



CSU Extension Boulder County
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2020

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

Board Members:

Present: Rob Alexander, Joshua Coffie, Mary Mulry, Kate Newberg, Jay Ruggeri, and Betsy Shehigian.
Absent: Hallie Adams, Lanie Cavazos and Archie Ross. Quorum present? Yes

Other Attendees:

Extension staff members in attendance were Laura Larson and Dena Theis.

Approval of Minutes:

None.

Welcome and Introductions:

Introductions of each Advisory Board member were made. Discussions were held on what communities they are connected to and why they chose to be on the Advisory Board.

New members: Kate, Commissioner appointment 3-year term; Betsy, Commissioner appointment 3-year term; Joshua, Director appointment renew 1-year term; Archie, Director appointment 1-year term.

Director's Report:

Laura gave a quick overview of Extension. We have 5 main program areas; Home and Commercial Horticulture, Agriculture, 4-H Livestock and Youth Development, Family and Consumer Sciences and Small Acreage Management. We are also engaged in a number of agency-wide initiatives that are aimed at community development and food insecurity through the process of our strategic planning, in collaboration with Parks and Open Space.

Extension has converted most of our in-person program offerings to online formats during the pandemic which is a huge achievement for our staff. For example, the Master Gardener program converted their programming to webinar-based education, developed ways of keeping volunteers engaged, and created a way for plant diagnostics to be online with a virtual chat. The 4-H program conducted an almost all virtual county fair, but also received permission from public health to be able to do some of the livestock shows and competitions in person, while adhering to the 10-person max county guidelines. The other programs have also done some very creative adaptations for programming. Laura has been building an ongoing relationship with Public Health and the Forward Together Safely recovery team for Boulder County. In the future, having online/hybrid programming platforms in place will be a mainstay for Extension, providing a broader reach to Boulder County residents.

Boulder County and Colorado State University (CSU) budget projections and the upcoming budget year were discussed. Boulder County runs on a calendar fiscal year, while CSU's fiscal year is July to June. In terms of our budget to actuals for 2020, we are currently saving money in areas of travel for professional development, mileage reimbursements and supplies for things we haven't been able to do with in-person programming. Our budgeted funds can be repurposed between CSU personnel and operating expenses only during the calendar year, and what is unspent is returned to the county at year end. In the current climate, both CSU and Boulder County are anticipating significant shortfalls in revenue in the upcoming two to three years. Boulder County Parks and Open Space (POS) operating expenses are mainly funded through property tax revenue and the shortfall prediction for those revenues will begin in calendar year 2022. It is projected that Boulder County and CSU will not be giving raises for employees in the next couple of years and that we will have a flat County budget for 2021. Laura will be mindful of the morale of our staff during this time.

Vision for Extension and Community Engagement:

Discussions were held regarding ideas for how the Board can engage with new constituents of the community and how to bridge some of the connections Extensions has been trying to make within the community. Some brainstormed ideas and questions to explore include:

- Connections that the Advisory Board may have with the County Commissioners and other elected officials to build a stronger relationship with Extension
- With new Board members, it's a good opportunity to ask, what do we want to accomplish?
- How can we be more effective as an Advisory Board to the County Commissioners to provide them information and advice about Extension? Being a liaison between and Laura and her staff, what they need, what they want to accomplish and advocate for them with County Commissioners to be more effective.
- Collaborations with 4-H can be strengthened within the school district. Somehow connect with the PTOs in the schools to get involved with afterschool programming.
- Better serving the LatinX population in all Extension programs (high priority in Strategic Plan) – need board to engage in developing contacts
- Public/private partnerships involving horticulture connecting with garden centers to offer information and awareness. Work with other municipalities within Boulder County besides the Cities of Boulder and Longmont (we also do programming with Lafayette but not as extensively).
- Engage with other county departments and untouched connections.
- Connections with young farmers, cross advisory committees that may include people working with food insecurity, health and nutrition, that's outside of Parks and Open Space. Would like to see Extension have a much broader charge than just Open Space.
- Tying into the Sustainability issue with climate change and regeneration in a more direct way for Extension.
- During this time of Covid-19 involving health and wellness there is more potential for services such as Family and Consumer Sciences with preserving food, food safety and nutrition education.
- Annual meeting with County Commissioners, in the past, has always been productive. We now have a County Administrator, Jana Peterson, which may benefit Extension if we invite her to annual meeting (invitation sent).
- Need to build a connection with families through EFNP (Education on Food and Nutrition Program) to distribute information.
- Work with county Office on Aging to better reach seniors.

Annual meeting: 4th Quarter, Early December (Scheduled Dec. 9th 4-6:00 with Commissioners)

Discussions were held regarding the agenda for the December meeting, with an invite to the County Commissioners to present Extension's Annual Report.

Motion: Jay moved that we organize an Advisory Board planning meeting prior to the December quarterly, Rob seconded that motion, all in favor. Dena will send a doodle poll for a date in early November for a planning meeting. (Scheduled Nov. 9th, 5:30-7)

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

FYI: Boulder County Commissioners' Strategic Priorities

Boulder County Commissioners' Strategic Priorities: Affordable Living, Climate Action, Equity & Justice, Land & Water Stewardship and Organizational & Financial Stewardship.

Please review the 2019-2023 Board of County Commissioners Strategic Priorities <https://inbc.boco.co.boulder.co.us/sites/bocc/Pages/Strategic-Priorities.aspx> for more detail.

Minutes prepared by Dena Theis