

## **Citizen Outreach Group**

January 16, 2007  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor Commissioners Conference Room  
27 East Vermijo Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

### **Minutes for March 13, 2007:**

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

#### **Attendees:**

Sue Crozier, Jan Doran, Amy Lathen, Gary Nance, Bob Null, Conrad Schaap, and Joe Salute signed-in. Francine Hansen, Jan Martin, Lois Blackwell, and Renee Hartslielief were excused.

#### **Other attendees:**

Bailey Becker, Public Communications Department; County Commissioner Sallie Clark.

#### **Meeting notes:**

1. Chairman Jan Doran called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

2. Roll was taken.

3. Comments by Commissioner Sallie Clark:

1- EPC is receiving awards for promoting the arts, notably for the display of children's art in the county commissioners meeting room.

2- The week of April 22-28 is National County Government Week. The Citizens' College project was submitted to the National Association of Counties, but did not win an award. She suggested that the COG could assist the staff and come up with some simple ideas for informational displays, including a possible COG display in the lobby of this building or at the county clerk's office; other ideas to engage the public with county government were citizens "shadowing" a county commissioner for a day, and/or a mock commissioner meeting. Jan Doran, Sue, Gary, Conrad, Bob and Amy volunteered to meet with Sallie, Imad and Bailey to discuss these ideas.

3- Volunteer Appreciation Event – May 11 at El Pomar. Sallie and Imad need a few COG members to assist with this. Fran needs the emails of all county advisory board members. Sue suggested that the chairman of each board be responsible for providing their members email addresses to Fran and COG members should contact those chairmen.

Sallie felt that the COG could possibly do the invitations. County department heads and advisory board members and their significant others would be invited. Tentative plans call for the event to be held from 5 – 7 PM. There will be a pre-planning meeting with Kyle Hybl at El Pomar. Another idea discussed was that each advisory board or each county department the boards' serve nominate a "Volunteer of the Year." Amy felt that area businesses could be persuaded to donate door prizes for this event. Amy, Sue and Joe volunteered to work with Sallie on this event. Sallie appointed Amy to head this group.

4- The COG should have a presence at the El Paso County Fair this summer with a booth and banner. Money from the Citizens College budget will pay for the banner. Copies of the budget publications should be available to hand out along with other materials.

5-Nicola Sapp wants input on any changes in format that might be done to the new "Budget in Brief" booklet that she is working on now. Any comments need to get to her before the end of March. Sallie asked for ideas

for a less expensive budget brochure to be available in the lobby. Gary suggested using a “myth” format about tax amounts and the county budgets.

6- Sallie also suggested that the COG make up a brochure which includes information on our projects; a trifold style in light blue was discussed.

4. - The minutes were approved as corrected for spelling. Motion by Bob Null; second by Amy Lathen.

5. Subcommittee Reports:

1- The technology committee meeting was cancelled until next month.

2- The public safety committee reports nothing new concerning the possible ICE office here. Jan suggested that Commissioner Bensberg give us an update next month.

6. Old Business:

The COG Bylaws revisions were approved by the BOCC.

The format changes to the BOCC meeting minutes were approved.

7. Citizen’s College date:

There was discussion on possible dates for the next college. By changing the dates from September to late July, a different group of participants might be involved. Amy and Jan D will meet with Imad to discuss dates. It was agreed that there should be 8 weeks of classes. Bob suggested exploring the idea of having a combined county-city citizen college for possible college credit. Conrad suggested showing the DVD of the Citizen’s College sessions in the COG booth at the county fair to generate interest.

8. Education/information process ideas:

Town Hall Meetings – Jan and Amy presented a report on the format for these. There was discussion led by Jan and Amy regarding the COG’s role to educate citizens, but not necessarily endorse a county position on a particular matter as a group. Should the COG feel “passionately” and unanimously about an issue, then wthe group should vote to endorse that position. The meetings should be held in each commissioner district, starting with Sallie Clark’s district. The set-up and planning will be handled by the COG representative from each district. The interests of those citizens should determine the agenda for that meeting.

Sallie stated that the COG idea will be submitted to the National Association of Counties as a “model” for other counties to use to increase citizen participation in county government.

County TV channel – The idea of a non-exclusive franchise cable agreement may be placed on the ballot instead of going to a vote of the commissioners.

9. Jan Doran left the meeting at 11:07 AM.

Amy Lathen adjourned the meeting at 11:13 AM.