



Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team (RCD C.A.T.)



Meeting Minutes

Ridgway Town Hall: 201 North Railroad Street

October 15, 2019

3:00 – 5:00 pm

C.A.T. members in attendance: *Betsy Baier, Joan Chismire, Julia Reid, Ninah Hunter, Paula Marlatt, Amanda Gabrielson, Diane Thompson, Jen Randolph; Staff: Diedra Silbert, Karen Christian (minutes)*

- 1) **Call to Order** - @3:10 p.m.
- 2) **Agenda Review** (additions or deletions) – Ridgway Old West Fest Debrief added to agenda item 6, Old Business.
- 3) **C.A.T. Prowl Review** (C.A.T. community participation) – The CATs recalled 9 events in the area without using a prepared list. There were 10 attending, 11 participants and 9 volunteers.
- 4) **Approval of 9/17 Minutes*** - approved via consensus
- 5) **Membership:** Resignation of Jen Randolph - Jen submitted her resignation on September 29, with an effective date of November 1. Jen would like to continue to help out the CATs and coined the term “kitten” as a new category for volunteers. Diedra said that this may be a subject for discussion at the annual retreat. The CATs regrettably accepted Jen’s resignation.
- 6) **Old Business**
 - a) Ridgway Old West Fest Event Debrief – Joan reported that the Ranch History Museum was very busy, the V.I.P. reception was well received with about 65 people in attendance, Bob De Julio’s chat about painting the outside of the buildings was also well received with a fully packed house. Approximately 50 people attended the chuck wagon dinner. The art gallery, merchandise sales, train rides and silent auction were successful as well.

Amanda reported that approximately 500 people attended the event at the ranch she manages throughout the weekend and approximately 125 people participated in the 10k race. Amanda commented “True Grit” has a following of people to this day and spoke with visitors from 30 different states that specifically came to Ridgway for this event.

Julia commented she received a lot of good feedback from people who listened to the flute circle. Diedra said the Native American speaker event was also well attended.

Ninah assisted Debby Campbell with the concert and V.I.P. tours. Approximately 55 people (almost all from out of state) attended the Sunday morning event.

Betsy reported on the successful look-alike contest, noting the winner recently was married in the buckskin clothes he wore for the contest!
 - b) Unveiling Event Update – 10/27 – Betsy said the event will start at 1:00 p.m. and asked everyone to arrive at 12:15 p.m. for setup. She noted that Crumb Bakery and Café will cater the event (after restaurants were offered an opportunity to participate but did not give quotes), Roberta & Tommy Nowlin will provide music. Artist Jimmy Descant will provide parts used in his art work for the tables. A “guess-what-the-part-is” contest will be held, and the winners will receive prizes made by local artisans. Diedra will assemble a list of talking points about Space to Create to help CATS feel more comfortable talking about it, though questions beyond the talking points need to be fielded by Diedra.
 - c) Film Festival Update- 11/8-9 – Amanda reported the finalists participating in the Film Fest have been selected and informed. 65 films were submitted, 13 are selected for each night and the committee is in the final stages of preparations. Brenda is coordinating the flyers and banners. Diedra asked if anyone could house out-of-town film makers.
 - d) First Fridays Review – Deferred to next meeting due to Brenda’s absence

e) Ridgway Old West Fest Western Art Show Review - Paula reported the art show was a success with 24 works shown. Approximately 200 people attended the event throughout the weekend. 115 votes were cast for the Peoples' Choice Award, and the same person who won that award won the Artists' Choice Award (Elizabeth Kinahan from Durango). Diedra commented that a youth award should be considered for next year.

f) Liaisons to Community - Julia commented that she had spoken with Jenn Dewey, the owner of Amulet Arts about First Fridays and feedback she has about it, including about signage. Julia will coordinate with Jenn Dewey to visit Amulet Arts for the December meeting. Diedra explained that, by State regulation, business signage cannot be posted on the highway by businesses not located on the highway, and the group touched on ideas for improving First Fridays' pedestrian traffic flow. The subject of First Friday improvements may be discussed further at the annual retreat, and it was suggested that a meeting be planned with businesses invited to discuss First Fridays. Brenda had also planned to send out a request for feedback from participating entities.

Amanda noted she has been in contact with the Colorado Boy Brewing Company, and Diane has been in contact with Eatery 66.

g) C.A.T. Retreat Planning - Brenda, Sue, Betsy and Diedra are the planning subgroup for the retreat. Betsy informed the group about tentative agenda topics which may include: September Tree House convening discussion, First Fridays, accomplishments, 2020 Work Plan, a celebration, a creative experience, "friends" of CATs (kittens), and membership. Betsy requested that CATs let her know of other topics.

h) C.A.T.s and RCD Calls* - Betsy recommended placing this on the annual retreat agenda.

7) **New Business** (none)

8) **2020 RCD Planning and Budget Discussion** - Diedra said the Town received a \$5,000 donation from the Boettcher Foundation to be used for maintaining excitement about Space to Create, likely to be used in 2020. She said the draft 2020 Work Plan and draft 2020 Budget have been submitted for approval. The CATs reviewed the 2019 RCD Work Plan compared to the 2020 Work Plan, and the goals pertaining to the Creative District from the Master Plan. Diedra encourage the CATs to review the Heritage Park/Visitor Center Master Plan on the Town's web site. She noted that 2020 Planning will be a topic for discussion at the retreat.

9) **Next RCD C.A.T. Meeting - Annual Retreat**

Tuesday, Nov. 19th, 3:00 - 7:00p, at Sue's house

10) **Announcements** - Paula announced she will be leaving CAT because she has purchased a business that is filling her time. Paula will submit a written resignation.

11) **Reflection on Meeting, Tasks, Next Agenda, and Parking Lot** - added *underutilized* to item 1 on the Parking Lot

12) **Adjourn** - @ 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Christian

Parking Lot

1. Activating underutilized spaces in the community (outside eyes tour)
2. Adding existing public art placements into the local Creative Corridor brochure/map
3. Bear paw representation to honor native heritage
4. Healing Arts Moon Walk
5. Outdoor Murals
6. Story Plaques
7. C.A.T. Schwag