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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

Bill Wysong, District 3

Cory Applegate, District 4

Lauren Nelson, District 5

**CITIZEN OUTREACH GROUP (COG)
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: June 16, 2025

Members Present

In Person and Via

Virtual/Teleconference

Meeting:

Ruble Henderson (Chair), Candi Boyer, Sarah Brittain Jack, Amber Campbell, Lanz Cook, Ed Dills, Jim Godfrey, Angie Greene, Brenda Miller, Dale Warner

Members Absent: None

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Holly Williams

County Staff Present: Ryan Parsell, AmyJo Fields, Paula Linhares

I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by COG Chair Ruble Henderson.

II. Administrative Items - Ruble Henderson

- a. Motion was not made to excuse absent Board members. All members were present.
- b. The May 19 minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Introductions

a. New Board Members:

- **Candi Boyer** – COG at-large member, spouse of U.S. Air Force veteran.
- **Amber Campbell** – COG at-large member, realtor.
- **Lanz Cook** – appointed by Commissioner Wysong to represent District 3 on COG. Professional background in cost reduction consultancy.

- b. Ryan Parsell welcomed new Board members and asked them to review the County's Volunteer Training video prior to the July 21 meeting. Paula will send the video to the new Board members.

IV. Commissioner Liaison Comments – Holly Williams

- a. Public Safety Tax presentation is scheduled for July 8 Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) meeting.
- b. The Commissioners are distributing Citizen College 2025 cards at their Café Conversations events and various committee meetings.
- c. El Paso County GOP Vacancy Committee meets on June 17 to select a candidate to fill the District 5 seat on BoCC due to Commissioner Bremer's resignation.

V. County Communications and PIO Update – AmyJo Fields

- a. Upcoming Café Conversation events:
 - June 20 – District 2 with Commissioner Geitner
 - June 21 - District 1 with Commissioners Williams and Wysong
- b. Western Street Breakfast – June 18. COG members are welcome to help host the County booth at the event. Paula will send information to sign up.
- c. El Paso County Fair is July 12-19, 2025. COG Board will be asked to help staff the County booth at the Fair. Paula will email a link to sign up for a slot.
- d. The second quarter edition of the Courier includes highlight on the County Fair and a Save the Date for Citizen College 2025: <https://www.elpasoco.com/the-courier/>

VI. Citizen College 2025 Update - Subcommittee

- a. For the benefit of the new COG Board members, Ruble explained the usual format for Citizen College 'report-outs' during the monthly COG Board meetings. At each Board meeting, Citizen College Session Managers will be asked if arrangements are on-track with their specific Citizen College responsibilities, or if there are any risks/issues/significant events that the COG Board should be aware of. After this initial brief query among the Session Managers, Ruble will ask those who expressed risks/issues/significant event(s) for details so that the COG Board can decide course of action to resolve. Depending on the issues, some items may be deferred to the Citizen College Subcommittee to address. The goal of this reporting format is to use this portion of the Board meeting most efficiently to problem-solve, as needed.
- b. Ruble reviewed the mission of Citizen College: "To empower citizens to better understand what the County does for its residents, and to equip them with the tools to help strengthen our community."
- c. Citizen College schedule and Session Manager assignments (attached) were discussed.
- d. Group discussed the need to make the sessions as interactive as possible.
- e. Commissioner Williams offered the suggestion to include information about Citizen College on the 'Meeting is about to begin' page that appears online prior to BoCC meetings. Could also include information during BoCC meeting recess breaks. Commissioners will promote Citizen College during BoCC meetings.
- f. Promotional materials will encourage citizens to sign up for all sessions vs. individual sessions to gain a broader perspective on the various aspects of El Paso County government and the interconnectivity of the different functions.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am