

Paula Linhares, Constituent Services Specialist

O: 719-520-6423

M: 719-235-8635

PaulaLinhares3@elpasoco.com

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: November 17, 2025

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

Sarah Brittain Jack, Amber Campbell, Ed Dills, Jim Godfrey, Brenda Miller

Members Absent: Ruble Henderson, Chair (excused), Candi Boyer (excused), Lanz Cook (excused), Dale Warner (unexcused)

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

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by COG Vice Chair Jim Godfrey.

I. Administrative Items

- a. Motion was made by Ed Dills to excuse absent Board members who notified staff in advance that they would not be in attendance. Sarah Brittain Jack seconded. Motion passed.
- b. Motion was made by Brenda Miller to accept the meeting minutes from October 20, 2025. Sarah Brittain Jack seconded. Motion passed.

II. Communications/PIO Update – Natalie Sosa and AmyJo Fields

- a. **Ambassador Training** – December 4 (8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., Regional Development Building Training Room, 2880 International Circle, 80910). Details for this training were included in the October 20 meeting minutes. This is a training for County employees and volunteers (i.e., COG Board members) who represent the County at community events and who liaise with constituents.
- b. **America's 250th/Colorado's 150th Anniversary Committee** has been established to discuss ideas for celebrating these milestones in 2026. Additional information on the Committee will be shared with COG in the upcoming weeks. COG will be instrumental in community outreach and support of related activities.

III. Citizen College 2025 Debrief – AmyJo Fields

- a. Evaluation of College marketing strategies and program outcomes compared to COG Board goals/objectives can be found [here](#). Highlights:
 - Total registrants 84 registrants exceeding goal of 75 – 90% increase from 2022 and 71% increase from 2024.
 - 47% of participants reported increased understanding of El Paso County services and programs; however, due to low response to the College conclusion survey, this figure is statistically inconclusive. Low response to the conclusion survey could be attributed to ‘survey fatigue’ expressed by College participants during the program. Session-specific surveys were distributed at the end of each session and the number of responses to those surveys were greater than the conclusion survey and may yield more meaningful analysis.
- b. Items for deep dive discussion in early 2026:
 - Assess the future utility of Citizen College given the small percentage of the County’s population who participate. Explore other opportunities to reach more people than the College currently attracts. Commissioner Café Conversations might be a venue to expand reach.
 - Explore ways to improve media exposure. Media pitches were produced featuring COG members, but very few media outlets picked them up. Consider inviting media to cover certain sessions.
 - Consider virtual options for some sessions, where feasible.
 - Explore the possibility of hosting sessions throughout the year instead of during a one-week timeframe.
 - Discuss possible collaboration with college and homeschool community, among other cohorts previously discussed.
 - Gather additional feedback and suggestions from participants, perhaps via phone.
- c. A template was created and emailed to COG on Nov. 14 for COG Board members to document lessons learned from Citizen College 2025. A share drive folder has been created to archive notes. The following share drive link was emailed to COG Board on Nov. 14: [2025](#). COG Board members are asked to submit notes before the next COG Board meeting on Dec. 15.

IV. COG Review of Public Safety Tax Presentation and County Strategic Plan Progress

- a. COG Board has been asked to review, prior to the next COG meeting on Dec. 15, Sheriff Joseph Roybal’s Public Safety Tax presentation that he offered to the Board of County Commissioners on September 30, 2025. A recording of the presentation can be found here: <https://play.champds.com/elpasococo/event/109/s/702>. Cassandra Sebastian from EPSO will attend the Dec. 15 meeting to address questions on the presentation.
- b. COG’s review of the County Strategic Plan will be conducted during 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am