



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

970.453.3402 ph | 970.453.3535 f

208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68

www.SummitCountyCO.gov

Breckenridge, CO 80424

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
FROM: Sara R. Lopez
RE: Work Session Meeting of February 16, 2021
DATE: February 16, 2021

Attendees:

Elected Officials (via Zoom): Elisabeth Lawrence, Tamara Pogue and Joshua Blanchard – Commissioners

Jaime FitzSimons (via Zoom) – Sheriff

Staff (via phone or Zoom): Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Nicole Valentine, Communications Director; Joanne Sprouse, Human Services Director; Lorie Williams, Community & Senior Center Manager; Amy Wineland, Public Health Director; Robin Albert, Youth & Family Director; Lesley Hall, Animal Control Director; April Paige, Executive Administrative Manager and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests (via Zoom): Peter Bakken, Jeanne Bistranin, Gini Bradley, Brit Brown, Jay Brunvand, Dick Carleton, Alexandria Carns, Kerry Gibson, Evin Harris, Shannon Haynes, Jess Hoover, Kathie Kralick, John Longhill, Mia and Claudine Norden, Gloria Quintero, Milena Quiros, Loli Respini, Kristina Revello, Julie Seracuse, Brianne Snow, Libby Stanford, Liz Tabraj, Carole Weller and others who did not sign in.

I. BOH/BOSS Quarterly Update

Joanne Sprouse, Lorie Williams, Amy Wineland and Robin Albert gave an update on various topics including but not limited to:

Human Services: Emergency Management

- Emergency Management COVID Updates: CINCC/AFN & HEART
- CDHS Programs Covid Issues: Child Welfare & Economic Security
- Outreach/Communication: Mira Bus/Unite US/Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

Senior/Community Center

- Community & Senior Center Activities
- Summit Food Response Team
- Senior Programming

Public Health

- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)

- Update on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Youth & Family

- Mountain Mentors Update
- Strengthening Families Outreach
- Childcare Licensing
- Communities That Care
- Nicotine Tax
 - Prevention and Promotion - focus on teen prevention programs, as well as programs like *Baby and Me*, which focuses on pregnant women and nicotine.
 - Peer Mentoring - Staff attended mentoring conference and will share what they learned with teen mentors.

Commissioners and Sarah Vaine thanked the group for all their work.

II. Blue River Horse Center

Bentley Henderson, Lesley Hall, Jaime FitzSimons, Commissioners and John Longhill discussed the following topics including but not limited to:

Background

On November 4, 2020, John Longhill, Executive Director of the Blue River Horse Center, reached out to the Board requesting the use of the Summit County Fairground as a new location for his operation. At that time, the BOCC evaluated the request and based on input from staff concluded that given all mitigating factors associated with the fairgrounds, dedication of the facility to the proposed use was not appropriate at the time.

Bentley Henderson explained that the Summit County Fairground is a small riding arena located at the base of the Dillon Dam. The property is owned by Denver Water (DW) and used by the county via a lease and operating agreement.

Lesley Hall, Animal Control Director, expressed concerns over approving this request as this location is used to shelter livestock during wildfire emergencies, as well as an emergency staging area. Ms. Hall also explained that livestock from multiple owners should not be mingled because each herd has a different pecking order and animals could be at risk, not only from attacks from other animals but also from diseases.

This location is also used as a temporary shelter for animals when automobiles breakdown on I-70, while transporting livestock, and have to wait for repairs. She also noted that there is no water or sewer facilities and horses produce a large amount of waste that would also seep into the ground and could contaminate the river.

John Longhill gave an overview of his background and experience with the care of horses and indicated that having read the staff reports and letters against his request, and listening to Ms. Hall's report he can tell the speak from the heart and want the best for his horses. He said that if the staff at Animal Control and 4H do not agree, neither does he. Therefore, he withdrew his request.

Commissioners expressed their surprise at his decision, and acknowledged the value of his program as some of them have participated with their children. Commissioner Pogue said her goal is to provide youth programs on the north end of the county, and asked Mr. Longhill to take part in those conversations.

III. Managers' & Commissioners' Issues

Senior Management and Commissioners discussed several topics including but not limited to:

Scott Vargo received a request from 4H for the 2021 Summer Middle Park Rodeo. Commissioners agreed to a donation of \$2,000.

Mr. Vargo spoke with Helen Royal regarding extending the Summit Community Care Clinic lease. They would like to make improvements to the space but would like to make sure their lease will be extended for an additional 5 years, with the current terms. Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Pogue asked for a resolution in favor of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act proposed by Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper and U.S. Congressman Joe Neguse. The Act protects over 400,000 acres of public land in Colorado, establishing new wilderness areas and safeguarding existing outdoor recreation opportunities to boost the economy for future generations. The resolution will be added to the Consent Agenda for the February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Blanchard presented a request from the Blue River Integrated Water Team. The Blue River basin is facing challenges related to recreation and river protection. During Phase 1, they conducted studies to find solutions. They are asking the County for \$10,000 to help fund Phase 2 of their plan. There are other partners, including some of the towns that are also contributing. Commissioners agreed to the \$10,000 donation.

Commissioner Lawrence and Commissioner Pogue suggested a conversation with community partners regarding youth programs offered on the north side of the County. There are great programs but not available after school hours so many children are unable to participate. Commissioners will put together a list of organizations and individuals they would like to invite to a future Work Session.

Commissioners Lawrence discussed the following topics:

- She asked to add an Overview of MOB Function as a Work Session Topic for the summer.
- She also asked to change the start time for Tuesday Work Sessions to 9:15 a.m., in order to accommodate school drop off schedules.

Commissioners also reviewed schedules and upcoming calendar events.

Commissioners reconvened after lunch into an Extended Afternoon Work Session at 1:00 p.m.

IV. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Commissioners, County Staff, Peter Bakken, Jeanne Bistranin, Gini Bradley, Brit Brown, Jay Brunvand, Dick Carleton, Alexandria Carns, Kerry Gibson, Evin Harris, Jess Hoover, Kathie Kralick,

Claudine Norden, Gloria Quintero, Milena Quiros, Loli Respini, Kristina Revello, Julie Seracuse, Brianne Snow, Libby Stanford, Liz Tabraj discussed Carole Weller discussed several topics including but not limited to:

Commissioner Blanchard opened the meeting by asking participants to share their experiences and observations related to the topic, which included the following:

- The system has dehumanized these populations for many years, and that is what we need to address. Making them feel as community members, giving them a voice, and not just like we are finally acknowledging these issues to check the equity part of our jobs. Equity work needs to be very intention. We need to regain the community trust.
- Undocumented individuals deal with an additional layer of fear to everything they do or say. Most do not have a safety net and cannot afford health care.
- Someone who cannot afford health care will postpone preventive medical care.
- Additional rental housing is needed for minorities; not everyone can afford to own a home, even deed-restricted.
- Many in the Hispanic community have to work 2 to 3 jobs, just to make ends meet. She asked employers to look at their pay scales and examine what their minority employees are paid when compared against their Caucasian employees.
- Acknowledge that there is a problem and do not pretend that we live in some sort of utopia where everything is fine.
- A couple of participants shared experiences with people assuming them incapable or uneducated because of their strong accent.

Action Items suggestions include:

- Minorities and persons of color should have an active role in decision-making processes.
- When looking at demographics, it must be considered that many in the Hispanic community are undocumented but have lived in the County for a long time.
- Inventory internal programs and communication. Choose a focus area to dismantle inequitable systems, while at the same time infuse equitable practices in each decision that you make. Create opportunities for leadership.
- Having Summit County Government take an active part in the process could make the biggest difference. It is appreciated that Commissioners are willing to put time and resources into this topic.
- The County must put on equity lens when it comes to approving projects, making sure all communities and neighborhoods are considered equally.

Scott Vargo said his job today was to listen and he found the information extremely informative. He noted the County has been looking for ways to become more equitable and inclusive and this is a great start.

Commissioners thanked participants for taking the time to attend the meeting and sharing their thoughts and suggestions, and they will take time to go over the points made today.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Sara R Lopez, Deputy Clerk



Approved by:



Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair