

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
& PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JOINT WORKSHOP

MAY 23, 2018

The Town Council convened for a Joint Workshop with the Planning Commission at 6:05 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Austin, E. Hunter, N. Hunter, Malone, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark in attendance. Chairperson Canright was in attendance representing the Planning Commission.

Town Clerk's Notice dated May 15, 2018 of Joint Workshop to review community initiatives and meet with the Creative District volunteer committee.

Community Initiatives Facilitator Diedra Siebert presented an overview of Town participation in the Colorado Main Street Program and designation as a Main Street Community, recognition as a Colorado Creative District, and the Space to Create Project. She explained the Town undertook and utilized the programs for economic vitality, including the revitalization of the downtown through the RAMP Project. She presented a background on the three initiatives. Main Street is a national downtown vitalization program; the creative district to invite, engage and enhance the creative aspects of the community; the Space to Create Project to provide an affordable live/work facility for creatives.

The Creative District Committee addressed the Council and presented the new vision and mission of the district. Chairperson Betsy Bauer explained the committee views its role to be advocates for creatives, and wish to change the committee name to the Creative Advocacy Team (CAT).

Ms. Siebert presented the Town's 2018 Creative District and Main Street plans. She reported the Main Street and Creative District programs annual cost to the Town is approximately \$100,000, which includes staffing, and noted this does not include costs for the Space to Create Project. She explained numerous grants have been obtained by the Town, which were enhanced by participation in the State programs.

The Mayor reported of the 21 creative districts in the State, most are non-profits and very few are under a municipality, noting this may change over time. There were questions by the Council.

Facilitator Siebert presented a background on the Space to Create program, a collaborative program created by the State to build affordable live/work facilities for creatives in rural areas. The Town applied and was awarded participation in the program in 2016, conducted a feasibility study in 2017, purchased property on Clinton and Laura Streets last fall, and has begun the pre-development phase which is being conducted by the non-profit organization, ArtSpace.

She presented accomplishments over the last five years which include highway, street and wayfinding signage; banner poles for event advertising; kiosk for Town Hall; a building and property inventory; street furnishings and lighting for the RAMP downtown revitalization project; Space to Create Project; business surveys; events through the Creative District; and visitations from State representatives, including the governor.

There were comments by the Council. The Council discussed the viability and future of the Town funding economic development programs, and the possibility of other agencies taking over these responsibilities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk