

**Minutes of Meeting  
Advisory Board Interview  
January 3, 2022  
2:00 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present was Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Planning & Zoning Board Chair David Levine and Kootenai County Residents Cheri Zao and Peter Zao.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**Planning & Zoning Commission Applicant Interview: Cheri Zao (Discussion)**

Chairman Fillios explained that there were two current openings on the Planning & Zoning Commission and a third might occur. He stated that the BOCC planned to interview eight candidates for these and would deliver a decision after the final interview, later this week.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan: What skills and experience in group dynamics would you bring to the Planning Commission that would make you an effective Commissioner?

Kootenai County Resident Cheri Zao said she liked to listen and preferred to figure out the dynamics of a new group before interjecting her own opinions. She noted that she was an alternate on the Alternative Forms of Government Study Commission, which has given her the chance to observe and learn.

Chairman Fillios: What do you see is the fundamental role of the Planning Commission?

She replied that it was an Advisory Board, so they were supposed to receive requests, gather information and, as a group, form a consensus about the recommendation to make to the BOCC.

Commissioner Bill Brooks: The ability to conduct research and report to the commission with a critical analysis and suggested course of action is vital. Can you provide an example that demonstrates this ability?

Ms. Zao stated that she had needed to gather information when she had been working in the medical field. She remarked that she had found, dealing with patients, that the information initially offered was not necessarily all that was needed, so she learned to dig, when necessary. She added that she had been a Family Medicine physician.

Commissioner Duncan: Planning Commissioners are obligated to represent the entire county rather than any particular geographic region or neighborhood area. Can you

provide an example that demonstrates your ability to represent the welfare or well-being of the general public?

She commented that she had also worked in education, teaching anatomy and physiology, as well as cadaver dissection. She said she worked with people from all sorts of socio-economic backgrounds and encouraged each to reach their maximum achievements.

Chairman Fillios: An effective Planning Commission requires members from all walks of life to ensure that the entire community is well represented. Would you share why you believe your background or experience would be a helpful addition to the Commission?

Ms. Zao commented that she liked to learn new things. She said she lived in an agricultural/suburban area, surrounded by rural territory and had observed how residents valued the opportunities to enjoy their chosen surroundings. She said that growth needed management to protect these things.

Commissioner Brooks: Effective Planning Commissioners have certain common traits such as the ability to: express oneself clearly and concisely in public; listen to opposing views and still keep a clear focus on where the real public interest lies (objectivity); keep an open mind to new issues; define what's really at issue on any matter; take the long view; and assemble information and use it to make meaningful recommendations. Can you give us an example of a useful trait you would bring to the Commission?

She said she was constantly making efforts to improve her ability to speak in public. She pointed out that medical professionals were trained listeners, so she felt she had strong abilities in that area.

Commissioner Duncan: Why are you applying for the Planning & Zoning Commission?

Ms. Zao said that her work with the Alternative Forms of County Government Study Group had sparked her interest in this type of service to the community. She remarked that she would like to be able to offer assistance in a proactive way in the challenges the County was facing with rapid growth.

Chairman Fillios: What are the biggest issues Kootenai County is facing?

She said it was growth.

Commissioner Brooks: What are your thoughts regarding the balance between growth versus private property rights?

Ms. Zao discussed changes in zoning rules over the years, orange paint on trees used to indicate "no trespassing," and the definition of nuisance behavior. She said people had the right to enjoy their own properties and this needed to be considered when new growth encroached on existing dwellings.

Commissioner Duncan: What are your thoughts on the time it currently takes for building permits to be approved? It used to be two to three weeks; now it is about 3 months.

She commented that she knew that this was very hard on some people if they had a specific timeline. However, she said that she had lived in Idaho a long time and had never seen a building completed on time, so maybe it was not such a critical issue.

Chairman Fillios: Would you consider limiting the number of building permits issued?

She said she did not have enough information to offer an opinion on that.

Commissioner Brooks: What are your thoughts regarding preservation of open spaces in the community?

Ms. Zao said she felt preservation of open spaces in the community was very important. She added that she looked forward to doing further investigation on the balance of development versus open space in a community.

Commissioner Duncan: Have you heard of Agenda 2021/2030?

She indicated that she had not.

Commissioner Brooks: Have you served in the military?

She said she had not, but her son was in the navy.

Chairman Fillios asked if she had any questions for the Board.

She asked what the time commitments for the different meetings of the Commission were.

Planning & Zoning Commission Board Chair David Levine explained the typical length and frequency of their workshops and public meetings.

- D. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.
- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk