

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
& PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JOINT WORKSHOP

JUNE 26, 2019

The Town Council convened for a joint workshop with the Planning Commission at 6:00 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Councilors Hunter, Lakin, Meyer and Cheek were in attendance. Councilor Austin, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark were absent. Chairperson Canright was in attendance representing the Planning Commission.

Town Clerk's Notice of Workshop dated June 13, 2019 to meet with the Ridgway Creative District volunteer committee to discuss goals, objectives and direction, and receive training on community initiatives.

Community Initiatives Facilitator Diedra Siebert reviewed the 2019 Ridgway Creative District (RCD) Work Plan and the Ridgway Main Street 2019 Work Plan. She provided a brief history of how RCD and Main Street were formed in conjunction with former Governor Hickenlooper's Bottom Up economic development process. She explained the role of the Town Council, the Creative District and the Creative Advocacy Team (CAT). Silbert clarified that RCD is a geographic place and the creative people and assets in it; it is a Town initiative and concept to re-energize and revitalize the area, as well as a group of dedicated citizens and volunteers. She expounded on the goals and objectives of the 2019 RCD Work Plan that includes addressing the creative needs of the community, supporting and engaging in the community process to develop affordable live/work space for Creatives, show casing how the community values creativity; strengthen partnerships with creative organizations and explore the potential for RCD to become a nonprofit in the future.

Ms. Silbert reviewed the 2018 accomplishments for RCD, Main Street, and Space to Create. The accomplishments included coordination of the Master Plan process in collaboration with the Town Planner, coordination of the Space to Create predevelopment with Art Space (non-profit builders), wayfinding signage implementation, coordination the downtown parking assessment, receiving a 5-year re-certification as a creative district from Colorado Creative Industries, collaboration in establishing the Colorado Creative Corridor; organizing six community events, professional and volunteer development via trainings, and successful collaboration with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce.

Silbert noted that funding is received through the Department of Local Affairs and Main Street America but community support and involvement is essential for success. She informed the Council that in 2018 1,659 volunteer hours were tracked which equates to a value of \$42,188. She also explained that the Creative District Committee has transitioned into an advocacy team in order to enable Creatives to achieve their goals and eliminate competition with the town.

The Ridgway Main Street 2019 Work Plan Draft encompasses developing an inviting, thriving downtown community and retail environment through six objectives that include reimagining Ridgway's east gateway in collaboration with the Ridgway Area Chamber, implementing recommendations from the 2018 Downtown Parking Assessment, promoting the Colorado Creative Corridor, developing/implementing a communications strategy to better inform citizens,

communication with businesses in conjunction with the Chamber about potential benefits of business license requirement and applying for a Graduate Main Street status. The second strategy to develop models that inspire desired downtown housing and economic development are anticipated to through two objectives: achieve scope of work for the Ridgway Space to Create pre-development phase, and by participating in the completion of the Master Plan process and implementation.

CAT members Betsy Baier, Brenda Ratcliff, Amanda Gabrielson and Joan Chismire participated in the discussion. They explained the advocacy role with businesses, the Moonwalk, Heritage Days, First Fridays, Noel Night, and other community events. Chairperson Betsy Baier described the success of the Creative Corridor which advertises what Ridgway has to offer along with four other state certified creative districts. Co-Chair Brenda Ratliff explained the how owner of the Tree House located on Clinton Street has allowed the CATs to use the facility for many successful events such as First Fridays, art exhibits, outreach and meetings.

There were questions and comments by the Council during the presentation. There was agreement with the direction and objectives of the Ridgway Creative District.

#### ADJORNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Christian  
Deputy Clerk