

Minutes of Joint Meeting
Coeur d'Alene City Council and Kootenai County Commissioners
May 4, 2015
4:00 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Pro Tem Dan Green and Commissioner Marc Eberlein met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer and Council Members Steve Adams, Ron Edinger, Dan Gookin, Woody McEvers, and Kiki Miller; Coeur d'Alene City Administrator Jim Hammond, City Clerk Renata McLeod, Finance Director Troy Tymesen, Parks and Recreation Director Steve Anthony, and Wastewater Superintendent Sid Frederickson; and Kootenai County Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee. Chairman David Stewart was absent.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Pro Tem Dan Green called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and welcomed the Coeur d'Alene Mayor, City Council members, and staff.
- B. Introductions:** There were no introductions made.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- D. Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.
- E. New Business:**

Four Corners Update

Mayor Steve Widmyer asked Coeur d'Alene Parks and Recreation Director Steve Anthony to begin the meeting with an update on the Four Corners project. Mr. Anthony discussed various surface and underground pedestrian accesses plus RV parking near Memorial Field. Mr. Anthony pointed out lane change plans for Mullan, and handicapped accessibility plans at Independence Point and City Beach. Kootenai County Commissioner Chairman David Stewart arrived at 4:05 p.m.

SAUSA Program

County Commissioner Dan Green briefed attendees on the Special Assistant to the United States Attorney program (SAUSA), used by Ada and Canyon counties, where a County prosecutor works in the U.S. Attorney's offices. Commissioner Green said County Prosecutor Barry McHugh and Sheriff Ben Wolfinger believe SAUSA would be advantageous for the prosecution of child pornography and/or drug trafficking on Interstate 90 matters. Commissioner Green said Idaho's Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) has appropriated \$35,000 toward an \$85,000 annual total needed with the benefits load, and that infrastructure costs (office space, computer, et al.) would be borne by the Federal government. Commissioner Green said this proposed attorney would be a County employee deputized as a U.S. Attorney. Mayor Widmyer asked about a benefit to the City if Coeur d'Alene were to share in the funding. Commissioner Green noted that all federal crimes are prosecuted by Mr. McHugh and that criminals are jailed here; he and Mr. Widmyer agreed that under the SAUSA program such criminals would be housed outside Idaho, alleviating the tax burden. City Council member Dan Gookin asked about local statistics on drug and child pornography activities, but neither Prosecutor McHugh nor Sheriff Wolfinger were present to respond.

Commissioner Marc Eberlein expressed his concerns that SAUSA could bring the potential for abuse of Federal power, and said he was not in favor of the program. Commissioner Green noted that the North Idaho Violent Crimes Task Force was an example of federal and local law enforcement cooperation and shared funding already in place.

City Council member Steve Adams asked if Kootenai County could fund SAUSA alone if a majority of the Commissioners wanted it. Commissioner Green noted SAUSA could promote public safety which benefitted all entities, and provided a handout estimating contributions by cities and the County based on population.

Riparian Buffer Zone

City Wastewater Superintendent Sid Frederickson gave a handout entitled Phosphorous Limits and led a discussion of several aspects of riparian buffer zones and impacts on water quality. The attendees discussed swales and other filtration systems, erosion control methods, and various ways to manage nutrients. Attendees agreed that there was no single remedy for all sites and nutrients; and the Commissioners concurred that enforcement of setbacks and buffer zones is a challenge.

CityLink

Mayor Widmyer asked the Commissioners if fares are being considered for the CityLink transit riders. Commissioners responded that nothing has yet come before them for a decision, but said fares were being researched for a grant. Mayor Widmyer encouraged charging even a nominal fare, administered via a pass system, as discouragement of folks just riding around on the buses or even using CityLink as a getaway vehicle from criminal activities. Mr. Widmyer also encouraged the Commissioners to consider some input from local businesses regarding location of bus stops.

CDA TV

City Council member Woody McEvers gave a handout regarding the public access television channel used by many entities to reach Time Warner cable subscribers, and encouraged the County to use it as a communication vehicle. The Commissioners informed Mr. McEvers that a Public Information Officer might be included in the County's FY2016 budget requests.

- F. 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.

Mayor Widmyer thanked the attendees for a productive meeting, and adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DAVID STEWART, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____

Pat Raffee, Chief Deputy Clerk