

## **Minutes for June 10, 2008 : Citizen Outreach Group**

Parks Headquarters, Creekside Room  
2002 Creek Crossing  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

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

### **Attendees:**

Jan Doran, Sue Crozier, Bob Null, Bernie Herpin, Joe Salute, Curtis Lorash, Lois Blackwell, Gary Nance, Conrad Schaap, Jeri Lucien, and Victor Torres

### **Other attendees:**

Bailey Miller, Public Communications Office  
County Commissioner Amy Lathen

### **Meeting notes:**

1. Call to Order: Vice- Chair Bernie Herpin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Chairman Jan Doran arrived late.
2. Sign-in and Introductions. All members were present.
3. Comments by Commissioner Amy Lathen. She spoke on the county budget and that , by law, it must be balanced. \$9 million in budget cuts have to be made. No commissioners agree with the entire list of cuts. Curt stated that the county is doing a great job right now with the staff and programs that we have, and we need to celebrate that and keep doing it. Bernie pointed out that our mill levy is at the bottom compared to other counties, and that the sales tax increase is a “band aid” solution.. Conrad discussed that some are attempting to keep the CEG proposed sales tax increase off the ballot and that citizens need to decide for themselves whether they want it or not. Bob commented that people get used to cuts and then a revenue increase becomes less important to them personally. Victor said that his school district was exploring a possible ballot issue and had formed a committee to educate patrons. Amy stated that CBOC is chartered for 2 years for further budget review. Citizens need to decide what kind of county services they want to pay for; this should be the subject of the upcoming community forums.  
Comments by staff – Bailey Miller handed out the new name tags and reminded us about the Volunteer Appreciation Event in September. Jan stated it will be on the agenda at the July meeting.
4. Citizen Comment: No citizens in attendance
5. Approval of Minutes (May 8, 2008): Motion by Joe Salute to approve minutes of May 8, 2008 meeting. Second by Bob Null. Motion passed.
6. El Paso County Fair Booth – Sue Crozier  
We discussed the supplies needed for the booth including the “Quick Facts” booklets, COG banner, COG information, commissioner districts map, watershed map and information, power strip, table, chairs and fan. Bailey will work on making a “budget in brief” packet for us to have available. It was felt that one copy of the entire budget would be a good reference to have at hand, too. Jan suggested it would be good to have a board listing our financial sponsors. Jan has a table and Conrad will bring 3 chairs. Sue will bring candy and check on the availability of a wireless network at the fairgrounds. Bailey will make up forms for people to fill out to ask questions. Amy will provide a simple list of cuts and mandates that the county is dealing with plus a list of county departments and their budgets.

Joe, Victor, Jan and Sue will set up the booth on Friday, July 18. The booth must be manned daily from July 19 until July 26. A tentative schedule form was passed out for members to sign up for shifts. Sue suggested that CEG should get a booth to educate people about the proposed sales tax increase. It was felt that maybe it is more important for us to use the fair booth to get people to go to the community forums to learn about the budget than for us to educate them about the budget at the fair. We will finish the schedule and supplies list at the July meeting.

7. Website subcommittee report – Bernie Herpin: Bernie stated that the site is on the county’s page and is active now. He will continue to update member’s pictures and bios. It is difficult for Bailey to post minutes and agendas on our page at this time.

8. CBOC Information - Curt reported that there are two phases: 1) 2008 budget cuts which is completed; 2) 2009 budget meetings. The department heads will again report to the board regarding their recommendations for funding in 2009. CBOC meets on Friday afternoons at 12:30 at PPRB.

9. List of Boards and Commissions – Jan passed out the list of county boards and commissions. She asked members to pick at least one they would attend from time to time.

10. Bylaws – not discussed at this time.

11. Community Forums –

These should be held in August, 2 districts a week. Amy suggested that District 2 hold 2 meetings, one in the rural county and one in the city. Law Enforcement, HSS, DHS, Health and Environment, and DOT should speak at these forums along with slides for the other departments. Forums will be held from 7 – 9 PM.

District 2 forums will be held on Monday, August 4 in Calhan; Tuesday, August 5 at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

District 3 - Thursday, August 7 at Gold Hills Mesa Police Substation.

District 5 – Wednesday, August 13 at Sand Creek Police Substation.

District 1 – Thursday, August 14 at Lewis Palmer High School (tentative)

District 4 – Monday, August 18 at Fountain City Hall.

12. Adjourn Meeting: Meet was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

NEXT MEETING – JULY 8, 2008 @ Park Headquarters

Sue Crozier  
Secretary