

Minutes of Meeting
Advisory Board Interview
January 3, 2022
3:00 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 Resident Alan Wolfe.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

Planning & Zoning Commission Applicant Interview: Alan Wolfe (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 Alan Wolfe stated that he had spent seven years on the Planning & Zoning Commission for the City of Post Falls and eight years as a Post Falls City Councilman. He added that he currently was with Panhandle Area Council and had been on a couple of other committees in Kootenai County, so he had plenty of experience.

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

He said he felt it was to view the County as a whole and determine the best use of the available land, in compliance with the state and federal laws.

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?

Mr. Wolfe remarked that he had worked for 40 years in the banking industry and had done a great deal of research during the last couple of years. He said he had also needed to do research on laws and regulations when he was on the city council.

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?

He said that his time with the Post Falls City Council taught him to weigh information gained from the groups that were very vocal and doing his own research to learn about other points of view. He stressed the importance of considering all stakeholders.

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?

He pointed out that, when he was working in the private sector, he worked with people from all walks of life. He said he was in a bank branch, so the customers came from widely varied backgrounds. He stated understood the need to represent all the people in the County.

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?

Mr. Wolfe gave examples of his ability to fulfill each of the listed areas. He stressed the need for objectivity and keeping an open mind in new situations. He remarked that he had not registered with a political party when he was a city council member because he did not want any of his constituents to feel that he would only listen to one side of an issue.

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

He said it was a type of service he was interested in offering, plus he was no longer on the city council. He remarked that he had enjoyed his previous years on Post Falls' Planning & Zoning Commission and had learned a great deal about land use.

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

Mr. Wolfe said he thought the biggest issue was information. He explained misinformation was widespread on many topics and was often encouraged by listening to only one side of a given argument.

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

He said he lived in Idaho for a reason; he was fairly conservative and embraced personal property rights. He remarked that people that own property should be allowed to do what they want with their property, as long as it did not affect other people in the County badly. He noted that there were times when these rights had to be set aside in the interest of the general populace.

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.

He stated he had not known it was taking that long to approve permits and would want to explore the reasons: staffing shortages alone, or other factors as well.

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

Mr. Wolfe said he would not. He explained that they had considered that in Post Falls but rejected it. He stated his position was based on respect for personal property rights. He admitted that growth was a serious issue, but he felt there had to be other, better ways to deal with it.

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

He commented that this was a challenge that had existed for a long time. He said people said they wanted it, but were not necessarily willing to pay the taxes needed to support such a program. He said he questioned whether it was the job of the city or county to do it, but the cities and county should assist private and public interests to purchase land for open spaces.

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

He said he had not.

Commissioner Brooks: Have you served in the military?

He said he had not.

- 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 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk