

Minutes of Meeting
Advisory Board Interview
January 6, 2020
2:30 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 Phil Ward via teleconference.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Item):**

Planning and Zoning Commission Applicant Interview: Phil Ward

Chairman Fillios asked Kootenai County Resident Phil Ward to give them a short biography.

Mr. Ward said he was originally from Florida; when he retired in 2016 he moved to Kootenai County to be closer to family. He added that he had Masters Degrees in both Political Science and Public Administration and was a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He described his work experience: he started out in the Miami Property Appraiser's Office, then transferred to the Building and Zoning Department where he reviewed site plans for administrative approval and offered presentations in hearings before zoning boards and the county commissioners. Six years later, he said he was employed by a company as a consultant for private land developers in the Miami area, focused mainly on large high rises, commercial sites and large residential subdivisions. He added that he had served on a number of different zoning boards throughout his career, had been appointed to many committees and had served two terms as a city commissioner.

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?**

He referred to his prior remarks; he has had extensive experience as a planning and zoning commissioner and as a city commissioner. He said he has appeared before various bodies on behalf of developers and met with homeowners groups in relation to new development in their neighborhoods.

Mr. Ward reported that he had also been on a permitting process committee. In the Miami area, he explained, it had taken months to get permits so a committee was created to streamline the process without giving up any of the oversight the public sector needed.

Commissioner Bill Brooks asked if he had any experience with groups related to Agenda 21 or Agenda 2030. Mr. Ward said he had had no involvement with those groups. Commissioner Brooks asked if any of those groups had come before him as a professional planner. Mr. Ward said he had no recollection of anything like that. He said most of what he saw were homeowner groups objecting to development and developers complaining they were being prevented from making developments.

Chairman Fillios asked the next question from the interview sheet.

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

Mr. Ward replied that he felt a planning commissioner's major role was to listen to cases, make recommendations to the commissions and to listen through the filter of one's own experience to offer support and advice to the BOCC.

Commissioner Duncan asked for his definition of property rights.

Mr. Ward responded that, in the Northwest, there seemed to be a feeling of, "It's my property, and I have the right to do whatever I want on it." He added that there needed to be a balance between that feeling and the regulations needed to make a community function. He urged that decisions be made on a case-by-case basis.

Chairman Fillios proceeded to the next question on the interview sheet.

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

Mr. Ward said he had followed some of the updating process; he had attended the meeting during which they accepted public testimony. He said he didn't know Community Development Director David Callahan very well, but had the impression he was very good at his job. He said every community needed a comprehensive plan but zoning needed to be kept aligned with the plan or conflicts would be created.

Chairman Fillios 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. Ward answered he believed a member needed basic knowledge of planning and zoning, but also of the individual community. He said a member should have a feeling for where growth was going, where property values were going and what areas needed more protection.

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

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

Mr. Ward confirmed that he was retired and had plenty of time to devote outside of meetings. He also confirmed he was a year-round resident of Kootenai County.

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

Mr. Ward said he did not, at this time. He assured the Commissioners he was willing to learn how things were done in Kootenai County and to accept constructive criticism as appropriate.

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 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
