suggest for future agendas.
  - a. A COG member would like to continue to include the public safety tags and updates from the Sheriff's office, the Citizens College debrief and the County volunteer opportunities. In addition, road conditions, Community Services and Parks updates, discussions on the preliminary balanced budget to be presented to the County Commissioners in November, and questions from someone on the committee about a specific issue that can be incorporated into one of the sessions.
  - b. A COG member requested a homeless awareness briefing where the group could identify the issues before COG, then follow up with plans and solutions.
    - i. Staff cautioned about not usurping the Board of County Commissioners. COG could discuss this internally as an agenda item. Another option is a townhall discussion about housing affordability similar to what HBA did a number of times, after hours in the auditorium, in a multi-part series. COG could do something similar, which is in line with what this group does as a citizen outreach. COG does not set policy as this body, but it can facilitate a community discussion.
- 5) Ryan Parsell opened the discussion for other topics
  - a. A COG member suggested hosting an event or public forum with law enforcement to talk about initiatives they are taking and bring awareness to the challenges they are seeing. Relationships don't develop without a conversation, and this is an opportunity for COG to drive the conversation.
  - b. A COG member suggested a 10–15-minute briefing on division of responsibilities amongst the elected officials to define what the coroner's role is, what the Board of County Commissioner's role is, and what COG's interaction level across those parallel elected positions looks like and what actions can be taken when COG is presented with something.
  - c. Ryan Parsell suggested a PPRTA forum in September or October to raise the organization's profile and to talk about relevant non-partisan topics.
  - d. Jim Godfrey asked if there are some members who would want to be on a sub-committee on the topic of homelessness, law enforcement and PPRTA, and set some boundaries around the discussion and vet it a little more. David Brown, Art Glynn and Seth Davis all expressed their interest.
    - i. Commissioner Bremer added that she doesn't think the sub-committee needs to recreate the wheel on that. There are a lot of outside organizations working on doing the same thing. Rather than recreate the wheel, she suggests getting more active leverage of what is already going on. With any of these topics, you're just going to see some slight tweaking and changes with kind of calendaring within Admin. It might get easier to get looped in on those outside events that we know about. It might get easier to have that be more systematized, but that is a long-term goal. With some changes that are being made, it will be easier for everybody to see what is going on, when and where. That is something we can share when it is in place.

## **2022 El Paso County Citizens College Updates/Discussions**

- 1) Ryan Parsell confirmed that the first session is May 4<sup>th</sup>. The full agenda for that night will include an introduction and ice breaker with the participants, Commissioner VanderWerf will offer opening comments, and Brett Waters will give an overview of the county administration and the organizational chart. In addition, there will be a presentation on Budget, Finance and Planning, a Q&A session, and an activity. The presentations will be 10-15 minutes each.

- a. Stephanie Adams confirmed there have been two cancellations and two people pulled up from the wait list. She will send the updated list of participants to the whole group.
- 2) Ryan Parsell asked the members to make sure that as they are going through the rest of the sessions, all are up to date with people on there. He thinks there may be more cancellations, so be prepared.  
**Action Item:** Ryan requested the members provide him with the address of where their meeting is and parking instructions by April 25, so he can send the information in the final email to the participants.
- 3) A member stated that May 14<sup>th</sup> is Criminal Justice Day. It starts at 9:00am at the Training Center at the CJC complex. The group will proceed to the coroner's office at 10:00am, then will tour of jail at 11:00am, followed by lunch, which will be provided by the Sheriff. The 9:00am portion of the day is still being coordinated.
- 4) Jim Godfrey stated that the third session is road recreation and emergencies at the Emergency Operations Center located at 3755 Mark Dabbling. Parking is on the south side of the facility. Todd Marks will do a presentation on Parks and Recreation, and what they do. Jack Ladley is heading up the coordination and information on the roads piece, and he is bringing in the new state of the art striping truck. This will be a 30-minute briefing with Q&A, then a tour of the emergency equipment with OEM.
- 5) Ruble Henderson requested an email with a list of events, the volunteers for each event, the role of the volunteers, and where they need to be. Stephanie confirmed that she was planning to send special logistics to all the attendees and volunteers for each session by May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 6) Stephanie confirmed the following participants: Chip, Rafael, Ruble, David, Kevin and Seth, along with herself, Kelvin, Sarah and Jim. Anyone else who is not signed up but wishes to participate needs to give her a date. In addition, if a COG member wants to participate in the CJC session on May 14<sup>th</sup>, Stephanie needs to know as soon as possible because the Sheriff's office needs a complete list of names.
- 7) Ryan Parsell mentioned that he prepared a part for an MC to kick things off and asked if it would be somebody from COG or if they want staff to kick it off. Jim stated as the sponsor, COG should have an opening/welcome comment.
- 8) A member asked who is coordinating logistics, who are we sending emails to if there are any conflicts or questions now that Deanna has retired. Ryan stated that we do not know yet.
- 9) Jim Godfrey stated that it would be relatively simple to create a group mailing address with everything and everybody's email addresses on it. A member cautioned that COG is a public body, for if there is a group email discussion, open meeting laws apply. Ryan added that when the subcommittee meets, they are going to have to notice or post that somewhere 24 hours before the meeting.
- 10) Ryan Parsell asked for 48 hours' notice and details about where the meeting will be held. A member asked if subcommittee minutes are required, and was advised they are, but the minutes just need to reflect the topics discussed.
- 11) A member asked for clarification as to whether the emailing to set up a time to meet is acceptable, and was advised that calendaring is an allowable reason, because it is not public discussion. But if you get into the weeds about what you want to discuss, that must be noticed.
- 12) Ryan stated that once a date to meet has been picked, email it to him and Nikki for now.
- 13) A member asked if a copy of the bylaws are available because he did not see them on the website. A member stated that they can email it to the whole group.
- 14) Jim Godfrey asked if there are any other questions, or is there anything on the Justice Fraud graduation? A member confirmed Stephanie is working on that and has Judge Bain and the D.A.
- 15) Jim Godfrey reminded COG members that when they are coordinating with staff members, thank them for their time.
- 16) Kelvin said that when it comes to the homeless situation, he encourages everyone to do a little bit of volunteer work to get a better insight of what kind of activities have been going on behind the scenes.

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:47 a.m.**

