

Jefferson County Marijuana Task Force

April 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Jeanie Rossillon called the meeting to order.

Commissioners Don Rosier and Casey Tighe introduced themselves and welcomed the task force members.

The task force members each gave a brief summary of their background/expertise.

Jeanie shared the results of the April 21, 2014 telephone town hall hosted by Jefferson County. There were over 7,000 attendees that listed to all or part of the one hour session. In addition to being given the opportunity to voice questions and comments, the attendees were asked to respond to six polling questions.

Jeanie mentioned that she had attended the presentation of Golden's Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force report of findings to the Golden City Council on April 24. She will provide a link to that report to task force members and noted that the city council will discuss the report at a study session on May 8, 2014.

Jeanie then discussed the Task Force overview handout. She gave some background about the County's resolutions and ordinance relating to marijuana, the covered purpose and tasks of the task force.

- The purpose of the task force is to identify impacts of marijuana establishments (specifically marijuana cultivation facilities, marijuana product manufacturing facilities, marijuana testing facilities, and retail marijuana stores) and report findings and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.
- The tasks are to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) as to whether or not marijuana establishments should be allowed and to either draft a permanent ban to prohibit these establishments or to draft regulations to allow these establishments, depending on BCC direction.

Next the group discussed task force organization and structure. Jeanie noted that the BCC may or may not drop in on meetings and that the BCC is interested in periodic updates. Jeanie explained the BCC had suggested that perhaps a non-staff person would be their preference for a task force chairman. Brian Richardson volunteered to be the chair and Ramey Johnson volunteered to be co-chair. Jeanie asked others to think about volunteering and said that the group could formalize the positions at the next task force meeting.

Jeanie listed a few items that the group might want to consider based on telephone town hall discussions: property values of warehouses, referring the issue to the voters of unincorporated Jefferson County, expected revenues, and school district usage trends. Each member was then asked to provide some insight as to how to address the tasks that have been given.

- Thomas Gorman said that the data for retail sales is not legitimate since not enough time has elapsed since the start of retail sales on January 1, 2014. As an alternative, the group could compare

data pre- and post- medical marijuana sales. He also noted that looking to Amsterdam as a model would not be valid. Jordan Wellington concurred noting that Amsterdam has no regulations, just tacit government approval.

- Ronn Nixon said that he has some data on how medical marijuana impacts neighborhoods.
- Brian Richardson stated that he knows how insurance carriers work with marijuana businesses and the importance of working with all entities involved.
- Thomas Gorman questions whether it is better to compare medical data or 3 months of retail data.
- Ramey Johnson says that she may be able to get some FBI data. She also noted that the City of Lakewood has a moratorium until January of 2015 and may put the issue on the ballot.
- James McCormick said that school districts have data on medical marijuana effects on youth.
- Mark Johnson said that there is not a clear picture of public health, but there is some information on effects on adolescents.
- Erin Logan said that she could offer some marijuana business perspective.
- Donna Viverette said that she can provide some information on marijuana effects on mental health
- Charles Tingle noted that the correlation between medical and retail information is mostly anecdotal.
- Jordan Wellington noted that the group needs tight short and long term agendas, otherwise the group could easily get off topic and the task force could continue indefinitely, without reaching a recommendation.
- Thomas Gorman suggested that everyone make list of pros/cons supported with data to discuss at next meeting (group accepted suggestion). In addition, the task force was asked to consider what date would it take to change positions on allowing retail sales.
- Mark Johnson noted that a majority of votes in Jefferson County voted yes on Amendment 64 and wondered if the seemingly disagreement based on the telephone town hall is a NIMBY issue.
- There was some discussion about value of warehouse space and whether or not the values are sustainable.

The task force agreed to meet on alternate Mondays from 1:30 to 3:30.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attendees: Patricia Woodin, Charles Tingle, Dr, Mark Johnson, Donna Viverette, John Wolforth, Mike Chadwick, Nate Emswiler, Eric Butler, Lin Browning, Robert Cantwell, Thomas Gorman, Ramey Johnson, Erin Logan, James McCormick, Ronn Nixon, Brian Richardson, Jordan Wellington, Jeanie Rossillon.