



Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team • (RCD CAT)

Meeting Minutes



*Ridgway Town Hall: 201 North Railroad Street
January 21, 2020*

C.A.T. Members: Betsy Baier, Joan Chismire, Brenda Ratcliff, Julia Reid (via telecom), Ninah Hunter, Amanda Gabrielson, Diane Thompson; **Staff:** Diedra Silbert, Karen Christian (minutes); Town Manager Preston Neill attended later in the meeting

- 1) **Call to Order** - @3:06 p.m. by Betsy
- 2) **Agenda Review** (additions or deletions) – Consideration of Sue Lake's resignation letter added to agenda item 5(a) and discussion of Space to Create Support letter from C.A.T. added to agenda item 8(e).
- 3) **C.A.T. Prowl Review** (C.A.T. community participation) – The Prowl was deferred to the next meeting. Brenda suggested that everyone sign up for the Alpenglow email blasts to stay informed about upcoming events.
- 4) **Approval of 10/15, 11/19, and 1/7 Minutes*** - All minutes approved by consensus. The January minutes were updated to reflect Amanda, Ninah, and Joan as the Old West Fest subcommittee and that Amanda volunteered for the possible Space to Create Event.
- 5) **Membership:**
 - a) Resignations of Paula Marlatt, Julia Reid, and Sue Lake * - The Team sadly voted to accept all three resignations via consensus. (All plan to move out of Ridgway.) Julia explained she co-hosts Artspeak with Jen Randolph and asked for someone to take her place but received no offers yet. Julia plans to still be involved with Artspeak but in a lesser capacity. The Flute Circle will also be impacted by Julia's (and others') transitions. It is unclear whether it will continue.
 - b) Known Candidates: Andy Nasisse, Haley Niven – After discussion, the CATs voted by consensus for Andy Nasisse to become a member since he submitted his letter of interest, met informally with some C.A.T.s, and met with Diedra. However, since he was not present at this meeting, it was agreed that he must first attend a C.A.T. meeting, understand the responsibilities of being a C.A.T. member, and formally agree to be a member. Then, his name will be recommended to Town Council to approve as a C.A.T. member. Amanda said Haley may not be ready to be a C.A.T. member due to time constraints. Diedra will contact Andy, Haley, and also Andrea Johnson to see if she is interested in joining the group.
- 6) **2020 Work Plan and Who Signed Up*** - Diedra presented the plan as updated from the last meeting but asked about holding a Meet and Greet event. Betsy suggested not formally adding one to the Work Plan as a separate event, though it may occur in conjunction with any of the 2020 planned events, and the Team agreed. The CATs adopted the 2020 Work Plan by consensus.
- 7) **Old Business**
 - a) Next steps for Subcommittees – Everyone agreed on the subcommittee event assignments pursuant to the January 7 Minutes as follows:
 - First Fridays – Betsy, Brenda
 - Film Festival – Amanda, Joan
 - Creative Corridor – Brenda, Joan, Amanda, Ninah
 - Space to Create – Amanda, Brenda
 - Ridgway Old West Fest – Amanda, Ninah, Joan
 - Liaisons to Creatives – Diedra (one more needed; Brenda and Betsy to help with defining the role further)

- Creatives' Workshops – Amanda, Betsy
- Heritage Park/CCI Grant Application Process – Joan, Ninah, Diedra
- Website/Directory – Brenda, Ninah, Diedra
- C.A.T. Membership – ALL
- Treehouse Studio – on hold due to uncertainty about C.A.T. capacity to program it this year and the availability of the Treehouse

Diedra reminded the subcommittees to “take their next steps” to start meeting and planning for their tasks now. She offered assistance to help subcommittees get started.

b) Unveiling Event Review – Everyone agreed the Team worked well together and the event was well attended in comparison to other Ridgway events. Joan pointed out the “What Am I?” activity was very successful in engaging visitors. The discussion reminded the group that engaging youth in some way should be included this year.

c) Liaisons to Community – The list of Liaisons to Creatives was updated as follows:

- Library – Amanda (lead), Joan
- Art by the Park/Timber Creek/Dragonfly – Betsy
- Café Ridgway a la Mode/Amulet Arts/Mountain Girl Gallery – Brenda
- Colorado Boy Brewery – Amanda
- Lupita's Bizarre Bazaar – Ninah
- Ranch History Museum/Billings Artworks/Ridgway Lodge & Suites - Joan
- Ridgway Ouray Community Council (ROCC)/Ouray County Performing Arts Guild (OCPAG)/Local Musicians (specific musicians to be identified) – Diane
- Weehawken/Sherbino/Galley 610 - Diedra

d) C.A.T.s and RCD Calls* - The group reviewed its discussion from last fall about potential conflicts of interest between C.A.T.s and responding to Calls to Creatives. It agreed it is difficult in a small town to have no overlap in roles, and C.A.T.s should be encouraged in their own creative endeavors. The group also agreed by consensus that C.A.T.s cannot benefit financially and cannot jury when they have entered a competition. Diedra will draft a procedure to cover these possible conflicts of interest.

8) New Business

- a) 2020 Chair and Vice-Chair Elections - Betsy and Brenda were nominated and re-elected as 2020 Chair and Vice-Chair by consensus.
- b) Ride the Rockies (RTR)-June 17-19, 2020 – Betsy and Diedra explained the Town and past partners for RTR will not “locally host” RTR this year. However, Ridgway will still be a stop on RTR for a 2-night stay at the County Event Center, coordinated by RTR, with an add-on biking tour in the immediate area on Thursday.
Joan suggested publicizing to Creatives the opportunity to make and sell items (bicycle-themed or others) while RTR participants are in town. Diedra will contact the RTR Coordinator to see if putting a tent up for Creative vendors would work for RTR. Diedra commented that if doing so is possible, volunteers will be needed to coordinate it, including some education to Creatives about the differences planned for RTR 2020 (compared with RTR 2017, when RCD vendors did quite poorly).
- c) Old West Fest 2020 (ROWF) Involvement and Representative - Event Coordinator, Eve Beck-Doyle, contacted Diedra about C.A.T. involvement for 2020 and a new representative from the group since Paula resigned. The group discussed coordinating a Native American piece again but will likely not organize an art show

for it. Diane will research costs and types of options for the Native American piece. Amanda will attend ROWF meetings and bring info to the C.A.T.

- d) Alpenglow Arts Alliance Representative – Diedra asked if anyone would like to replace Sue as the representative and explained the role. Brenda or Amanda may assume this role in the future, once other commitments allow room for a monthly meeting (generally first Thursdays at 10am). Until then, Diedra will represent the C.A.T. at these meetings.
- e) Space to Create Support Draft Letter from C.A.T. – Diedra presented a draft letter from the C.A.T. to support the Town's second application to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority for low-income housing tax credits for Space to Create, a major funding source for the project. She asked the Team to review it and send edits to her, if needed. There was discussion about gathering letters or signatures from low-income folks at the Food Pantry to send as well. She also encouraged C.A.T.s to ask people they know about writing a support letter. All letters should be given to Diedra by January 28.

9) Next RCD C.A.T. Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 18th, 3:00 – 5:00p

10) Announcements – Brenda said another Sherbino Night Live is coming up soon!

11) Reflection on Meeting, Tasks, Next Agenda, and Parking Lot – Diane read a quotation from author and teacher Ram Das; *"Creativity spreads from the yearning to be the fullness of who you are"*. Brenda asked the Corridor Subcommittee and S2C Artwork subcommittee to stay after the meeting to discuss some tasks.

12) Adjourn - @4:50 p.m.

PARKING LOT AND GOALS ON NEXT PAGE!

Parking Lot

1. Activating 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
8. "Welcome wagon" concept for new residents
9. Capture/document CAT stories
10. Resource List for liaisons
11. Ambassador to connect with schools
12. Families/young adult recruitment
13. 2020 Meet-n-Greet (piggyback on current event)

1-2 Month Goals

- Christie - provide Success List *(done)*
- Continue prioritizing *(doing)*
- Revisit current Liaison List *(reviewed 1/21, reviewed)*
- Review 2020 Work Plan at January meeting, based on Town Master Plan *(done)*
- Gather community letters of support for S2C *(gathering!)*

3-6 Month Goals

- Where are we going with First Fridays? *(Discussed 1/21)*
- Clarify Liaison role, intent and process *(Discussed 1/21)*
- Continue to prioritize tasks and link to 2020 Work Plan
- Recruitment progress

6 Month Goals

- Reach out to spheres of connection
- How to recruit more Creatives

1 Year Goals

- Website Update
- Directory Update
- Cohesion of accomplishments
- Recruit 2-3 new CAT members
- Balance each person (Cared for? Appreciated? Gave their gifts?)