

Minutes of Meeting
Advisory Board Interview
January 4, 2021
9:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present was Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Kootenai County Resident Jennifer DeRose.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Item):**

Historic Preservation Commission Applicant Interview: Jennifer DeRose

Chairman Fillios invited Kootenai County Resident Jennifer DeRose to tell the Board about herself.

Ms. DeRose stated she had been a resident of Coeur d'Alene for almost ten years and had lived in Idaho for about twenty years. She offered details of her education and job experience, including working for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe as an archeologist. She said she had started her own business around the end of 2015 in which she handled federal and state contracted archeological work and cultural resource management.

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

Ms. DeRose remarked that one reason she was interested in joining this board was that she had not yet held a leadership position in the community. She said she had more available time for such service, now that she was self-employed.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan asked if Ms. DeRose had anything else she would like to add.

Ms. DeRose said that she had become more aware of the local need for such service after she became a business owner. She commented that both here and other places in Idaho there were instances where human remains or archeological sites were uncovered but there were no set processes for their management. She said she would like to help create and implement guidelines for such cases, in conjunction with business interests and local government.

Commissioner Duncan proceeded to the next question on the interview list.

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

Ms. DeRose said her background was mostly in working as a consultant, with a wide range of contracts.

Commissioner Duncan asked the next question from the list.

How did you handle conflict among those board members?

Ms. DeRose stated that she had needed to negotiate conflicts with her contracting agents frequently. She said she had worked to tailor her offerings to the particular situation or activity proposed, with balance between the needs of the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation and/or the Coeur d'Alene or Spokane Tribes and the client.

Chairman Fillios asked if she had contracts with developers in other parts of Idaho for her services.

Ms. DeRose said that was not as common for her; it was about 10 to 20% of her business in Idaho and Washington. She explained the processes both states used when archeological sites were uncovered. She stressed the need to find solutions acceptable to all sides.

Ms. DeRose stated she had not yet worked for the City of Coeur d'Alene, but had provided services to Kootenai Electric on an extensive FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) project, the City of Spokane, Spokane County and other entities.

Chairman Fillios asked how she envisioned her contribution to Historic Preservation in Kootenai County.

Ms. DeRose replied she saw it as twofold: to enrich their available network of contacts. And offer her professional experience when advising them on policies. She added that she saw this as an opportunity for personal growth as well.

In response to another question from Chairman Fillios, Ms. DeRose confirmed that she did her own fieldwork for projects. She offered descriptions of the methods she had used, including unearthing historical documentation, then linking it to maps and surveys and pursuing on-site investigations by personally excavating areas.

Commissioner Duncan asked:

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

Ms. DeRose replied that she was not familiar with the current challenges they had been facing. She commented that she had attended meetings in 2016 and she had the impression that they needed to have more involvement in reviewing actual projects, and more engagement with the BOCC regarding development in the community that could affect historic sites.

Commissioner Bill Brooks said he had once been involved in a situation in California in which a historic site was discovered on private land on which the owner planned to build a restaurant. He asked how she would handle something like that.

Ms. DeRose said she would first examine the site in terms of space and the presence of other encroachments which might affect the decision. She stated her first reaction would be to see if the location of the proposed structure could be changed to a different part of the plot so that the historic site would not be damaged. She noted that the final solution would probably be in the hands of the authority issuing the permits.

Commissioner Duncan proceeded to the next question on the list.

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

Ms. DeRose remarked this was one of the reasons she wanted to join the committee. She said she had the impression from her neighbors that they cared about the issue as a general thing but lacked the time or energy to get involved. She noted that people expressed frustration when perceived problems were allowed to drag on for too long and that they then tended to give up or lose interest.

How do you see your contribution to the HPC?

This question was addressed in Ms. DeRose's previous replies.

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 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
