

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: September 15, 2025

Members Present

In Person and Via

Virtual/Teleconference

Meeting: Ruble Henderson (Chair), Candi Boyer, Sarah Brittain Jack, Amber Campbell, Lanz Cook, Ed Dills, Brenda Miller

Members Absent: Jim Godfrey (excused), Angie Greene (unexcused), Dale Warner (unexcused)

Commissioners Present: None

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 Chair Ruble Henderson.

I. Administrative Items - Ruble Henderson

- a. Motion was made by Candi Boyer to excuse absent Board members who notified staff in advance that they may not be in attendance. Brenda Miller seconded. Motion passes.
- b. Motion was made by Brenda Miller to accept the August 18 minutes. Ed Dills seconded. Motion passed.

II. Citizen College 2025 Updates

- a. 54 registrants to date
- b. Social media promotional videos featuring COG members Lanz Cook, Ed Dills, and Sarah Brittain Jack have been posted with 1,989 views to date. Videos featuring Jim Godfrey and Candi Boyer will be posted on Sept. 17 and 20 respectively. Nancy Nelsen in Communications will schedule video shoots with additional COG members over the next few weeks leading up to the start of Citizen College.
- c. Sessions Updates:
 - Citizen Service Center Session (Oct. 14) – maximum COG member attendance is requested at this session to assist with logistics. Lanz is arranging donation of light refreshments from Springs Rescue Mission.

- Public Works/Emergency Preparedness Session (Oct. 15) – Jim is working on details for ‘Touch a Truck’ portion of the session to give attendees an opportunity to see and learn about emergency and public works equipment and vehicles.
 - District Attorney Session (Oct. 16) – will be held at the D.A.’s Office. Centennial Hall is reserved as a back-up venue if the number of attendees exceeds capacity at the D.A.’s Office.
 - Combined Courts Session (Oct. 17) – Brenda will meet with Judge Sokol and her assistant on Sept. 22 to discuss plan for the session.
 - Coroner’s Office Session (Oct. 18) – Sarah will verify capacity at the Coroner’s Office to determine the maximum number of participants that can be accommodated for the session. She will also reach out to Dr. Russell-Kinsley to find out if her investigator is available to assist with the session, as he did last year.
 - COG members should try to attend all sessions and should arrive at each site at least an hour prior to the start of the sessions to assist with setup.
- d. Plan for final day of Citizen College
- COG to finalize plan for participant certificates and possible memento (i.e., lapel pin, t-shirt). Paula will find out from Communications if there is sufficient supply of County pins to distribute to participants. It is too late to order t-shirts, need to order this earlier in the year.
 - Prepare swag bag with County information (i.e., latest edition of Courier newspaper, County Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), volunteer opportunities, etc.).
 - Ed to provide cases of bottled water for each of the sessions.
 - Brenda to provide sheet cakes for the final session.

III. Communications/PIO Update – Natalie Sosa

- a. Media trainings will be scheduled shortly. COG members will be invited to participate in the trainings.
- b. County Ambassador Program training will be scheduled on rolling basis throughout the year. Externally, ambassadors represent El Paso County at events, building relationships with residents, stakeholders, and community groups. Internally, ambassadors act as key connectors between leadership and employees, ensuring that important decisions, initiatives, and updates are communicated clearly, fostering transparency and mutual respect.

IV. Post Citizen College Activities

- a. Lanz proposed discussion of other community engagement opportunities after Citizen College, particularly for COG members who serve at the pleasure of a Commissioner – COG district representatives. COG will revisit this topic during upcoming COG Board meetings (Nov.-Jan.).

Meeting adjourned at 10:26am