

Minutes of Meeting
Advisory Board Interview
January 6, 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 item. Also present was Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Planning & Zoning Commission Chair David Levine and Kootenai County Resident Trevor Yankoff. Commissioner Brooks was present via teleconference.

- 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: Trevor Yankoff (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 Trevor Yankoff stated that his corporate background for the last 20 years was running sales marketing teams and commercial teams, with up to 100 people in a group, so an understanding of group dynamics was vital.

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

He said it was to study and assess trends in growth, collaborate with other Commission members and offer recommendations to the BOCC.

In response to a question from Chairman Fillios, he confirmed he worked from home and felt he had enough flexibility in his schedule to fulfill time requirements.

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. Yankoff remarked that he had spent the last 15 to 20 years doing exactly that. He said his business was extremely data driven and he had to be able to use gathered data for sales, marketing and manufacturing purposes.

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 he had two boys go through the local schools, so he spent time as a volunteer in the system, as a coach and in booster clubs.

Commissioner Brooks: 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?

Mr. Yankoff commented that his family had been in the County for 20 years. He said his wife had been a teacher and they both had spent time in different schools helping out in different ways. He said they had also been involved with their church, serving the community in that area.

Chairman Fillios: 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?

He said he liked to think of himself as fairly diplomatic; he had worked in teams many times. He remarked that these characteristics had all been required of him constantly during his career.

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

Mr. Yankoff said he became aware of the needs created by the growth of the community and wanted to offer his help. He added that, now that his sons were grown, he had more time to devote to community service.

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

He said it was the rapid growth primarily, but acknowledged that there were probably many other things that only participation in the Commission would reveal.

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

Mr. Yankoff responded that this was clearly a contentious issue and he felt that a diplomatic approach was necessary. He said he would tend to err on the side of caution and be slow to make a decision because it was such a sensitive topic.

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 said the longer times were to be expected due to the speed and extent of local growth, but he felt there might be other causes of which he was not yet aware.

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

Mr. Yankoff remarked that he would at least consider any possibility.

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

He said his first reaction to the question would be, "The more, the better." He commented that he knew it was not as easy as it sounded, but that the projects in town had turned out very well. He offered McEuen Park as an example.

Chairman Fillios: Have you heard of Agenda 2021/2030?

Mr. Yankoff said he had heard of Agenda 2021 as a population reduction issue. He stated that it was an area of concern on which he had not yet fully made up his mind.

Chairman Fillios invited Mr. Yankoff to ask any questions he might have for the BOCC.

Mr. Yankoff asked what the Commissioners saw as the biggest issues facing the County right now.

Commissioner Brooks replied that the obvious answer was growth, but a less obvious issue was a tendency toward miscommunication about what the County did and what its role was.

Chairman Fillios agreed with Commissioner Brooks' two points. He said that the Board, in cooperation with Community Development Director David Callahan, was trying to find creative solutions to problems caused by rapid growth. He commented that he thought many people might not understand the BOCC's job; they confused the Board of County Commissioners with Legislators. He stated that Legislators passed laws, which determined what the Commissioners could or could not do, while the Commissioners dealt with administrative demands, finances, passing of resolutions and quasi-judicial duties mostly related to zoning changes.

Commissioner Duncan explained the interrelationship of the County and the cities in terms of planning and zoning. She stated that each city had its own planning department, so anything done at a County level only affected the residents of the unincorporated areas. She also explained how projects were allotted to members of the Commission, but said Planning & Zoning Commission Chair David Levine would be able to offer more details on that.

There followed some additional discussion about the duties of a Commission Member and the time requirements. Mr. Levine provided details.

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 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk