

Minutes for February 12, 2008: Citizen Outreach Group

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

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

Attendees:

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

Other attendees:

Commissioner Jim Bensberg; Commissioner Sallie Clark; Commissioner Amy Lathen, Julie Johnson, Public Communications Department; Jerry Lucien.

Meeting notes:

1. Chair Jan Doran called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
2. Roll was taken. Conrad Schaap was absent.
3. Jan passed around the brochure on the February 26th Chamber of Commerce annual trip to the Capital. COG members are encouraged to go.
4. Commissioner Comments –
Commissioner Bensberg distributed copies and discussed the recent letters from legislators and a Gazette article regarding the proposed OHV park. Representatives Merrifield and Morse did not send copies or discuss their opposition to the park with any commissioners prior to sending them to the State Parks Board. Commissioner Lathen also expressed concern and stated she would be writing to the gentlemen as well. Motion by Joe Salute to allow her to include the COG membership in her letters as being concerned about their “jumping over the public process” in this case. Second by Sue Crozier.. Motion passed.
Commissioner Lathen also discussed problems the sheriff is having with “lock popping” and understaffing. Commissioner Clark stated that Jerry Lucien will be officially appointed to the COG and Conrad will be reappointed on February 21; the commissioners will interview for another new member next month. She also commented that the BOCC will be focusing on public communications this year, and requested that we work on our website and update it with pictures of members, etc. She wants to make it easier to contact us. Discussion on the website content included information on the Citizens College, contact info on members, minutes and agendas, other events we participate in and our mission statement. It was suggested that we might add a “feature of the month” which might be a county department. An E-newsletter could be started that citizens would register to receive. She has spoken to Bill Miller regarding our site and also suggests that we need to have a brochure for the lobby of the county building. A website committee was appointed: Bernie Herpin., Bob Null, Curtis Lorash and Jerry Lucien. Julie will coordinate a meeting with the IT department.
5. Legislation Update -
Commissioner Clark had no further news on the possibility of licensing Massage Therapists in El Paso County. She asked that the COG start thinking about the next County Volunteer Appreciation Event.
6. Election of Officers -
Joe Salute nominated the following : Chairman – Jan Doran; Vice-chairman - Bernie Herpin; Secretary – Sue Crozier. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and the slate was elected.
7. There were no citizen comments.

8. Minutes from January 22, 2008 were approved. Motion by Bernie Herpin, and Second by Bob Null.

9. Town Hall Meetings –

Joe suggested that the first meeting be held in April instead of March. Sallie suggested that we should change the name to Community Forum instead of Town Hall. We discussed format and agreed it should be a feature presentation with a speaker, followed by a forum, so that it is not a gripe session about the county. Sallie also suggested that we consider having two types of meetings, speaking to service clubs and other groups where the COG would co-host the meetings and the Community Forums. We also discussed better ways to communicate with the public, perhaps including a short video of COG projects. Jan and Sallie will look into this.

10. Modified Citizens College 2008 -

We discussed changing the Citizens College format this year, including a one day session at Centennial Hall with tours of the court house; county officials could do their annual reports, etc. If this format works, we could do the college this way for county employees.

11. Other Business –

Jan felt the COG would benefit from a Strategic Planning Workshop. This will be scheduled for March 7 at El Pomar on March 7 from 11-5. All members should bring ideas on the college and community meetings to this workshop.

Gary Nance asked about business cards for COG members. Julie will check on printing 50-100 for each member.

Jan passed out information on a county workshop on grading and erosion control.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM. The next regular meeting will be March 11, 2008.

Sue Crozier
Secretary