

Citizen Outreach Group

October 9, 2007
3rd floor Commissioners Conference Room
27 East Vermijo Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Minutes for October 9, 2007 :

Proceedings were audio-taped and are the official record of the meeting

Attendees:

Jan Doran, Sue Crozier, Amy Lathen, Joe Salute, Lois Blackwell, Bob Null, Gary Nance, Bernie Herpin, Curtis Lorash.

Other attendees:

Bailey Becker, Public Communications Department;
Imad Karaki, Director of Employee Benefits and Medical Services

Meeting notes:

1. Chair Jan Doran called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.
2. Roll was taken. Francine Hansen and Conrad Schaap were absent and excused. Sue Crozier and Amy Lathen joined the meeting in progress.
4. Citizen Comments – none
5. Minutes from September 11, 2007 were approved as corrected. Motion by Gary Nance and Seconded by Bob Null
6. Citizen College update – Jan Doran gave Francine’s report which included a suggested format for the last session. There was discussion regarding future colleges including ideas about topics, times and menu. Amy suggested having optional “ride-alongs” with SO or CSPD; Bailey suggested explanation before the classes themselves on materials organization, county volunteer boards, etc. Imad suggested that the COG meet with the presenters before their sessions; also the possibility of the COG hosting a luncheon for the presenters after the college to discuss their presentations was mentioned. It was felt that the time of the sessions was optimal but perhaps we do not need to serve full meals; possibly just serve full meal on the last night, but the presenters appreciate the meal very much. Since we have donated money, we can afford to serve meals; the other county departments that have “academies” do not have that luxury. Imad felt that it is important to have the food and that it increases our attendance. Not all students feel that the courthouse tour is important; perhaps we could do virtual tours of some facilities such as the courthouse. IT could do a 3-D layout. It was discussed that all future college sessions be held at the PPRDC except for the session at the jail. Jan asked that all fill out the evaluation form at the final session. In November, Francine will have the final evaluations. Jan also reported that some county department heads have asked for a “Mini-College” for the county employees themselves. We discussed having one session, videography, etc.
7. Citizen College Financial Information Update – Bailey Becker reported that we have an approximate balance of \$12,000.

8. Douglas County Interest in the Citizen College - A Douglas County employee sent an email to Commissioner Sallie Clark asking for information about the college. It was suggested that we invite her to the last sessions of the college and to our debriefing next month. Some COG members could assist her in presenting the information to her BOCC. We could provide a video of excerpts of this year's classes.

9. County Volunteer Appreciation Event – Jan handed out our certificates. There has been no debriefing yet. The volunteer list could be expanded next year.

10. Election of Officers in 2008 – Jan handed out copies of the Bylaws. Officers are elected in February. Joe has updated the member directory and will send it out via email. Sue asked that the terms of members be researched to determine if they are staggered in length as the bylaws does not address that..

11. Other Business – Curtis Lorash suggested that we get some positive county government information out to the high schools. He suggested this as a project for us now when the college is over. A video of information was discussed, maybe emphasizing the election process since 2008 is an important general election year. COG members were asked to bring ideas from the strategic plan that we developed our first year; revisit our “top 10” list. Amy suggested that we might hold one big town hall meeting. We agreed that a subcommittee on the COG Strategic Plan is needed. Commissioner Bensberg should give us an update on the ICE office status. .

12. The next meeting will begin at 10 AM on November 13, 2007. The Meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM.

Sue Crozier. Secretary