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# VISION AND GOALS SURVEY AND STUDENT OUTREACH

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY**

**NOVEMBER 2018 – JANUARY 2019**

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## ABOUT THIS SUMMARY

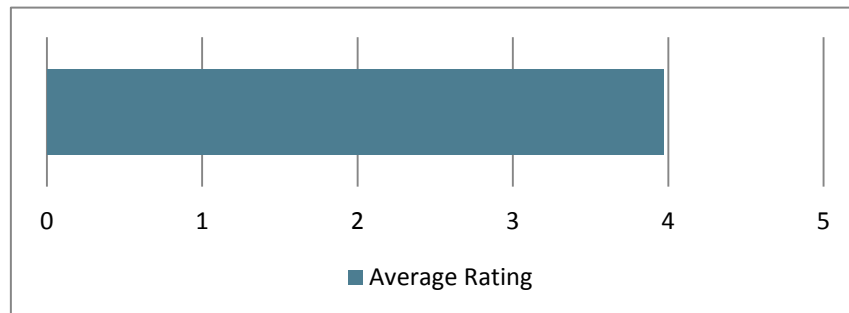
In June 2018, the Town of Ridgway launched a year-long effort to update and consolidate the Town’s Master Plan. A master plan is a community’s primary long-term planning document, defining the community’s big picture vision for the future and presenting a road map for achieving that vision. To help establish this big picture vision, the Town had engaged the community through the following efforts to help refine the preliminary vision and goals for the community’s updated Master Plan:

- **Vision and Goals Survey.** An online survey was conducted between November and December 2018 to seek input on the preliminary vision, values, and goals of the updated Master Plan. Respondents were asked to rank the vision and the goals for each of the five community values on a scale of “1 - not well at all” to “5 – very well”, and to provide comments and suggestions for improving the vision and goals. Over 200 people responded to the survey.
- **High School Student Outreach.** Town staff met with a class from Ridgway High School to have an open discussion about the preliminary vision, values, and goals of the updated Master Plan. Students were asked to vote on which community value was most important to them, and to provide specific input on improving the vision and goals.

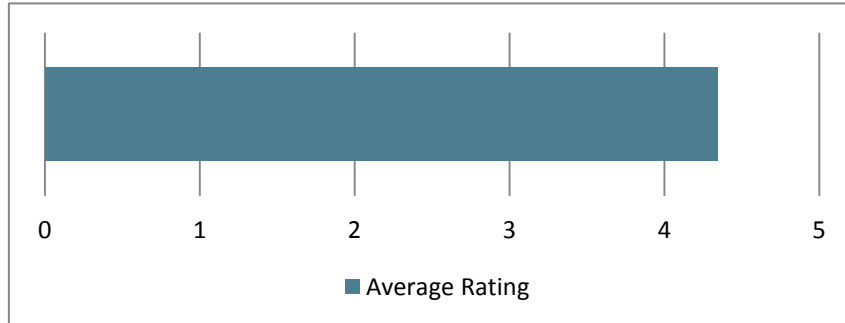
Both the polling results and detailed comments from the online survey and high school student outreach effort are provided below.

### POLLING RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

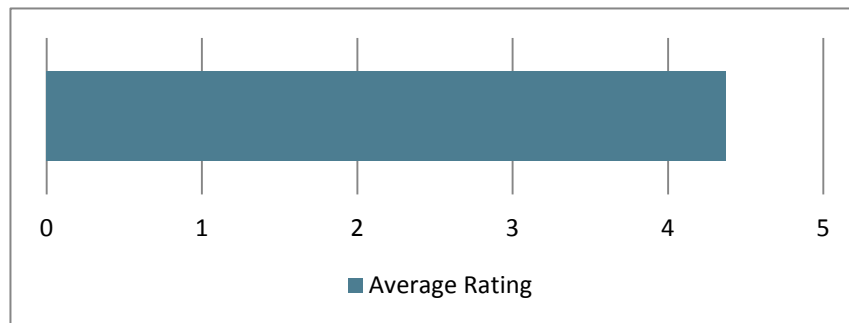
#### 1) How well does the proposed vision align with your own vision for Ridgway?



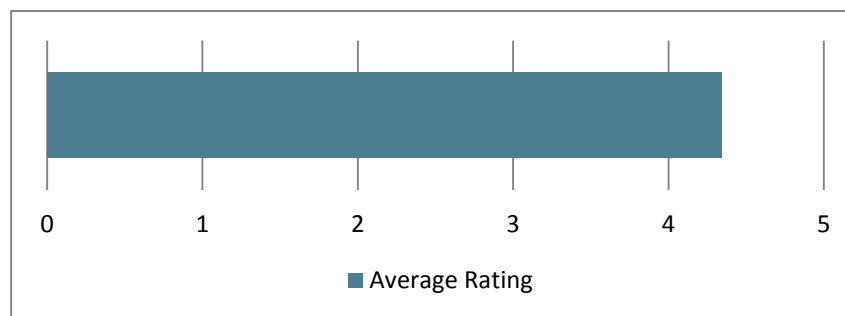
**2) How well does “Community Value 1: Healthy Natural Environment” and its associated goals align with your own values and goals for the Ridgway community?**



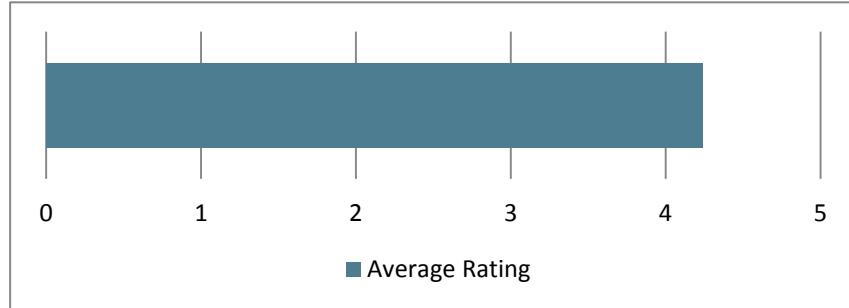
**3) How well does “Community Value 2: Sense of Community and Inclusivity” and its associated goals align with your own values and goals for the Ridgway community?**



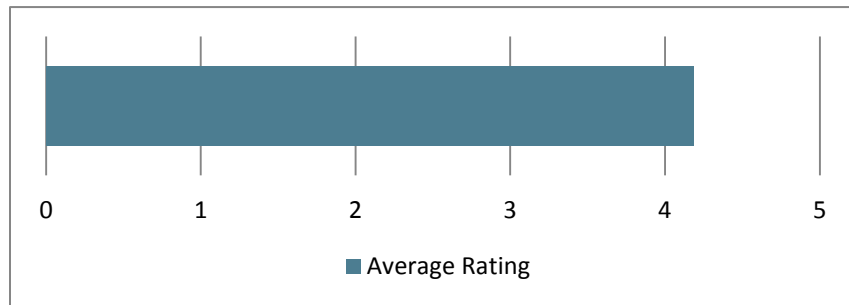
**4) How well does “Community Value 3: Small Town Character and Identity” and its associated goals align with your own values and goals for the Ridgway community?**



**5) How well does “Community Value 4: Vibrant and Balanced Economy” and its associated goals align with your own values and goals for the Ridgway community?**



**6) How well does “Community Value 5: Well-Managed Growth” and its associated goals align with your own values and goals for the Ridgway community?**



## DETAILED COMMENTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

**Please use the space below to share any additional feedback you have on the proposed Master Plan vision.**

### WORDING SUGGESTIONS

- Nice first and last sentence. I am not sure the value/purpose of the 2nd sentence: "We are diverse in age, background, and economic means." What is that trying to convey - and is it needed? I love the learning and outdoors. Not sure it makes sense to mention ranching and railroads specifically - and creative cultures is likely new. How about - we are diverse but share a deep connection to the outdoors, the lifelong pursuit of learning, the joys of creativity, and our western heritage.
- Being a vision statement, where we want to go/be, why not make this in future tense?- "Ridgway wants to be.....". "..... a small rural town with beyond average amenities but in close proximity to services found in cities or ski areas. etc.,....."
- It is currently too wordy. I liked prior versions of the vision better than the current. I would delete, "situated in a beautiful mountain valley" and just say it's a small mountain town. I would delete the second sentence entirely and change the third to read, "We share a deep connection to the outdoors, lifelong learning, and our western heritage."
- Too long! What made Ridgway charming is it's rich history, beautiful location...not the recent creative steel red and orange benches, paved roads, and modern art
- It seems odd to include the phrase "in a beautiful mountain valley" in the vision statement. That we live in a beautiful mountain valley is a statement of fact, not a vision to which we aspire. I'd suggest leaving that out. Also, I don't quite know what our "railroad culture" is other than the reason for our birth, and a cool museum. Is that enough to make it a part of our vision?
- A little wordier than it needs to be. I think the original was fine
- I believe it's too long and cumbersome. It captures much that seems to describe Ridgway, however.
- Leave out the words "small" and "beautiful". These adjectives are unnecessary and rob the statement of power.
- I would love to also hear more about a sustainable place for families in the vision
- The part about being economically and ecologically sustainable is a platitude. what is the evidence for that?
- Add inclusion of all
- Not sure the railroad fits in that is clearly in the past.
- Historical rather than railroad?
- While the vision is where we want to be, it is not reflective of our current environment. I would like to ensure that the Master plan works to meet that vision.

- As expensive as Ridgway is, I would question the accuracy of diversity in economic means. Also, instead of describing what we ARE diverse in, how about what we ASPIRE to be diverse in, including people from different cultures. Now that I read it again, the whole thing(except the last sentence) sounds like a description of what we already are rather than a vision of what we would like to be going into the future.
- Stronger statement about impulsivity would be good.
- I am having a problem with the inclusion of "railroad culture" being included with ranching and creative cultures. The only railroad culture I see is an avid group of train preservationists, which has little impact on the direction of the town going forward. It is a novelty. Ranching, on the other hand, is an active and important part of our past and present, and should be acknowledged and preserved.
- I think it would be more powerful and retain the same meaning as follows: Ridgway is a vibrant, welcoming, and close-knit town in a beautiful mountain valley. While our community is diverse in many ways, we share a deep connection to the outdoors, respect for the area's history, and commitment to lifelong learning and creative expression as well as economic and ecological sustainability.

#### **ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**

- Preserve dark skies and get IDA recognition.
- Promote via town sponsored education and support for the official certification of Ridgway as a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). This would insure long term protection and balanced management of Ridgway's view of the stary night sky as the town grows and adds public and private lighting infrastructure.
- Not a Ridgway resident (Wilson Mesa)...but we're often in Ridgway, and certainly would like to see the dark skies preserved.
- I think the term "sustainable" might be a good addition
- I think we need to emphasize our commitment to ENVIRONMENTAL sustainability (not ecology which is branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings). I think we should also reference sustainability with regard to waste, water and environmental protections.
- I agree whole heartedly with Howard Greene's feedback. "Please include the following in the master plan vision. I believe you currently have "Continue to prioritize efforts to reduce light pollution and enhance the appearance of the night sky " in the Healthy Environment goals. Please add the following sentences: "Promote the official certification of Ridgway as a dark sky community by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). This would insure long term protection of Ridgway's clear view of the night's stars as the town grows."
- We are mindful that we live in the wildland/urban interface during a period in increased wildfire threat.

- Please include the following in the master plan vision. I believe you currently have “Continue to prioritize efforts to reduce light pollution and enhance the appearance of the night sky ”in the Healthy Environment goals. Please add the following sentences: “Promote the official certification of Ridgway as a dark sky community by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). This would insure long term protection of Ridgway’s clear view of the night’s stars as the town grows.”

### **ECONOMY**

- Economically sustainable shouldn't mean unbridled development.
- In order to be economically sustainable, I would envision a larger town, which is not what I'm hoping for. I'm not sure that RW can be economically sustainable and also retain its character.
- In order to be economically stable, we have to have more snow days

### **AFFORDABLE/WORKFORCE HOUSING**

- I really think we should make things less pricey rather than focusing on a big project. I know a lot of people, including myself, that struggle deeply living here due to the prices of things.
- I'm really down for more affordable housing and a happy clean town. Affordable housing needs to be one of the top priorities
- Keeping it a community where those who contribute directly to this community can actually afford to live here.
- There is a disconnect of employees of the town of Ridgeway since most of the employees live somewhere else. The same thing is happening with short term rentals bringing in people who just use Ridgeway and leave. i.e. don't know or even care about ordinances put in place. I doubt the town council or marshal employees have read the ordinances that are on the books. The town board makes new ordinances all the time but nobody to enforce them. Too many sweetheart deals made by the town government by a select group of people. Not enough participation from the people because they don't want to sit a long overdrawn meetings. The art community ought to stand on their own without government subsidies. Too much tax dollars going into administration costs building up town government which should be used to build housing for teachers and town employees.
- From my perspective as a regular Town resident, it appears that much of the Town government efforts go toward exterior promotion of the Town for outside interests (good but expensive farmers market, big Thursday concerts that are no longer for the townfolk, but for tourism, Awards, Districts, and Recognitions. I understand that these things are fabulous to promote Ridgway. The other side of the sword is that this town is already a wonderful place to live IF you can afford it. Normal folks can't anymore and that is a real disservice to the future of our community. Honestly, I would be in favor of a 10- story tall Soviet Bloc style project if that's what it took to get normal living units for non-millionaires.

### **RANCHING/RAILROAD/CREATIVE CULTURE**

- I think ranching should come before railroad and creative cultures changed to creative arts district.
- Very happy that the ranching aspect is being included as an important part of the vision. The horses and cattle are what really make my hear sing in Ridgway!!!
- First off the "and our railroad, ranching" Needs to be fixed to "railroad, ranching, and creative
- Seems like a thriving arts community is more descriptive of contemporary Ridgway than railroading and ranching although that's our heritage

### **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT/SMALL TOWN CHARACTER**

- To preserve the qualities of Ridgway any plan needs to find ways to LIMIT AND SLOW growth while increasing quality of life.
- Growth is over promoted and too fast
- Growth is too fast. Too many signs, too much street lighting, too many benches, losing small town feel.
- Growth is inevitable; but, how do we do it and keep the small town feel? Very difficult. I think of Carbondale and Glenwood where I grew up. They did not do too well. Hopefully Ridgway can do better.
- not liking the "small town" designation
- You say that you want to preserve our "small town feeling" and our environment but you continue to plow over the open fields and build more and more housing developments
- Keep the 'small' in small town vision! Avoid government progressivism in economic development. Don't need hotels, motels, chain stores, and no government activism in ecological endeavors like banning plastic bags, or all plastic - ridiculous.

### **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

- Acknowledge the contribution of indigenous peoples, who were in this valley long before. Affordable housing ought to be a priority.
- Important to include elders, fixed incomes, etc.Original settlers,Native American.
- Please mention that this land of the shining mountains as they called it was the land of the Ute Indians before us.
- I would like to insert "indigenous" in the phrase ..."and our indigenous, railroad, ranching and creative cultures." So many people think our history starts with the railroad. The history of communities in this valley includes many indigenous people and a few - though not many - of our current residents have ties to tribal nations. Even if this aspect of our town is not highlighted/prominent now, I want it to become so with deliberate intention and actions.

### **DIVERSITY/INCLUSVITY**

- Family Friendly should be included somewhere



- Too many words. I would remove diverse in age, background and economic means
- I think the claim of diversity, while sounding lovely, isn't particularly true in 2018. Ridgway lacks diversity - particularly in terms of economic means and recognition thereof, considering the dearth of affordable housing and the myriad individuals commuting from Montrose (or commuting to Telluride) that cannot live here because of precisely that lack of economic diversity. Should it strive for it? Yes! Is it reasonable to declare it in 2018. Not at all.
- It is not welcoming, some people are, but the town itself needs to work on that inclusive piece
- Not sure that there is much diversity of income. Everything is fine.
- I'm not sure how diverse we are but it sounds good. (I'm being a bit sarcastic.)
- Ridgway is geographically suited to attract talented and value- driven people from everywhere, especially the outdoor oriented segment. Undoubtedly, it draws young people and families from the progressive community but, also, many conservatively thinking retirees who live outside of the town limits but who see and appreciate Ridgway as "their town." The recent Streetscape work and establishment of a vibrant downtown captures the vibrant spirit that the current generation enjoys. It now remains only for Ridgway to come up with an innovative plan that enables young people to be able to actually afford to live there. This means affordable housing, which no doubt, has to be subsidized.

#### **ECONOMY**

- Proposing the Chambers plan of having events in town every weekend of the summer has a negative impact on the permanent residents.
- Attract a well diverse creative businesses
- I'm not sure we will ever be economically sustainable, not enough population and the current regulatory environment prevents growth.
- I did not move to Ridgway to be able to enjoy city conveniences; we already have a Mile High City offering that and more.

#### **YOUTH/EDUCATION**

- I would have liked to see some mention of our wonderful school and our thoughts on education and meeting the needs of our children
- Still looking for places for teens and early childcare

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

- I feel strongly that support of the creative arts should be in the community values.

#### **OTHER**

- It is great the only thing that sometimes its hard to socialize when you haven't been there your whole life and there is not a lot to do.
- The people of Ridgway are being hoodwinked by their county commissioners.
- I like that we have 4 different breaks in order to break up the school year and have something to look forward too.

- I have no idea. Couldn't find the Master Plan vision document
- Proceed with caution
- We intend to protect the unique qualities of the area from encroaching development by property owners.
- I think to minimize students stress levels, teachers should communicate to each other for test dates that way every 5 weeks, we don't have 5 tests in one day and don't have time to study for all of them.
- Protect local heritage against grand "progressive" promises.
- very good
- I think it is a beautiful idea. Keep up the good work!
- Welcoming if you are a socialist, progressive or willing to let government run your life.
- It would be nice to pave the side streets in town. The dust in the summer is very bad once the mag chloride wears off.
- I feel that hiking, bike riding, cross country skiing and other active pursuits deserve higher emphasis and railroad a little less emphasis (more of a historical importance)
- There's actually very little economic or cultural diversity. Ridgway (along with Ouray, Montrose, Telluride) is an extremely aging, Caucasian, homogenized demographic.
- As far as owning a home you cannot consider our town to be diverse in economic means.
- idrc
- I dont know

**Please share any additional feedback you have on the community values and goals.**

**GENERAL SUPPORT**

- A few things I don't personally agree with, but not enough details to tell much yet. Overall really good.
- Nice job!
- This is great work. Thank you for taking the time to do it and asking for input.
- Thank you for all of your work putting together a well-crafted and progressive vision for our wonderful town.
- Thanks for your work on this plan. Well done!
- This is well done!
- basically, I think the values and goals are very appropriate; I just think some of the wording and grammar could be improved.
- Deep gratitude to all that have given their time and talents to the Master Plan. Thank you.

## **MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION**

- Please consider a transportation goal to provide both a roundabout at the “gateway” to Ridgway where vehicles travel on 550 at County Road 24 with a max speed of 45 mph into Ridgway.
- Keep Ridgway pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Expanding river corridor public access is very important.
- Make Ridgway a more walkable/bikeable town!
- Increased traffic (Montrose-Telluride) is a concern for the safety of our residents, the environment (water, air, noise, wildlife) and the quality of life in Ridgway. Increased traffic will negatively impact many of our Community Values and Goals. How does the Town plan to address this current and future issue?
- not sure we need the "parking resources" comment in the last Goal

## **ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**

- Also, consider lobbying for funds to create wildlife under or over passes on 550. This will reduce wildlife death and injury while also making 550 safer to travel (especially at night). Thanks to everyone who has worked to establish values and priorities for our lovely community.
- Please add goals to address management of impact to Ridgway’s dark sky by adhering to international Dark Sky criteria. I am concerned that Ridgway currently has no adopted plan goals, etc. to mitigate light pollution due to growth.
- The only thing I would like to add, is the preservation of our night skies in the town of Ridgway. I have been very proud of our night skies as I have had friends and family that live in big cities come to visit. Every one of them commented on how amazing it was to see the stars at night within the town; and how they hadn't seen the stars at night back home because of the light pollution. It is truly a unique feature of this town and I would hate to see it lost as the town of Ridgway continues to grow.
- One of our most precious natural resources are the dark skies. It adds to residents’ quality of life and is or could be a big draw for tourism. We should continue efforts to become a certified dark sky town. Regarding affordable housing and economic development, diversity and sustainability, government regulation and procedures need to be sensitive and flexible and not restrictive or discouraging of such growth. Regarding protection of natural resources, scenic views, and access to them, this must be balanced against individuals’ property rights and enjoyment and use of their private lands and homesteads. Again, government regulations should not be too restrictive or financially onerous to individual landowners or depend on minority, subjective judgment to determine compliance or enforcement.
- Under CV#5 Well Managed Growth - Please address the concern of growth in light pollution by adding "Goal GRO-6 Use International Dark Sky Criteria to balance growth of exterior lighting to mitigate impacts to Ridgway's small town character and dark starry sky". (Growth in Ridgway's light pollution impacts surrounding area for people and wildlife)

as well as the immediate Town) Please add Goal Env-6: Promote IDA criteria to guide the management of Ridgway's growth in public and private lighting infrastructure

- Please work on the Dark Sky regulations for Ridgway so that Ridgway's regulations are in line with the International Dark Sky Associations' regulations.
- Regarding the natural environment, it's critical to preserve the night sky. Ridgway's efforts to become certified as a Dark Sky Community is very important.

## **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

- I like where we are headed with this. Managed growth!
- I think we should strive to be unique and an inspiration to other smaller towns.
- As a former Ridgway (Pleasant Valley) land owner, we've been both impressed and, occasionally, distressed at the (probably inevitable) "gentrification" of the community (a lot we bought for \$35K in 1987 now has a \$9 million "McMansion" on it). We'd hope the affordable small town nature of Ridgway might be preserved to the greatest possible extent.
- i think we should add a 90's style diner to the small town of Ridgway.
- Please please please do not replace the beautiful open pastures with neighborhoods made of cheaply built houses! This is my main concern as we head towards growth.
- Structures in Ridgway need to meet upgraded fire standards, i.e. Class A roof, fire resistant siding etc
- Ridgway will always be challenged by the possibility of population growth. As we were, people are drawn to an area that provides access to natural beauty. Readdressing community values and goals will help to prevent the problems other mountain towns have.
- Too much development. Ridgway has lost its unique rural character. Government has failed the environment and the people.
- Maintain and restrict residential development so as to prevent large subdivisions. Also allow for some low end housing in restricted areas for workers
- Ridgway is not Santa Monica CA or Boulder or Telluride. We shouldn't be trying to keep up with them. What's with all the signs being put up. Some have become traffic hazards, you can't see around them. Who's spending all this money are some ugly art that doesn't reflect Ridgway like on the bridge over the river. Bad decisions are being made by few with the authority. 16 foot sidewalks I've found out are great for parking motorcycles on and cluttered with tables. There are people making decisions on the way the town is going that haven't lived here long enough to know the real Ridgway.
- I don't want us to grow that big.
- Goals: -Ensure that Growth Pays Its Own Way -Keep formula businesses (i.e. big corporate chain businesses) out of Ridgway -- this can be done legally, as seen in other communities around the country.

- I strongly encourage architectural guidelines and restrictions for all residential, commercial and infrastructure projects, including additions. We also need to amp up enforcement of current ordinances pertinent to existing properties and residences cluttered with junk. Part of responsible growth and maintaining the essence of our town is the assurance that we are dedicated to quality that includes tastefully designed projects, including new residences, businesses, recreation facilities and affordable housing.
- Some of the goals cannot likely be attainable without good broadband.
- With water restrictions on existing residents this summer, I am concerned that future building permits are given out too freely.
- Any Development should in-fill the town core. No to urban sprawl.
- Wholly inorganic growth, as a practical matter, will mean no growth at all. Micro-management will choke off all growth.
- Address the need for zoning for group living facilities (for the elderly and I/DD populations) that is inclusive and not in industrial, high traffic areas.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP**

- Your survey states you want more public involvement in the planning. I suggest you reach out to the public to find those who have not been involved directly to this point. Committees I've seen working on the town's planning seem to be made up of primarily people who are already involved in town planning and management. Be diverse as you've stated in this survey and request those people who are not currently involved to get involved. Make sure this message gets out to everyone and not via only the newspaper, or the town's website.
- Finally, strong leadership of the Town should not rely essentially on volunteers who are expected to devote substantial hours of time without compensation. This leads to lack of volunteers, leaders who quit mid-term, or leadership among a handful who by default remain in office for many years without fresh new eyes, energy, and ideas contributing to Town leadership. While compensation should not be such that people seek appointment or election primarily for financial reasons, it should be enough to encourage volunteers to run for office, stay in office, and attract a larger pool of diverse individuals willing to seriously and enthusiastically lead this town.
- Unfortunately, there is a vast population that has not participated in these surveys. If 300 town residents participate, what population is not participating? Are you able to reach those not participating? Not everyone has the time, bandwidth, or ability to meet and give input.

#### **EDUCATION/YOUTH/TEACHERS**

- I think the community should be more involved with the school community such as coming to sporting events and maybe having community bonding at the school so the older generations can connect more and understand more of what these young kids would

rather have them do. And for me that is supporting the schools athletes and not just caring about academics, sometimes sports are the only thing that keeps a kids grades up

- The community could show more support to academics and athletics.
- I'm looking for something about local education, our schools, our students and teachers. I know municipalities often leave this to the state and county but you really need to engage in this responsibility. I would put it ahead of at least half of the other points in this survey
- I like everything that is proposed. My biggest concern is how the state won't increase education funding. I think a mill levy needs to happen in the near future. Ridgway's teacher salaries are not on par with the expensive cost of living. Telluride's teachers start out making \$8,265 more than Ridgway's and they offer affordable housing in the town while we do not. It's not sustainable for teachers, especially young ones to see out their careers here.
- Ridgway Elementary School could be a good place teach young people about the town they live in and the community to which we all belong. If we can encourage the younger people in town to have a vested interest in their community this would be brilliant beginning.
- Please keep our families and the values of family protected by not allowing the government implementation of moral compass to be taught at our schools. Education on academics seems to be becoming more of a hindsight and more and more political and or/moral issues seem to be taking precedence. These items such as LGBT and transgenderism with a goal of equality should be left in a parents hands and in the medical profession, not to be mixed in with academics of a public school.
- Lifelong learning also needs to include more affordable options. So far most opportunities offered are hard on the pocketbook and inaccessible to many residents.

### **AFFORDABLE/WORKFORCE HOUSING**

- Help the teachers stay in Ridgway and not have to go to Montrose or somewhere else because of cost.
- Define with data (\$/sq. ft.), floor space, total cost the term "Affordable Housing". To date, the term has been virtually meaningless, except as a vague goal.
- Again, I fully agree with the values and goals listed; however, implementation is very difficult as you know. Low income housing is critical; but, how can it be accomplished without a ghetto feel? Growth of a community is a 2 edged sword as growth is supposedly good for the local economy; but, also usually means change in the community character. A difficult balance. Hopefully we will do the best we can in Ridgway.
- Affordable housing is an absolutely CRITICAL issue that must be addressed immediately. Whether it involves changing part of the code to allow an area of smaller homes and cheaper land to be developed for people who work in the community (maybe tie it to a "must be employed in Ouray County"), or something else, the absolutely insane cost of housing for public servants and service industry will destroy Ridgway and turn it into Aspen if something is not changed SOON.

- Need opportunities to build nice low-cost housing; allowing more than 2 units per lot would be desirable.
- Deed restricted affordable housing for year around residents providing key town services may be helpful as the town grows.
- More emphasis on the town structuring growth with affordable housing as a major component.
- Creating low cost housing that is not restricted to a Ridgway employed resident will be occupied by Telluride commuters. Private enterprise should be providing housing. Subsidized housing brings in subsidized people who continue to need subsidies. This is a bad idea that can negatively change the town character. You are setting up Ridgway to be Telluride's employee housing. Better is bus service from Montrose to Telluride.
- Do wonder where, if anywhere, mobile homes and/or manufactured housing might fit into affordable housing
- Find some way to allow tiny houses without becoming a trailer park.

### **ECONOMY/TOURISM**

- Encourage small businesses, that can offer year round full-time work, with less than 25 employees, to re-locate to Ridgway
- The Mountain Market prices are detrimental to the above goals. I only shop there when I need one or two items and haven't the time or energy to go to Montrose (once per month is about average). I doubt that most families in Ridgway can afford to shop there. It seems that a grocery store that actually services the residents of Ridgway (as opposed to taking advantage of the tourists in a Telluride sort of way) would be a great way to help Ridgway to be a more independent and diverse community. Even if prices were slightly higher than those of Montrose, I would want to support a local grocery store. As it is now, I have no allegiance to the Mountain Market.
- We need to focus on encouraging business and industries that can provide good paying year-round jobs. The "seasonality" of our economy continues to take its toll, especially on younger working families, and prevents many from setting down "roots" here.
- Ridgway has to envelop diversity and be able to accept people of all means. It also needs to develop the concept of being a niche community which can attract people who can and wish to come to Ridgway to shop, dine and play: IE those who will spend money here and support local small business.
- I don't object to the language that revolves around or "vibrant economy" or "managing growth." But it is a hollow pursuit if Ridgway and Ouray County does not restrict and inhibit promotions for itself. This means not funding, and discouraging, any entities that try to get more people to visit here and to move here.
- I don't know if I agree with the statement that Ridgway is "somewhat dependent on tourism". Do we have data to support this? I would say we are dependent on tourism. Just look at our fluctuation between Summer versus October/November. Small businesses

cannot survive unless we recognize the connection between a sustainable tourism industry and give it the value it deserves.

- Need to find opportunities to market town to diversified employers and industries...not just roll out the red carpet for the marijuana industry in town and county. The long term negative impact of becoming the silicon valley of marijuana grows will negatively impact Ridgway as a destination for families...unless supporting the marijuana industry is desired prereq for moving to our town. With the 550 signage viewed as one enters from the north, it certainly could appear that we are the gateway to ganja rather than to the San Juans.
- Get an affordable grocery store
- I feel we must be careful and limit additional expansion of marijuana industries in Ridgway to maintain a truly diversified economy. Adding a winter shuttle to Telluride may provide additional winter business to lodging and restaurants in the winter.
- Value 1, Goal 5 - the word "vibrant" (as in a vibrant forest or ecosystem) should be replaced with "resilient."

#### **SUSTAINABILITY**

- Continue to support or further encourage the adoption of renewable energy and electric vehicles
- it would be awesome if we were more sustainable
- I think sustainability, environmental protections and mitigation of climate change need to be a sub-heading.
- With global warming, water supply will be a major factor. Also, unpaved town streets are extremely unhealthy, and will become more so with increased traffic and more frequent droughts.

#### **RECREATION**

- Ouray county commissioners are selling out historic recreational opportunities. Is this 'payola'? Sure seems so to many in Ridgway and the rest of the county.
- A goal supporting Ridgway as an outdoor recreation destination
- The Master plan is lacking plans for indoor recreational facilities, e.g., Recreational Center, including pool.
- Please keep the bathrooms at the athletic field open year-round for the pickleball players and the dog walkers. We have generally 5-10 players 3X's a week that need the restroom. A simple heater could be added.
- Additional mountain biking resources could provide significant economic growth given the success and reputation of the current RAT trails.

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

- Creative industries/innovation are not the same as arts and culture. Arts and culture have been driving interest in this area in recent years. Support of organizations that support,



program and offer creative arts and culture programs are essential to the economy -- as much as creative industry/innovation.

- More emphasis on supporting arts and culture rather than creative industry. It is important to say "arts and culture" rather than creative industry when that's what the citizens value. I know creative industry is the buzz ... but that's not really what I am hearing citizens value. They value the emphasis on arts and culture, so you should say that rather than using state buzz words.
- Please please stop with all the contemporary art! Money would be more wisely spent on maintaining our rustic charm and natural surroundings. Stop pouring concrete and adding metal sculptures!!
- I'm wary of the creation of "special class status" for the "Creatives" so prominently-embraced in the planning process. While I value and appreciate the contributions of those who create -- whether artists, artisans, or entrepreneurs -- I believe we should not carve out special status for them, especially with respect to housing and working spaces. We have so many who contribute to our community in their daily work -- regular, wage-earning employees. They provide the valuable services that keep a community running, and they must compete in a very tight housing market in order to live and raise families here. They should be able to live in the community in which they work.
- I think too much emphasis has been put on supporting "the Creatives", especially with respect to affordable housing and other support for artists who do not intend to "put down roots" here and thrive on their own.

#### **AGRICULTURE/RANCHING**

- The words ranching and agriculture barely appeared in this survey. To me they are still a big part of our community.
- I don't think there is a need to preserve the cultural appearance Ridgway has with ranching and farming. I think this could get in the way of future development as a town
- Comm Value 2 lists Aging in Place as a value - yet it was not in the goals and I think it should be. Comm Value 3 - I don't agree with the order of the goals.
- Value#4 - verbalize, in a goal, that we will encourage all future business endeavors that emphasize year around, accretive, living wage employment outside of the tourism trade to balance our economic "picture". People who need one hand out to exist need a second and then another. You are setting up to attract the wrong people. Are there any conservatives on the town council?? If not, your thinking gets lopsided. The goals you pronounce sound good but your main activity, low cost housing works against most of them.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

- It would be nice to convert the tax-supported medical clinic to a Federal Health Clinic that would provide care to all regardless of ability to pay. We might be able to open a satellite of the Norwood FHC if we express interest and work toward that goal.

- I hope Ridgway is ahead of the game on making sure our utilities can manage growth, and hope we can focus on land conservation and outdoor recreation industry
- broadband is a must
- High speed Internet connections would be most welcome in our little town!
- High speed internet is key to a robust and varied economy.
- Ridgway needs better internet connectivity. Higher speeds and better reliability to enable to telecommute for their jobs and for local business to thrive.
- Value#5 - Because water was added besides letting it ride under infrastructure, I think that "waste treatment" needs to be added to the list under "objectives with regard to:". Also in this section I think we need reference to getting and keeping current a Needs Assessment with enough data included that intelligent decisions can be made by the residents and their representatives.
- While I see planning for growth, I do not see anything about increasing the water supply. What does "protecting our water resources" mean? Current water law is quite clear, do you plan on changing it to allow taking of prime water rights away from agricultural uses for municipal? If so say it.
- My intuition is that water resources is a big issue. Time for creative think and long term planning!

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

- I like the community values and goals. I just don't see the town government doing it. Everything seems to be about excessive growth and tourism.
- I feel your goals for all of these issues are spot on, but the proof will be in the implementation.
- It's a great plan overall. The issue is executing it!

## **COMMUNITY/INCLUSIVITY**

- Also, I like emphasizing "small town character" but don't think we have to emphasize being a small town or remaining a small town. I think we can grow responsibly and become a medium-sized town with many areas well connected by multimodal transportation corridors and buffered by open space.
- See diverse ages but not much on what to do with our elderly. Have you ever seen a person with a walker try to cross a gravel street? It is not easy. How are you going to attract senior care facilities? I also see that the plan for growth is coupled with what appears to be massive government control. Why?
- More people of color would be most welcome in our little town!
- Value#2 - add a goal that endorses actions/policy that favor residents over second home owners.

## **REGIONAL COORDINATION**

- Value#1 needs a goal that mandates that the town be involved and weigh in on Ouray County policy/decisions. Act as though we are active members of the county.
- I would like to see a little bit more in each of the values and goals sections that reflects the reality that Ridgway is part of a larger community, that of Ouray County, and the San Juan mountains. In fact it is now the largest municipality, and as such has a major voice as representative of its constituents concerns within the region and as an economic power and driver for the direction of our entire region.

## **OTHER**

- it is a good community and everyone is nice and they are all good
- the need to insert mention of indigenous presence both past and present and my desire to include that connection with indigenous cultures in our Master Plan and the emphasis related to managed growth and economic development that new economies NOT impact our community's human or ecological health or scenic beauty (i.e. that future business development be non-polluting and not have a negative effect on visual beauty.
- You mention Public Safety once. Non-residents believe it is a crime free community, residents know otherwise.
- I would love to see the town be cleaned up. Get rid of the debris that is in some of the vacant lots along 62.
- Resisting property owners, who would not recognize the Commons if they stumbled into it, is essential for preserving access to many of our special places. The definition of property rights cannot be left to a few property owners and demands to encroach on the Commons must be resisted.
- idc
- I'm not sure
- it good
- In keeping with our connection to the outdoors and wild spaces, I find myself thinking of the CR 5 access issue. I realize this is county vs. town, but to me it is a travesty that it can not be worked out to benefit both landowners and continuing community recreational access up OUR CR to OUR National Forest. I think we should do all we can to ensure we do not have issues like this in the future that benefit one group to the primary exclusion of others from what are indeed public resources. I also think we should exert whatever influence we can to rectify this specific situation to the satisfaction of all involved.
- These sound like great goals for ANY community and don't seem particularly meaningful for Ridgway or Ouray County. I think reflecting on where Ridgway stands regarding these proposed values currently would be far more beneficial than any amount of wrangling spent on their language or a goal-setting process. (I'm sure Ridgway has set many similar goals in the past - reflecting on those goals would be far more helpful.)

- Conservation; Toll roads?! Really?! I bought into the area because I wanted the country feel, gravel roads and all. Not paved/toll roads. 2. Global warming is predicated on false/biased science. Practice conservation versus prohibitive "preservation." 3. Diversity; the underlining theme of this survey reflects Social-engineering progressivism. Not the governments role to be involved in social-engineering diversity! 4. Economics; Don't want government 'creating' anything! Let free market forces of demand, supply, and price drive our economy. We don't need the distorting intervention of government upsetting these economic forces. 5. Well managed growth; Supporting diverse community is again government involved in social-engineering. Not your responsibility. Nor is 'creating' employment opportunities. Again, leave that up to the efficiency of free market movement. 6. My takeaway of this biased survey is to condone government forced control of global warming hysteria, progressivism, subsidized economy and markets, and social-engineering towards cultural diversity. Not governments place.
- Slow down.
- Those goals are great. They are really great for nimby-ass millionaires. There are a lot of missing goals to add to those listed for the middle class. Oh, I guess we'll just move to Montrose, bye!
- I laud the many goals laid out for Ridgway's growth. I am always a little wary of too much government directed social engineering. Who knows what the future will bring to Ridgway? We should always be open-minded to considering all possibilities that will enhance the well-being and quality of life and make Ridgway a dynamic and desirable place for people to relocate. I like to maintain affordability and encourage a thriving and diverse community, but I do not want to be a place that becomes hostile to people who are economically successful. Besides adding to property values, they can help businesses to thrive and may provide entrepreneurial know-how to add jobs and opportunities. Thank you for seeking our opinions!
- I think given the population of Ridgway will ONLY grow by 150 to 700 people in the next 30 years (and most of those people will probably be of the wealthy, white, aging demographic who are very narrowly minded and walled inside their own social, cultural, economic and political bubbles—I think the “community values and goals” of this region will continue to be based on 20th century ideals... which failed, by the way. Real social and political change is radical and it comes from the younger generations. It certainly doesn't come from the aging baby boomer demographic who have had a tight hold on every institution, every political position, every decision that has been made over the past three decades, which has corporatized, cheapened and weakened our communities from coast to coast. Time for the younger generation to take back this country and begin fixing the mess that the boomers left everyone. This starts first and foremost at the local level!

## INPUT FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OUTREACH

### VISION

- Work toward more diversity of people here, especially young people in their 20's (college age group)
- Keep past culture and history a priority
- Like rustic mountain culture and sees it as more fitting for Ridgway than contemporary art style
- Improve racial diversity if possible, understanding that the state is not very diverse as a whole
- Affordable housing is critical for having diversity of people
- Asked what lifelong pursuit of learning really meant
- Asked what being economically and ecologically sustainable meant
- How do we contrast ourselves from Ouray and Telluride? What's our unique identity?

### HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT VALUE AND GOALS – 5 VOTED FOR THIS AS MOST IMPORTANT

- Likes “protect” the environment
- Asked about what it meant to “restore natural habitats”

### SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND INCLUSIVITY VALUE AND GOALS – 4 VOTED ON THIS AS MOST IMPORTANT

- Want more opportunities for recreation, like an ice rink, or things that bring people together
- More night life options, like things open after 9pm!
- Want somewhere for kids to go that they want to go, like maybe if the library was open later
- Music and movies in the park are a great place for youth to hang out, so is the river during summer days (can some movies be for older kids, not just PG?)
- More coffee shops or bigger coffee shops to hang out in
- They did not feel like they know what's going on in the community, like Sherbino events—post at school, post on social media they use (not Facebook which “nobody” uses)
- They identified a lack of connection/communication between adults and kids as they don't hear about things happening unless their parents tell them
- Why does goal #2 say encourage, rather than provide? We discussed how the Town only has so much capacity to actually provide housing, like we are doing for Space to Create but how we can encourage other land owners/builders to build differently
- In goal #5, what does “community services” mean? Discussed examples of the many different kinds of community services

### SMALL TOWN CHARACTER AND IDENTITY VALUE AND GOALS – 3 VOTED ON THIS AS MOST IMPORTANT

- Develop art buyers' market so people can sell their art here instead of in Telluride

- Like that the roads are gravel (not paved, not loose) because they are nice for running
- Keep Ridgway at this level of tourism, or maybe just a bit more. There's a threshold where tourism becomes too much like they have observed in Telluride.
- Keep this the community place to live, not a tourist destination

**VIBRANT AND BALANCED ECONOMY VALUE AND GOALS – 1 VOTED ON THIS AS MOST IMPORTANT**

- Grow local businesses (Goal ECO-2) – this goal is very important, like having the staple places that serve locals
- Had identified housing as an important factor in this when we discussed “economically sustainable” in the vision

**WELL-MANAGED GROWTH VALUE AND GOALS – 1 VOTED ON THIS AS MOST IMPORTANT**

- Discussed how nearby farming/ranch land might be developed, and where the community may grow, there were concerns that the ranchers would not want to sell so we discussed how in certain circumstances they may want to sell (i.e.: the operators get too old and no one in the family wants to take over)
- Concerns expressed about parking—wanting to be able to drive to where they want to go and park wherever downtown easily, don't want to have the parking issues that Telluride and other mountain towns have