



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

LAND USE HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners met at 3:00 p.m. with Rebecca Everette, Community Development Director. Chair Pro-Tem Stephens presided. Commissioner Shaddock-McNally was present. Commissioner Kefalas was excused. Also present were Kassidee Fior, Senior Planner; Christina Scrutchins, Planning; Rusty McDaniel, Engineering; Noel Udell and Leah Schneider, Health and Environment; Frank Haug, Assistant County Attorney; and Deirdre O'Neill, Deputy Clerk.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. GULCH FEST SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT (SPECIAL EVENT #7293) FILE NO. 24-SPEVENT0053: This is a request for a Special Event Permit for Gulch Fest, a four-day music and art festival scheduled for July 11-14, 2024, and located at 36292 North Highway 287, Virginia Dale, Colorado. This event will include music, art shows, workshops, overnight tent camping and food vendors.

Due to concerns expressed by referral agencies and adjacent property owners, this special event permit has been referred to the Board of County Commissioners by the Community Development Director for a final decision.

Special Event Application

A special event application was submitted on May 13, 2024. The application requests approval for:

- Total estimated attendance: 375 (ticketed attendees, vendors and staff/volunteers)
- Parking for up to 375 vehicles
- Tent camping sites
- One live music stage
- Use of an existing garage for an art gallery space
- Portable restrooms and handwashing stations
- Food trucks
- Community kitchen area
- Vending by local companies
- Educational/wellness workshops

The event does not include any alcohol service, so no liquor license is required.

Review Criteria

The Land Use Code (LUC), Article 7 sets forth the purpose, definition and standards, and review criteria for a Special Event. To approve a Special Event permit, the decision maker must consider the following Review Criteria, as set forth in LUC Section 7.5, and find that each criterion has been met or determined to be inapplicable:

7.5.1 - The applicant has demonstrated that the special event can be compatible with existing and allowed uses in the surrounding area.

7.5.2 - The applicant has demonstrated that the special event complies with all applicable requirements of this code.

7.5.3. – The applicant has demonstrated that the special event will result in no substantial adverse impact on other properties in the vicinity, including environmentally sensitive areas or features or other lands.

7.5.4 – The applicant has demonstrated that the special event has addressed the recommendations of the referral agencies.

7.5.5. - The applicant has demonstrated that the special event will comply with the applicable performance standards as set forth in Sec. 7.7, Performance Standards, including:

7.7.1 – Adequate and safe potable water supply.

7.7.2 – Sufficient restroom facilities.

7.7.3 – A sanitary method of disposing of solid or liquid waste.

7.7.4 – Adequate medical personnel and ambulance service.

7.7.5 – Adequate nighttime lighting to ensure safety, while minimizing spillover lighting impacts.

7.7.6 – Sufficient on-site parking.

7.7.7 - Adequate facilities for communication with hospital, police and fire services.

7.7.8 - Camping facilities in compliance with all state and local requirements.

7.7.9 - Security, which, as determined by the County Sheriff, is adequate to control any disturbances that might occur at the special event.

7.7.10 - Compliance with all requirements of the applicable fire protection district.

7.7.11 - Assurance that sounds from the special event do not carry unreasonably beyond the boundaries of the location of the special event.

7.7.12 -Appropriate dust mitigation.

7.7.13 - If electrical systems comply with minimum county and state electrical standards.

7.7.14 - Management of food service shall conform to the requirements of the County Department of Health and Environment.

7.7.15 – Financial guarantees, as needed.

7.7.16 – Lack of disturbance to existing natural features and vegetative cover.

7.7.17 - For events that involve exotic animals – N/A

7.7.18 - A description of the surface material of the parking area and a traffic management plan.

7.7.19- Insurance in an amount determined to be adequate and reasonable in light of the risks and hazards relating to the special event.

In the case of the Gulch Fest Special Event application, the Development Services Team found that the event did not comply with all sections of Article 7, as initially proposed. However, conditions of approval are recommended by staff so that the event could be held in a way that meets the code requirements.

The proposed conditions help to alleviate questions and concerns brought up by various referral agencies during their review and address items such as traffic control, emergency response, wildfire prevention, potable water, restroom facilities, food vendor licensing, building safety, noise management, and security.

Staff does find that the proposed event can be compatible with existing and allowed uses in the surrounding area and will result in no substantial adverse impact on other properties in the vicinity, including environmentally sensitive areas or features or other lands, if the event complies with all recommended conditions of approval.

Staff received five public comments from neighbors of the subject property, primarily expressing concerns related to traffic safety, noise, emergency response, and event operations such as security, the number of attendees, fire potential, sanitation/trash disposal and impacts on wildlife.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of County Commissioners may choose to:

- 1) Approve the special event permit.
- 2) Approve the special event permit with conditions.
- 3) Deny the special event permit.

The Development Services Team recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the special event permit subject to the following 35 conditions:

1. Event participation, including staff, vendors, and attendees shall not exceed 375 participants.
2. All event activities, including the portable restrooms, parking, tents and food trucks must be located at least 100 feet from the right-of-way centerline or 50 feet from the right-of-way line, whichever is greater, from US Highway 287, pursuant to LUC Section 2.9.4.E
3. The event shall comply with the Larimer County Noise Ordinance limiting sound levels at the event parcel property lines to a maximum of 55 decibels from 7am to 7pm and 50 decibels from 7pm to 7am.
4. The hours of amplified/live music operation shall be limited between the hours of 9 am. to 10:30 pm for all three days of the event (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). No amplified sound or music may occur after 10:30 pm.
5. Toys/games shall not be provided by the event coordinators in the proposed Children's Village area. Children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times when in the Children's Village. If snacks are provided by the event coordinators, they shall be individual, commercially prepackaged snacks that are shelf-stable and do not require refrigeration
6. Use of the existing plumbed fixtures on the property including all types of sinks, hose bibs, and bathrooms, shall not be allowed for use to support activities associated with the event

since the property is on well water and a septic system. An alternative water supply shall be provided for fire and dust suppression activities. This water supply shall be in addition to and separate from the potable water supply requirements.

7. The water supply for fire and dust suppression shall be hauled water from off-site, since the well permit does not allow for external/outside uses such as irrigation and fire suppression. The water supply for suppression shall be in addition to the potable water quantity required per day and maintained separate from the potable water supply. If using 55-gallon containers as proposed, all non-potable water dispensers shall be clearly labeled as non-potable water provided for dust and fire suppression purposes.
8. The utility sink inside the on-site garage supporting the art gallery and community kitchen shall not be used as potable water to clean dishes, wash hands, provide water for drinking/tea, etc
9. The community kitchen shall not offer pots/pans, cooking utensils, nor community coolers, for access by the public. The public shall bring their own food, cooking ware, utensils and coolers to be able to cook their own food at the community kitchen grills and table top camping stoves. The event coordinators have proposed a tea tent and art gallery from the existing on-site garage. Tea prepared and served at the event without a retail food license shall be limited to hot tea made from a treated, municipal water supply and tea ingredients from commercially approved sources. The addition of ice, milk or other ingredients will require a 2024 temporary event retail food license with ingredients prepared from an approved commercial kitchen or other commercial sources.
10. If food vendors will be on-site, the food vendors shall be licensed by Larimer County Health Department and have in their possession a 2024 retail food license. Food vendors shall not be allowed to remain on-site at the end of each day and shall return to their commissary kitchen that is within 60 minutes of the event site to clean and sanitize equipment, conduct food preparation, and dispose gray water and refill with potable water.
11. Adequate potable/drinking water shall be available for participants to provide a minimum of 1 gallon of water per person per day. Drinking water dispensers shall be separate containers from handwashing stations. Drinking water containers shall be of food grade materials that have been cleaned and sanitized and filled with treated, municipal water. Drinking water containers shall be filled with a food-grade water hose (if a hose is required to dispense from potable water container/truck). A minimum of 375 gallons of drinking water shall be provided to fill the 6 drinking water stations identified on the site plan each day of the event. An additional 375 gallons of potable water shall be required to be on-site to fill the 7 handwashing stations throughout the day. In addition to the two, 275-gallon potable water tank trucks proposed on-site in the food court/community kitchen area, the event coordinators shall provide a third potable water tank or water haul truck of at least 200-gallon capacity on-site. Each day of the event, there shall be a minimum of 750 gallons of treated, municipal water available onsite to support the event.
12. A minimum of 14 portable restroom units shall be required during the event from Thursday through to Sunday. At least 3 of the 14 restrooms shall be of an accessible design. The portable restrooms shall be placed in the following areas:

- 4 portable restrooms in the food court
 - 4 portable restrooms for the public in the stage/music area
 - 1 portable restroom for the musicians
 - 1 portable restroom in the Children's Village
 - 2 portable restrooms south of parking lot number one but near accessible by the car and tent camping area
 - 2 portable restrooms located along the egress road in the southwest of the camping area
13. A minimum of two portable restrooms shall be provided to support event coordinators, staff and volunteers prior to the event on July 10, 2024, during the set-up. On July 14, 2024, a minimum of 2 of the 14 portable restrooms shall remain on-site from 2pm to later as event attendees, coordinators, musicians/crews, vendors, staff, and volunteers exist and breakdown the setup.
 14. A minimum of 7 handwashing stations shall be provided. Handwashing stations shall be adequately stocked with soap, water, paper towels, a waste bin and a bucket to catch wastewater at all times. The portable handwashing stations shall be placed in the following areas:
 - 1 handwashing station with the portable restrooms in the food court
 - 1 handwashing station with the portable restrooms for the public in the stage/music area
 - 1 handwashing station with the portable restroom for the musicians
 - 1 handwashing station with the portable restroom in the Children's Village
 - 1 handwashing station with the portable restrooms south of parking lot ONE but near accessible by the car and tent camping area
 - 1 handwashing station shall be with the portable restrooms located along the egress road in the southwest of the camping area
 - 1 handwashing station in the community kitchen area
 15. A bulk wastewater collection tank shall be available on-site for disposal of the handwashing station wastewater tanks. Existing plumbing on-site (including the utility sink in the detached garage building) and portable restrooms shall not be used for disposing of wastewater due to the limited capacity of the septic system and limited service and maintenance by the portable restroom supplier.
 16. Recycling bins shall be provided along with trash bins throughout the event site. A bulk recycle bin and a dumpster shall be provided on-site to empty recycle bins and trash cans throughout the days of the event.
 17. Dumpsters and other solid waste bins (recycle, trash, etc.) shall be bear-proofed (or stored inaccessible overnight), with signage posted to ensure that all food scraps are placed in the designated disposal areas. Camping will not be permitted in proximity to the community food areas
 18. All trash, recycle containers, and dumpsters must be removed at the end of the event

19. The applicant shall obtain any required county building or electrical permits.
20. A High Wind Action Plan must be created, printed and posted on-site. The plan must include monitoring wind speeds, setting wind speed trigger levels, suspending events, taking down stage side or rear walls and tents, and evacuating people for a minimum distance around structures, if winds hit trigger levels
21. The overhead door on the detached garage must remain open at all times festival goers are permitted inside to ensure safe egress.
22. A minimum of 10 feet of clearance between any cooking devices and the garage and/or any combustible construction is required.
23. Provide additional information on the proposed parking and camping areas, including the size/dimensions, the number of parking spaces and tent camping sites, and how ingress and egress will be managed for approval by the Community Development Department.
24. Provide confirmation to the satisfaction of the Community Development Department that the proposed parking areas are located on the subject property, or alternatively, that an agreement with the neighboring landowner has been obtained to allow event participants to park on the adjacent lands.
25. The applicant shall have a traffic control plan developed by an established traffic control company and be provided to the satisfaction of the Larimer County Engineering Department, CDOT, and Colorado State Patrol that minimizes impacts to US Highway 287 and demonstrates that no traffic on US Highway 287 will be impacted or impeded.
26. The internal route map shall be modified to ensure that traffic turning off of US Highway 287 is on the south side of the entrance, with traffic leaving the site on the north side of the entrance
27. All lanes of traffic on-site shall be clearly defined, and barriers located near the stage to protect the crowd from vehicle intrusion
28. DOT (MUTCD) approved signs must be posted north and south of the entrance/exit to alert motorists of the heavy side road/special event traffic. All signage must be approved by both Wyoming DOT and Colorado DOT.
29. Adequate lighting shall be provided after dark to ensure parking areas, walking paths and event area are illuminated for safety. No event lighting is permitted to interfere with US Highway 287 and all lighting sources should be concealed, full cutoff, and down directional to reduce spillover lighting and glare. All lighting not necessary for security purposes shall be reduced, activated by motion sensor devices, or turned off during nonevent hours. Any illumination between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise shall be reduced to levels sufficient for security purposes only. Lasers will not be permitted to be used by musicians or event attendees.

30. An ambulance must be stationed on-site for the duration of the ticketed portion of the event.
31. A Safety Plan is required to be created and provided to the satisfaction of Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Larimer County Building Division, Larimer County Flood, Larimer County Sheriff's Office, and the Livermore Fire Protection District that addresses or includes the following:
 - a. Designated emergency contact information, including where the ambulance, a designated EMT-P, NP or PA with emergency experience, and/or other CPR certified staff can be located.
 - b. A security plan to ensure no trespassing and to address overnight security and the potential for unticketed access to the site.
 - c. A plan to ensure that emergency supplies and trained staff are available to transport patients to the first aid tent if necessary.
 - d. A designated on-site helicopter landing zone, which must also be shown on the site plan.
 - e. A LETA 911 "keyword" to be established, provided to attendees, and used in the event of an emergency to notify staff and event attendees.
 - f. An evacuation plan that, amongst other matters, requires during an evacuation all participants will exit the site with a right turn only onto US Highway 287.
 - g. Best practices to discourage wildlife such as bears from coming on-site, including ensuring that all food scraps are placed in dumpsters and no food is located near the campers, and that campers are not located near the food area/kitchen.
 - h. A plan to provide and train staff on the required High Wind Action Plan and the High Wind Action Plan must be posted on-site.
 - i. A plan to monitor the weather for storm events, and if an event is likely to occur, to evacuate the area near the intermittent stream channel on the property and remove all materials from the channel, if possible
32. The event is required to abide by Larimer County Fire Restrictions. No fire rings, fireworks or fires lit on the ground will be permitted, with stoves and/or charcoal grills to be monitored at all times to prevent tipping. All vegetation must be mowed, and adequate fire suppression resources must be available, particularly in parking and cooking areas.
33. If Larimer County enters into fire restrictions prior to the event, the applicant shall be responsible for ensuring additional review and approval of event procedures/protocols by the Livermore Fire Protection District prior to proceeding with the event.
34. If an emergency occurs during the event, contact 911. If any non-emergency fire-related questions are raised during the event, the applicant must contact the non-emergency Larimer County Dispatch line at 970-416-1985 to request a command member to be paged for a response
35. The applicant shall provide a letter to all neighbors immediately abutting both the subject property to share event details and provide contact information to aid with resolution of any impacts that may arise

Staff Presentation

Kassidee Fior, Senior Planner, gave a brief overview of the Special Event Permit Application for Gulch Fest, a four-day music and art festival scheduled for July 11-14, 2024, and located at 36292 North Highway 287, Virginia Dale, Colorado. This event will include music, art shows, workshops, overnight tent camping and food vendors. The attendance will be approximately 375 ticketed attendees, vendors and staff. Ms. Fior went over the proposed event activities. The Development Services Team found that the event does not comply with all sections of Article 7, as initially proposed. Therefore, thirty-five conditions of approval are recommended by staff so that the event can be held in a way that meets the code requirements.

The proposed conditions help to alleviate questions and concerns brought up by various referral agencies during their review and address items such as emergency services, noise, traffic, potable water, restroom facilities, food vendor licensing, and parking.

The Board invited the applicant to present their application.

Applicant Presentation

Hailee Nolan and Hanna Carlson, Event Coordinators, addressed the Board. Ms. Nolan read a statement about the history of Gulch Fest and that it has aimed to create a community where everyone feels welcome while also show-casing talented musicians and artists. They promote sobriety in offering non-alcoholic beverages and teas. A large emphasis is on sustainability and conservation.

They had looked forward to the opportunity to host the event in Virginia Dale while being respectful to the landowners and residents by going through the necessary steps for a permitted event. Unfortunately, due to time constraints and the finances needed to fulfill all the conditions of approval they stated that it will not be possible to continue the application for this event. They are a grassroots movement and most of their donations are through ticket sales. Ms. Nolan does understand the importance of these regulations and believes the concerns are valid. They thanked the staff and Commissioners for their time but announced at this time they are withdrawing their application.

The Board thanked Ms. Nolan and Ms. Carlson and welcomed them to come back in the future. The Board and staff appreciated that they took the time to come today to explain why they felt the need to withdraw the application.

With there being no further business, the Board adjourned at 3:25 pm

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with County Manager Lorenda Volker. Chair Pro-Tem Stephens presided. Commissioner Stephens was present. Commissioner Kefalas was excused. Also present were Sarah Martin and Tom Clayton, Commissioners' Office, and Deirdre O'Neill, Deputy Clerk.

Chair Pro-Tem Stephens opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one addressed the Board

Chair Pro-Tem Stephens closed Public Comment.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 4, 2024**

M O T I O N

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the minutes for the week of June 4, 2024.

Motion carried 2 – 0.

3. **REVIEW OF THE SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF June 17, 2024:** Ms. Martin reviewed the upcoming schedule with the Board. The Board had several updates on their upcoming schedule.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

ABATEMENTS

1. **PETITION FOR ABATEMENT OR REFUND OF TAXES: EXCEEDS THE ALLOTTED REFUND AMOUNT OF \$10,000 -DFC Centerra North 3 LLC, R1677217, Tax Year 2023**
2. **PETITION FOR ABATEMENT OR REFUND OF TAXES: EXCEEDS THE ALLOTTED REFUND AMOUNT OF \$10,000 – Jesse LLC, R1242709, Tax Year 2023**
3. **PETITION FOR ABATEMENT OR REFUND OF TAXES: EXCEEDS THE ALLOTTED REFUND AMOUNT OF \$10,000 – Brands West Phase I LLC, R1677406, Tax Year 2023**
4. **PETITION FOR ABATEMENT OR REFUND OF TAXES: EXCEEDS THE ALLOTTED REFUND AMOUNT OF \$10,000 – Fireside LLLP, R0425664, Tax Year 2023**

AGREEMENTS

1. **BID NO. B24-03 PN 9089 CONTRACT AWARD**
2. **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANT AMENDMENT-AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS) STATION AT SATANKA BAY**
3. **STATE OF COLORADO CONTRACT: COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY/DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE-5-YEAR MASTER CONTRACT**

4. **POUDRE VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC FIBER RIGHT OF USE AGREEMENT**
5. **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**
6. **MODERNIZATION PROPOSAL**
7. **LETTER TERMINATING THE 2009 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF DISASTERS RELATED TO BROAD RANGING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY INCIDENTS**

APPOINTMENTS

1. **RECOMMENDED MIDTERM APPOINTMENT TO THE TERRY SHORES PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT -Al Kuehnast**
2. **RECOMMENDED MIDTERM APPOINTMET TO THE KITCHEL GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT – Richard Cape**

MISCELLANEOUS

1. **THOMPSON VALLEY STATION LLC STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2023 VALUE**
2. **THOMPSON VALLEY STATION LLC III STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2023 VALUE**
3. **CANVAS CREDIT UNION STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2023 VALUE**
4. **LARIMER COUNTY FLOOD REVIEW BOARD BYLAWS**
5. **DIV HTR ESTES PARK LLC STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2023 VALUE**
6. **CERTIFICATION (HAMMONS LOVELAND)**

POLICIES

1. **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY, HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY AND PROCEDURE 331.6.24K**
2. **HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY AND PROCEDURE 331.6T**

RESOLUTIONS

1. **FINDINGS AND RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LEMMON FAMILY TRUST CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT**
2. **FINDINGS AND RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WALSH PLANNED LAND DIVISION PRELIMINARY PLAT AND REZONING TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT**

MOTION

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved the Board to approve the consent agenda for June 11, 2024.

Motion carried 2– 0.

5. COMMISSIONERS' GUESTS: The Commissioners did not have any invited guests.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ASSIGNMENT TO HOUSING CATALYST OF A PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND ALLOCATION OF LARIMER COUNTY: Alea Rodriguez, Housing Stability Program Manager explained that this is a resolution authorizing assignment of just over 6.5 million dollars to Housing Catalyst of a Private Activity Bond Allocation of Larimer County that allows Housing Catalyst to issue revenue bonds for the purpose of financing qualified residential rental projects for low- and moderate-income persons and families. Ms. Rodriguez stated that these are special loans given to local governments to be allocated and eventually sold to investors to help build schools, hospitals or affordable housing. One viable application was received by the March 1, 2024, deadline. A second incomplete application was returned.

Julie Brewer and Kristen Fritz, Housing Catalyst, explained that Housing Catalyst has been building communities in Northern Colorado for more than 50-years. They address the growing need for affordable housing through innovative, sustainable, community-focused solutions. Our communities are nestled in prime locations throughout Fort Collins, enjoying easy access to public transportation and schools, dining and shopping. Whether it is new construction or preservation and rehabilitation of an existing property. Housing Catalyst serves thousands of Northern Colorado residents each year, including families with children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness. Larimer County has determined that to increase the availability of adequate affordable housing for low-and moderate-income persons and families within Larimer County it is necessary or desirable to provide for the utilization of all or a portion of the 2024 allocation.

Ms. Fritz stated that in just over the last 10-years since Housing Catalyst has received these Private Activity Bond Allocations, they have received a total of \$36,852,762 which includes the current allocation of \$6,518,363 that is being requested today. Ms. Fritz highlighted some of the affordable housing communities that have benefited from these bond allocations for a total of 852 units of

affordable housing in Larimer County to date. The 2024 request will help accommodate an additional 140 new units at the Village on Eastbrook and Remington Parking lot sites.

The Commissioners thanked them for their important, complex work and their dedication to affordable housing in Larimer County. The Commissioners did have some questions on identifying opportunities in the future for locations for affordable housing. Ms. Brewer stated that they would like to meet in the future to discuss how they identify site locations and to maximize proposition 23 funds. There were also questions on utilizing tax credits due to high costs and rates which limit the number of units that can be delivered state-wide. Ms. Brewer stated that they are hopeful that in 2025 there may be an opportunity to make some changes to the low-income housing tax credit program which will increase the number of units the program can supply.

MOTION

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved the Board of County Commissioners to approve the resolution authorizing assignment to Housing Catalyst of a private activity bond allocation of Larimer County.

Motion carried 2-0

2 PROCLAIM JUNE 2024 AS FAMILY REUNIFICATION MONTH: Angela Mead, Deputy Division Manager with Child, Youth, and Family Services. This proclamation is an opportunity to highlight the importance of family reunification and to celebrate parents and those individuals who make reunification goals a reality in child welfare.

In proclaiming the month of June as Family Reunification Month, the division is emphasizing the significance of family reunification and commending the invaluable objectives within the realm of child welfare. Parents can encounter situations that require attention and need assistance to ensure the safety and caring support of their children. Reunification with their parents or immediate family is the best option and optimal outcome for children removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Addressing the safety concerns that brought the family to the attention of child welfare, assessing family strengths and needs, and bringing together the family, caregivers, and community providers are all strategies that can positively impact reunification and support long-term stability. Each year parents work through the court process to improve and grow, and hundreds of children are successfully reunified with their parents and families. Child welfare exists to keep children safe not as a punitive system but to provide temporary assistance, support resources and treatment for families.

Most parents involved in the child welfare system are not bad people, but with limited capacities and have made some poor decisions and are struggling to keep their children safe. Intervention is needed to keep these children safe when parents lose control in a stressful situation.

Foster and kinship care is intended to be a temporary intervention for children who need the safety and security of an out-of-home placement. Celebrating Family Reunification month is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate families who have overcome adversity, healed from trauma, and successfully reunified with their children. In 2023, 58 children were reunited with their families. Supporting reunification is an enormous, emotional and logistical commitment made by case workers, families, advocate workers and professionals. There were approximately 1,164 cases that child welfare

was involved with in calendar year 2023. It is important to note that 1,073 of those children were not removed from their homes.

In celebrating Family Reunification Day, we recognize that this is an opportunity to celebrate those who have overcome adversity, healed from trauma, and successfully reunified with their children.

The Commissioners gave their heartfelt gratitude to Angela Mead and her staff for their important work so that children can feel safe in a stable environment and get the support and resources they and their families need while working toward reunification.

M O T I O N

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved the Board of County Commissioners to approve the proclamation proclaiming June 2024 as Family Reunification Month.

Motion carried 2-0

The Board took a brief recess

The Board returned to session

7. **COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE:** County Manager Volker announced that she would pass on this week's update.

8. **COMMISSIONER ACTIVITY REPORTS:** The Board briefly detailed their attendance at events during the previous week.

With there being no further business, the Board adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Kristin Stephens
KRISTIN STEPHENS
CHAIR PRO-TEM
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TINA HARRIS
CLERK AND RECORDER

ATTEST:

Dendre O'Neill
Dendre O'Neill, Deputy Clerk

