



Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team • (RCD CAT)



Meeting Minutes **February 18th, 2020** **Ridgway Town Hall** **3:00 – 5:00 pm**

C.A.T. Members in attendance: Betsy Baier, Joan Chismire, Brenda Ratcliff, Ninah Hunter, Amanda Gabrielson, Diane Thompson; **Staff:** Diedra Silbert, Karen Christian (minutes); **Prospective Member:** Andy Nasisse

- 1) **Call to Order** - Betsy called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.
- 2) **Agenda Review** (additions or deletions) – none
- 3) **C.A.T. Prowl Review** (C.A.T. community participation) – Brenda reviewed 15 events which occurred over the last month. C.A.T.s attended 31 times.
- 4) **Approval of 1/21 Minutes** - Approved via consensus with corrections to 8c to indicate Diane will research Native dance options for Old West Fest, and Amanda will attend the meetings and bring information back to the CAT.
- 5) **Membership** – Andy Nasisse provided information about his life and interests and confirmed his desire to join the C.A.T. Diedra will communicate that the C.A.T. recommends his membership to Town Council since that body officially approves new members.

Ninah sent a resignation email to the C.A.T.s prior to the meeting. Ninah is the Town Council-appointed liaison to C.A.T. Her term expires in April, and she is not seeking reelection. Thus March will be the last attended meeting as a C.A.T. member for Ninah.

Diedra confirmed that Haley Niven is not able to become a member at this time but is interested in volunteering. Diedra met with Andrea Johnson who is interested in becoming a member in the future but not available currently. Others who had signed up as potentially interested at the October event did not respond to attempts to contact them. Since personal contacts work best for finding new C.A.T.s, all members are encouraged to reach out to those who might be interested.

6) Old Business

a) Subcommittee Reports (First Fridays, Corridor, others?)

- **First Fridays:** Brenda reported that she had contacted Suzy & Torbin, owners of Café Ridgway á la Mode to discuss First Fridays. Brenda and Betsy (subcommittee) will meet with Torbin, Suzy, and other business representatives to discuss their ideas to make First Fridays more successful.
- **Creative Corridor:** Diedra reported that a goal this year is to highlight people doing creative things in the community on the Corridor's social media. She and Brenda sent out emails to a sampling of local Creatives, and a good diversity of creative types responded. Diedra asked the subcommittee to assist in selecting 4-5 individuals from the responses, to be the first interviewees, including individual(s) representing heritage. Emily Sellers will take photos and write stories, and payment will come from the graphic design budget line.
- **Film Fest:** Amanda explained Jim Courson has stepped down as the lead for this subcommittee, and John Clark has reduced capacity. She has agreed to assume the lead role, after discussing it with Diedra. It is unclear how many of the other volunteers are continuing. Additional subcommittee members are needed. Andy will join this subgroup.

- b) *C.A.T.s and RCD Calls Procedure* - Diedra circulated an email entitled *Proposed Language about CATs and Calls* prior to the meeting. The CATs agreed item 6 in the proposed guidelines should be updated to say that “situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.” The group otherwise approved the new procedure.
- c) *Space to Create Update* - Diedra reported that 22 letters of support, including one from the Food Pantry, were submitted with the application for low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC) to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority. The Town should know if the application is approved by May. Construction could potentially start in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021, if the application is approved.

7) New Business

- a) *CAT-Sponsored vs. Individual Involvement* - Diedra noted the following items are being discussed to give examples of events that have been CAT-sponsored or individually-organized events, in order to help clarify why this matters:
 - i) *Flute Circle* - This has been a CAT-sponsored event with Julia leading it. Betsy said Flute Circle is not meeting in February and will resume in March. It is not clear if this will still be an RCD function since Julia has resigned from C.A.T., and there are only a few participants remaining in the Flute Circle. Betsy suggested that a decision should not be made about how to handle this until after the March Flute Circle gathering.
 - ii) *Artspeak* - This was a group that Julia organized outside of the C.A.T. With Julia's departure from Ridgway, someone would need to take on the leadership to keep it going. The group discussed that Artspeak serves important purposes, would be a great RCD-sponsored event, and we'd hate to see it end. Diedra and Betsy will discuss with Julia the option of keeping Artspeak in Ridgway.
 - iii) *Old West Fest 2020 (ROWF) - Music Request* - Eve Becker Doyle, ROWF Coordinator, had spoken with Diedra and Diane about the C.A.T.'s contribution to the 2020 Festival. She liked the idea of the C.A.T. organizing cowboy poetry and an open mic. Diane said she was willing to do this, but the group needed to determine what it wanted to contribute. After discussing options, there was consensus that C.A.T. would like to offer a Native American and/or Latino piece for the event. Andy will look into a Latino piece that may include mariachi musicians or dancers, and Diane will investigate providing Indian dance and/or music. Diedra will speak with Eve about the C.A.T.'s desire to bring in music/dance related to Ridgway's heritage for ROWF, instead of an open mic.
- b) *Alpenglow Arts Alliance Plaindealer Insert* - Diedra explained the 2020 insert will be published on Memorial Day weekend and will include a summer event calendar. The estimated cost is \$125 for a full page. There will be additional costs for extra inserts and calendar listings, plus the shared first page. The final cost will be determined once it is known what the final publication will look like since much of the expense is shared costs. The Concert Series may be listed with RCD instead of on its own. There was consensus to purchase a full page for RCD in the insert. Diedra and Brenda will work on content.

8) Next RCD C.A.T. Meeting - Tuesday, Mar. 17th, 3:00 - 5:00p (Brenda will facilitate.)

9) Announcements - Amanda invited all to another Sherbino Night Live (SNL) February 21-23; Diedra said the Weehawken Rally through the Alley Run is on May 30 and wondered if CATs wanted to go as a group again; Andy said he has been volunteering for various Sherbino events, has been asked to be a judge for the Ridgway Rendezvous in August, and will be assisting with their film programming. Andy checked to be sure there is no conflict of interest with C.A.T., and there is not. C.A.T.s are encouraged to support other organizations.



Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team • (RCD CAT)



Meeting Minutes
February 18th, 2020
Ridgway Town Hall

10) Reflection on Meeting, Tasks, Next Agenda, and Parking Lot

Parking Lot – The Parking Lot was reviewed and reconciled via consensus and is updated as noted below. Joan will investigate what the most meaningful Native representation might be. Diedra noted that this might need to be part of a larger process with tribal representatives.

Reflections – Diedra said the meeting was fun. Diane said there was a good flow of ideas. Ninah reflected on the meetings since she has been a member and felt much progress has been made with organization to accomplish tasks, turning ideas into action, staying focused, and defining member roles, all of which has made attending meetings enjoyable.

11) Adjourn - @ 5p.m.

Parking Lot

1. Work with tribal representatives on “symbolic inclusion” of Native people and heritage
2. Healing Arts Moon Walk
3. Ambassador to connect with schools, youth, and families
4. Organizational membership on C.A.T. (liaison system working?)

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Christian