

**Minutes of Meeting  
Advisory Board Interview  
January 4, 2021  
2:30 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 was Kootenai County Resident Joe Piedmont. Commissioner Brooks was present via teleconference.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Item):**

**Historic Preservation Commission Applicant Interview: Joe Piedmont**

Kootenai County Resident Joe Piedmont said he had grown up in Spokane, Washington and had gone to school at the University of Washington in Seattle. He offered details of his employment history and other activities. He said he wanted to expand his personal horizons and give back to the community by volunteering for service.

Chairman Fillios asked the first question from the prepared list.

Why are you interested in becoming a member of this board?

Mr. Piedmont replied that his undergraduate degree was in history and he felt a strong affinity for the topic.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan asked the second question.

Have you previously serviced on committees (either professionally or personally) where you had to deal with varied personalities.

Mr. Piedmont commented that his years in management at Buck Knives had required him to participate in a number of different internal committees: budget, compensation and work with the Board of Directors. He said he had experience in dealing with strong personalities that needed to be accommodated or reconciled. He added that he was currently serving on the Kootenai Trust Board, for Kootenai Electric.

Commissioner Duncan moved on to the follow up question for this item.

How did you handle conflict among those board members?

Mr. Piedmont admitted that he had never avoided constructive conflict; he felt it was beneficial in decision making. He said he liked to ensure there were guidelines in place

to maintain order, but he felt that on the whole, some tension was a good thing. He added that different personalities needed different amounts of guidance or structure to keep on task.

Commissioner Duncan asked the next question from the list.

What do you think is the greatest challenge or issue this board may be involved with?

He commented that the enormous rate of growth of the community put pressure on the Historic Preservation Commission, demanding that their activities keep pace with the expanding population. He stated they needed to be sure that history was not forgotten in the pursuit of providing for people.

Chairman Fillios asked Mr. Piedmont if he had attended any of the Historic Preservation meetings.

Mr. Piedmont said that he had not so far. He remarked he had intended to attend the November meeting, but that he had his interview with the Kootenai Electric Board that same day and had other commitments in December.

Commissioner Bill Brooks asked whether Mr. Piedmont anticipated any extended absences from the area in the near future.

Mr. Piedmont said he did not. He explained that he and his wife managed their farm, which required regular attention, and that he was seeking new employment after leaving Buck Knives.

Commissioner Duncan proceeded to another question from the list.

What is your opinion on how the citizens of Kootenai County feel about the history here?

Mr. Piedmont remarked that he felt that, in Kootenai County as well as the rest of the country, history had become lost in changing priorities. He stated he felt it was important to remind people of the importance of history and that we all are participants in history each day.

Chairman Fillios asked how he saw balancing preservation with growth.

Mr. Piedmont said he felt it came down to making sure there were the right number of people engaged in discussing priorities for the area. He commented that a community could not preserve everything, because that would prevent growth, but needed to select the most important features to hold for the future.

Commissioner Duncan moved on to the final question from the list.

How do you see your contribution to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)?

Mr. Piedmont stated that he brought many skills from his experience in management positions for the past 20 years and from owning his own business which would help him to identify the needs of people in the County and the impact decisions could have on the community. He added that he would also bring his strong financial acumen to the benefit of the Commission.

In response to Mr. Piedmont's question, Commissioner Duncan and Chairman Fillios expanded upon the qualities of transparency, integrity and professionalism required of all advisory board members.

**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 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

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

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