

Columbus County Retreat April 2, 2008

The Columbus County BOC met Wednesday April 2, 2008 in a special work session. **In attendance were:**

Chairman Prevatte, Commissioners Memory, Jacobs, and Gore, and County Manager Bill Clark. Chris May - Executive Director CFCOG facilitated. No official action or votes were cast. A representative of the press was also present the entire meeting.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Amon E. McKenzie
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard

Chris May reviewed the desired outcomes, then facilitated an interactive listing of attributes that would make the most effective Chairman, BOC Member, and manager. That was followed by a facilitated list, brainstorm, prioritization exercise in response to the lead question of, "What are the most pressing issues facing the county that you would like to see addressed this year (short term), within 1-3 years (medium term) and within 5 or more (long term). The results follow:

Desired Outcomes

- Team Building
- Develop Goals
- Establish Priorities

St. Francis Rule: "Seek first to understand... then to be understood."

Chairman

- Spokesman for County
- Communications
- Keep entire board informed
- Understand moderators job
- Good salesperson
- Informed about County business
- Defuse problems immediately
- Leadership skills
- Thick skin-Don't take personal
- Learn to mediate & build consensus
- Integrity-Honest broker-Ethics
- Fair-Just
- Respect given-Earned
- Be accessible-Listen

Commissioners

- Communications-Public & Board
- Be accessible & hear all sides
- Learn to mediate & build consensus
- Integrity
- Fair & Just
- Thick skin-Don't take it personally
- Always seek to do the right thing
- Personal commitment to greater good
- Stay informed-share equally. Do your homework.
- Respect citizens-/with discernment
- Be available and visible in community
- Be a visionary-Big picture
- Be an advocate for your district
- Do your best-Be proud of what you do
- Be receptive to change
- Learn to disagree w/o being disagreeable

Manager

- Communicate well with citizens-board-staff
- Strong leadership skills
- Just-fair-have integrity
- Follow/implement Board policy as advocate
- Consensus builder all around
- Be informed-knowledgeable-current
- See beyond immediate & look ahead
- *PROFESSIONAL*
- Know your community-well informed
- Effective delegator-follow up
- Set an example-be accountable
- Public servant-supporter
- Leadership by example
- Listen-discern-act-not whisy-washy
- Honest consult
- Promote positive image-optimist
- Be a local government expert
- Steward of public trust
- Good business skills-savvy

Top Issues/Goals

1. Grant writer
2. Fill existing Ind. Park/build new one on east end
3. Provide incentive for existing business
4. Purchase for resale Industrial sites
5. Lower/Eliminate water dist. tax
6. Expand roads, w/s, etc to entire County
7. Develop a comprehensive growth plan to address increased costs of schools, roads, etc. Blend economic growth w/agricultural county cost effectively (phase plan).
8. Provide additional money to education
9. Hire economic Dev. Planner
10. Seek financial stability w/o tax
11. Firm mgt. of budget-no over-run
12. Established healthy fund balance
13. Analyze dept. organization with goal of streamline/efficiency
14. Face lift preventive maintenance County buildings
15. Build court rooms beside County Jail
16. Renovate or build new DOA building
17. Market Columbus to world highlight positive-reduce negatives. More proactive approach-aggressive marketing. Evaluate economic development program. How can it be improved? Develop an action plan.
18. Review overall budget and put money where it can bring greatest return-streamline. "Seed Corn". Be willing to do whatever it takes to get job done.
19. Additional money for recreation facilities & program
20. Evaluate health care cost for savings self insurance?
21. Implement/review yearly strategic plan
22. Keep salaries competitive with regional average
23. Enhance inter-dept cooperation and team-share best practices.
24. Require dept. reps to mo. dept head mtg.
25. Make those meetings more meaningful
26. Adequate facilities plan. Scheduled maintenance plan for big ticket items (roof, paint, pave)
27. Communicate list of wants/needs w/dollar figures for public to see. Develop priorities off that list. "County Wish List"
28. Readable-understandable sub reg & mfg home ordinance by 2009
29. Evaluate solid waste costs for pos savings
30. Reduce-Reuse-Recycle. Solid waste stream pursue alternative ways to dispose that are "green"
31. Long term energy mgt plan with alternative fuels, etc to be more efficient/cost less. Savings pay off initial cost (vehicles, equipment, etc.).
32. Implement plan for reducing vehicle trips/miles with scheduling trips, inspections, etc.

Short term 1 year

(25, 26, 1, 27, 28, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, & 31)

• **Administrative:**

- o Make Dept Head meetings more meaningful
- o Enhance inter-dept cooperation and team-share best practices.
- o Require dept. reps to mo. dept head mtg.
- o Evaluate health care cost for savings self insurance?
- o Implement/review yearly strategic plan
- o Long term energy mgt plan with alternative fuels, etc to be more efficient/cost less. Savings pay off initial cost (vehicles, equipment, etc.).
- o Face lift preventive maintenance County buildings
- o Adequate facilities plan. Scheduled maintenance plan for big ticket items (roof, paint, pave)
- o Consider hiring or contracting for a grant writer
- o Seek financial stability w/o tax increase
- o Firm mgt. of budget-no over-runs
- o Establish healthy fund balance
- o Analyze dept. organization with goal of streamline/efficiency
- o Review overall budget and put money where it can bring greatest return-streamline. Be willing to do whatever it takes to get job done.
- o “County Wish List”. Communicate list of wants/needs w/dollar figures for public to see. Develop priorities from that list.

• **Economic Development**

- o Hire economic Developer and County Planner (Consider merging both)
- o Market Columbus to world highlight positive-reduce negatives. More proactive approach-aggressive marketing.
- o Evaluate economic development program. How can it be improved? Develop an action plan.

• **Growth Management**

- o Develop a readable-understandable sub reg & mfg home ordinance by 2009

Medium term 1-3 years

(3, 5, 4, 7, 19, 29, 30, & 22)

Economic Development

- o Provide incentive for existing business
- o Purchase for resale Industrial sites

Administrative

- o Lower/Eliminate water dist. Tax
- o Additional money for recreation facilities & program
- o Keep salaries competitive with regional average
- o Evaluate solid waste costs for pos savings
- o Promote policies that encourage Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.
- o Reduce solid waste stream.
- o Pursue alternative ways to dispose that are “green”

Growth Management

- o Blend economic growth w/agricultural county cost effectively (phase plan).
- o Develop a comprehensive growth plan to address increased costs of schools, roads, etc.

Long term 3-5 years

(2, 6, 8, 15, & 16)

Administrative

- o Fill existing Ind. Park/build new one on east end
- o Infrastructure Improvements program - Expand w/s to entire County. Encourage DOT to act on Columbus Transportation priorities
- o Build court rooms beside County Jail

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- o Renovate or build new DOA building

Education

- o Provide additional money to education

APPROVED:

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman