



# **Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team • (RCD CAT)** **Special Meeting Minutes**



*Ridgway Town Hall: 201 North Railroad Street*  
January 4, 2019 • 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

**C.A.T. Members:** Betsy Baier, Joan Chismire, Ninah Hunter, Brenda Ratcliff, Julia Reid, Paula Marlatt, Sue Lake, Diane Thompson; Staff: Diedra Silbert (notes)

- 1) Main purpose of this special meeting:** To continue to discuss and select the best ideas for the CCI Project and Technical Assistance grant application, following up on Dec. retreat discussion on the same topic.
- 2) Meeting Date Changes:** Due to a variety of factors, the January and February regularly scheduled meetings needed to be adjusted.
  - a) The Tuesday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting date was changed to Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, and its time was adjusted to 12:00 – 2:00pm at Town Hall.
  - b) The Tuesday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will stay on its normal date and adjust to from 12:00 – 2:00pm at Town Hall.
  - c) Diedra pointed out that RCD C.A.T. meetings are noticed by the Town, and it's best to keep them at their regularly scheduled days and times as a general rule.

### **3) Grant Ideas Reviewed**

The group listed the ideas that had been discussed at the retreat and reviewed which seemed feasible, “sticky” (hard to make happen quickly), time-intensive, etc., based on prior and current discussion:

- Public art/PARC priorities
- Sculptures/murals
- Story plaques
- Space to Create lot activation
- Adding to Alley Art
- Creative placemaking workshop
- Utility box wraps

### **4) Two Ideas Selected**

- a) **Space to Create Lot Activation** rose as the highest priority item. Diedra noted that she had checked with Artspace about doing something this year, prior to a 2020 groundbreaking, hopefully, and they seemed open to the timing of this. She mentioned that the core group would be meeting at the end of January and could discuss this further. Exploration continued about what an “activation event” might include:
  - Community potluck on the lot
  - Live music
  - A mural or other piece of art that could stay with the lot/building when it's built, created by the community or unveiled this day
  - Celebration atmosphere, with alcohol, if feasible
  - Some way to showcase our Creatives, like “Meet Ridgway's Creatives” – this led to an idea to create “boxes” (like mailboxes or “little libraries”) for Creatives on the lot prior to construction to provide information promoting what they offer. This idea needs additional development and may also need a call to artists to create it.
  - Brenda noted that people sometimes drive onto the sidewalk near Kate's to enter the lot and these “boxes” could close that off.

- Timing: prior potlucks had been in Aug. which is a bit late for the grant (but might be possible); July would be hard with concerts; June can be quite hot – August was preferred.
- A call to artists would certainly be needed soon for the work of art.

In response to a question about downtown parking and Space to Create, Diedra referred C.A.T.s to the 2018 Downtown Parking Assessment which can be found on the Town's website under the Resources/Documents tab, then Plans, Documents, and Studies, and finally under Town Studies and Reports. It contains much factual data about the availability of parking downtown. Diedra acknowledged that this has been a frequently asked question by the community, and this plan responded to that question well into the future.

- b) **Story plaques** emerged, as they had at the retreat as well, as a good idea for a quick timeline. Ten plaques might work with the budget left. The group discussed possible places to add plaques, such as to tell the story of the upcycled propane tank benches, the bollards, other benches. PARC sculptures and musical instruments were also suggested, and it was noted that this would need to be explored with PARC to see if that is an interest of theirs. The idea of placing animal tracks on sidewalks was also suggested. Diedra noted that excess signage is already a perception, and she wouldn't want plaques to add to this, so plaques will need to be placed carefully.
- c) Budget needed for both S2C lot activation and story plaques was estimated at \$17,500 but could be more—budget needs to be developed with harder numbers.
- d) River Walk art continued to be of interest, but it was unclear to the group who actually owns the property and how art placement could take place. Seemed “sticky” for a quick turnaround.
- e) Julia suggested an app be developed to give info about particular places of interest. Diedra said an app had been developed a couple years ago and was promoted in the community by Town and Chamber. It was an expensive process and only downloaded a couple hundred times. Now it's out of date and would cost more to update.
- f) Betsy suggested using the grant for technical assistance on partnering, since the RCD has been slow to move forward on a formal partnering process. Sue and Diedra will get together to review what was developed previously and bring the item to a C.A.T. meeting for further discussion. One piece mentioned was to make clear what benefits the RCD offers for groups, businesses, and individuals. Betsy was willing to make a list of organizations.

**5) C.A.T.s Agreed To Do the Following by Next Meeting:**

- a) Take photos of plaques in the community already and get prices – Joan
- b) Be plaque conscious. Look for aesthetics and places that could use a story – All
- c) Look for ideas for “boxes” to promote Creatives – All
- d) Ninah will send everyone a map that can be used to note potential plaque locations.

**6) Items for Next Agenda:** Film Fest and Healing Arts MoonWalk