

**Minutes of Meeting  
Advisory Board Interview  
January 6, 2020  
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 was Kootenai County Resident John Renning.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**Planning and Zoning Commission Applicant Interview: John Renning**

Chairman Fillios invited Kootenai County Resident John Renning to introduce himself.

Mr. Renning stated he had been working as an independent contractor for a structural engineering company for about five and a half years and had been primarily involved in architectural projects. He said he had a Civil Engineering background and had done things like traffic engineering projects for about twelve years before that.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan asked the first question from the interview sheet.

- **What skills and experience in group dynamics would you bring to the Planning Commission that would make you an effective Commissioner?**

Mr. Renning commented that he was interested in working with the other members of the Planning Board and seeing the contributions the others had to make. He said he was a good listener who would strive to support the group dynamic and foster productive discussions.

Commissioner Bill Brooks asked the next question from the interview sheet.

- **What do you see is the fundamental role of the Planning Commission?**

Mr. Renning replied that he saw the role as performing research to assist Community Development and the BOCC with reports on issues.

Chairman Fillios asked the next question from the interview sheet.

- **What are your thoughts on the Comprehensive Plan and its updating process?**

Mr. Renning stated he had not reviewed the latest updates. Commissioner Fillios informed him that a public hearing had been held recently and the BOCC was planning a meeting to enter into deliberations on January 23, 2020.

Mr. Renning said he had reviewed the Comprehensive Plan from 2010.

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

- **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? Is there a community segment you feel you represent?**

Mr. Renning remarked that, coming from an engineering background, he had an understanding of the technical aspects of projects and an aptitude for drawing people into productive discussions.

Commissioner Brooks asked how long he had lived here and where he had been previously. Mr. Renning said he had been in Kootenai County since 2013; before that, he lived in Spokane Valley.

Commissioner Brooks asked if he belonged to any other groups or associations in the County. Mr. Renning said he did not.

- **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 on new ideas; 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?**

Mr. Renning offered two examples of an instances in which he exhibited his ability to listen to input from a diverse group, investigate a problem, and create a solution. He added that his experience as a consultant who needed to satisfy multiple demands would be valuable.

Commissioner Duncan proceeded to the last question on the interview sheet.

- **Do you have time to devote outside of meetings to study and research issues?**

He said he did and that he was willing to spend the necessary time to familiarize himself with the committee's issues.

Commissioner Duncan said that, right now, the Planning Committee was looking at creating language regarding reentry centers to include in the land use codes. She explained that the members would need to spend time outside of meetings

doing research on how such things were handled in other jurisdictions. She added that this sort of investment of time would accompany most committee projects.

Chairman Fillios estimated the demand on an individual might be a couple hours a week, but would vary by project.

Chairman Fillios asked if he had any questions for the Board.

Mr. Renning asked for further clarification of the reentry center issue. Commissioner Duncan replied that a citizen had brought suggested wording to the Board. She added that the Community Development Director had also submitted potential wording. She said these would be given to the Planning Commission in February for them to use as a starting point for their work.

Commissioner Duncan asked for his definition of property rights.

Mr. Renning commented that real property was generally the largest investment that people made in their lives and they wanted to feel they had true ownership. He said that limits needed to be placed on choices that could diminish the value of neighboring properties or damage the environment, but that were not arbitrary. He added that regulations should not be burdensome and people should feel able to come before the County Commissioners to request variances. He concluded that there needed to be a balance between the two sides.

**D. Public Comment (Discussion):** 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 was no public comment.

**E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

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

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