

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 November 14, 2022

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

Jim Godfrey, Sara Brittain Jack, Kelvin Dean

Members Absent:

Chip Frazier, Stephanie Adams, Ruble Henderson, Kevin Cox

Commissioners Present:

Stan VanderWerf

County Staff Present:

Vernon Stewart, Rebecca Rudder

I. Call to Order, Jim Godfrey - Chair: The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m.

II. Administrative Items, Jim Godfrey - Chair:

- a. A motion to accept as not excused absent Board members for the August 15, 2022 (due to lack of a quorum at the September 19, 2022, meeting) and the September 19, 2022, meetings was made by Chip Frazer and seconded by Stephanie Adams.
- b. A motion to approve the August 15, 2022 (due to lack of a quorum at the September 19, 2022, meeting) and the September 19, 2022, meeting minutes as written was made by Chip Frazer and seconded by Stephanie Adams.
- c. Nikki Simmons, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Sunny Bryant, the new Deputy County Administrator
- d. Commissioner Stan VanderWerf informed the Board members that he is preparing for the State of the Region scheduled for November 20, 2022, and it would be great to have Citizen Outreach Group (COG) representation at the luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel.
 - i. Vernon Stewart will send out the details after the COG meeting.

III: Public Safety Sales Tax Report

- a. Sheriff Bill Elder presented the Public Safety Tax 2021 Report to COG on June 20, 2022. However, there was not a quorum at the presentation. As such, each COG member was asked to view the taped presentation in its entirety, then sign a form affirming they have listened to it.

IV: Future Direction of the COG Discussion –

- a. Possible future endeavors
 - a. Help County Commissioners with Townhall meetings
 - b. Air Show
 - c. Smith Farms Fall Celebration (Flacon)
 - i. Open to the public at no charge
 - ii. The County Commissioner who represents that area participates
 - d. County Fair
 - i. Multi-day event
 - ii. County information table set up in main pavilion
 - iii. VIP reception is another opportunity for community interaction
 - e. Citizens College
 - i. Too big of a lift for one person
 - ii. Work with CONO
 - iii. Have dedicated staff time with volunteer support
 - iv. The sooner we engage the better. It takes a long time to plan.
 - v. Survey those that signed up but didn't show up.
 - vi. COG website needs to be updated and could be a potential source for storing/archiving Citizens College information.
- b. Sarah Brittain Jack stated that at a recent Planning Commission meeting, participants were informed that the Board of County Commissioners changed the rules a couple of months ago and eliminated term limits. She asked if that rule change pertains to all Boards and Committees, or just the Planning Commission.
- c. COG members need identification to indicate their role as part of the public outreach group
- d. Sarah Brittain Jack noted that many of the outreach opportunities events being discussed are not county-run events.
- e. To maximize participation, pick very direct activities
- f. County Commissioners need to engage more with COG
- g. Ruble Henderson expressed a desire to be included in any discussions with Stephanie Adams regarding Citizens College, and would like to be a part of Citizens College moving forward.

V: Absorbing the Innovation and Technology Committee (ITC) – Commissioner Stan VanderWerf

- a. City and County are looking at Boards and Committees to determine the best use of staff and the value added to each group
- b. ITC was Commissioner VanderWerf's initiative about 3 years ago to use citizen insight and expertise to consider technology insertion into county operations.
- c. Discussion within ITC about changing its focus from regular meetings to moving towards a project-based process.
- d. ITC was not intended to be just Information Technology; it was intended to encompass any/all technology.

VI: Meeting Adjourned: 10:31am.

