

Jefferson County Marijuana Task Force

July 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Ramey Johnson called the meeting to order.

After two corrections, the minutes of the June 23, 2014 task force meeting were approved.

After Ramey Johnson's introductory comments and self introductions of members and guests, Ronn Nixon made a presentation about the group adopting some guiding principles and finding some areas of agreement. He suggested the goal of generating and evaluating sound public policy through a comparative analysis of retail marijuana in a regulated vs. an unregulated market.

He suggested the following guiding principles:

- Agree to make informed decisions based on sound policy rather than personal bias.
- Promote public safety
- Be responsive to consumer needs and issues
- Ensure that our streets, schools and communities remain safe

He also suggested the following areas of possible agreement:

- Preventing the distribution of marijuana to minors.
- Preventing the directing of revenue from marijuana sales to gangs and cartels.
- Preventing the diversion of marijuana from states where it is legal to other states where there are no laws allowing for marijuana use.
- Preventing the use of legal sales as cover for trafficking operations.
- Preventing the use of violence and or firearms in marijuana cultivation and distribution.
- Preventing driving under the influence of marijuana.
- Preventing growing marijuana on public lands.
- Preventing the possession or use of marijuana on federal property

Jeanie Rossillon discussed possible topics for upcoming meetings and the timeline for the completion of the task force recommendations. She noted that if the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) wants to put the issue to a vote in November, the BCC will have to make a decision on that before the task force has finished its work. She suggested that the task force may want to take a straw poll to give the BCC an indication of how the task force feels about a ballot. Eric Butler reiterated that the November vote would be for a "ban," as opposed to a vote to allow. After discussion and a motion and second by Tom Gorman and Bob Cantwell, the task force voted to not conduct a straw poll.

Jeanie reminded the group to provide any data regarding public safety to her before the next meeting. A working description of public safety is "kids, cars and crimes." There was discussion that the state is doing a lot of work with public safety that does not need to be duplicated by the County. With respect to data of reported offenses within the City and County of Denver from January through April of 2014 Ronn Nixon questioned if the data on fatalities with drivers testing positive for marijuana indicates impairment. Tom agreed that those statistics do not indicate impairment.

There was further discussion about the County's taxing authority, and in addition to sales tax, there is the possibility of an excise tax on cultivation. Jeanie said that it would be helpful to provide the BCC with a range of revenue that might be expected for the County's current taxing structure. Aside from taxing, fees can cover the reasonable administrative costs of the program.

Lin Browning is getting ready to send out her survey to businesses in Evergreen. She was given a couple of suggestions about the survey. Lin also noted that other Jeffco chambers of commerce were willing to participate in the survey.

Ronn passed around a couple of brochures: "The Responsible Consumer's Guide to Marijuana in Colorado," and "An Introduction to Edibles Tolerance." Jeanie agreed to make copies and distribute them to the task force.

Public Comment:

Sally Korff said that she appreciated the opportunity to attend the meetings. She noted that business is being overregulated and that taxes are not spent wisely.

Jim Otton said that he is concerned about the use of vapor pens, in particular their use in high schools.

Ann Jefferies wants the task force to consider the legacy to children.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 21, 2014 in the Lookout Mountain Room from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attendees: Patricia Woodin, Charles Tingle, Dr. Mark Johnson, Donna Viverette, John Wolforth, Mike Chadwick, Nate Emswiller, Eric Butler, Lin Browning, Robert Cantwell, Mike Elliott, Thomas Gorman, Ramey Johnson, Erin Logan, Ronn Nixon, Brian Richardson, Jeanie Rossillon, Max Raileanu.