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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

Cami Bremer, District 5

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

Meeting Date: **March 24, 2025**

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

Ruble Henderson (Chair), Sarah Brittain Jack, Ed Dills, Jim Godfrey

Members Absent: Angie Green, Brenda Miller, Dale Warner

County Staff Present: AmyJo Fields, Paula Linhares, Stephanie O'Brian (intern), Natalie Sosa, Brandon Wilson

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

II. Administrative Items - Ruble Henderson

- a. Motion to not excuse absent Board member Dale Warner was made by Jim Godfrey and seconded by Sarah Brittain Jack.
- b. The January 27 minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Citizen College 2025

- a. The following Communication Plan for Citizen College 2025 was reviewed:



2025 Citizen
College Marketing C

- Additional possible target groups: HOAs, Metro Districts, CONO group.
- Goal is to have 50 people at each session. Determine the ratio of registrants to actual attendees for future planning. Idea: COG to make phone calls to registrants to solidify attendance.
- Engage 2024 Citizen College alumni in marketing effort to offer testimonials of their experience.

- Early promotion during National County Government Month BoCC Proclamation on April 1, 2025. See link to Ruble's comments here: <https://play.champds.com/elpasococo/event/81/s/794>
 - Promotion in County Courier publication.
 - Differentiate Citizen College from other similar programs in the County (i.e. EPSO Citizens' Academy, CONO).
- b. Citizen College 2025 Session Manager Report-Outs
- Jim Godfrey – will reach out to contacts for Emergency Mgmt./Public Works session on Oct. 15
 - Ed Dills – confirmed D.A. Office session on Oct. 16
 - Government Affairs Office will reach out to Chief Judge Erin Sokol for Courts/Jury System session on Oct. 17. Brenda Miller assigned as session manager for this session.
 - Sarah Brittain Jack - has contacted Coroner's Office and EPSO for Criminal Justice session on the morning of Oct. 18.

IV. Update on Colorado Legislative Session – Brandon Wilson, Government Affairs Advisor

- To date, 511 bills have been introduced.
- EPC Government Affairs is tracking about 170 bills, including a Human Services bill (HB25-2171) that would prevent the County's use of federal benefits of children in foster care (i.e., Soc. Sec. survivor benefits) to offset the cost of care. This would negatively impact County resources for other needs.
- The County is currently supporting about 18 bills, primarily focused on Public Safety, Immigration, Firearms, Affordable Housing.
- The County is opposing approximately 30 bills dealing with 2nd Amendment infringement, Green Energy agenda – anything that would impose unfunded mandates.
- State legislature is wrestling with a projected \$1 billion deficit for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests are due today, March 24.

V. Update on COG Board vacancies – Paula Linhares

- a. Commissioners are still reviewing applications. Deadline for at-large openings has been extended.

VI. Communications and PIO Update – Natalie Sosa

- a. County website accessibility project underway per compliance with Colorado's Accessibility Law HB21-1110.
- b. Media Training will be held on May 9. COG Board members are invited to participate.
- c. County's Strategic Performance Dashboard launch: <https://www.elpasoco.com/strategic-plan/strategic-plan-dashboard/>
- d. County Fair 2025 <https://www.elpasocountyfair.com/p/fair-information>. 120th Anniversary of the Fair. Theme: A Spudtacular Journey – El Paso County Fair started as a potato festival in 1905. COG member will be expected to help promote and sign up for onsite coverage at the Fair.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am