



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



Meeting Minutes

Ridgway Town Hall – By Phone Conference

March 17th, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 pm

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

- 1) **Call to Order** - Brenda called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Diedra briefly updated the group about recent declarations from Town, County, and the City of Ouray regarding orders of disaster related to COVID. She is now working from home and explained that Town Hall would be continuing to offer services, but the building would be closing to visitors.
- 2) **Agenda Review** (additions or deletions) – added Artspeak under Old Business and COVID-19 Response under New Business
- 3) **C.A.T. Prowl Review** (C.A.T. community participation) – Brenda reviewed community events that occurred over the last month. In 11 events, the C.A.T. was represented 23 times (2 participated in events, 18 attended, and 3 volunteered for events).
- 4) **Approval of 2/18 Minutes** - Approved via consensus.
- 5) **Membership** – Discussed ways to get the word out that we are seeking new members: write a blurb to send to the Artspeak group and the Plein Air group via Rick Weaver, post in the Chamber newsletter and on various Facebook pages. Diedra reminded that group that most new members have come from personal contacts with potentially interested people and encouraged the C.A.T.s to have these conversations.
- 6) **Old Business**
 - a) **Subcommittee Reports**
 - i) **First Fridays:** Brenda and Betsy spoke with some business owners and met with Hilary Lewkowicz from the Chamber (with Diedra). There is some interest from business owners to take on leadership. The Chamber wants to help promote First Fridays. The days and times are going to stay the same this year because they've already been listed publicly as they were last year. Brenda plans to send out emails to businesses in May. All of what's happening with COVID-19 impacts discussions with businesses right now. Diane believes that musicians will be looking for gigs since they've been hit hard. Brenda noted that would be up to the businesses to arrange with the musicians.
 - ii) **Ridgway Old West Fest:** Diedra spoke with Eve about the C.A.T.'s desire to provide Native and/or Latinx music and dance for ROWF. Eve was fine with it and said that Saturday would likely be the best day for this. Diane spoke with her contacts about Native drummers, dancers, and musicians. They will want transportation and lodging paid for (as was expected). Costs still unknown. Andy reached out to his contacts and found a few options: a religious group that does "Hispanic Heritage" promotions; an inactive ballet folklorico group; and a traditional Mexican norteno" band. He is still researching costs as well.

Joan reported that she and Amanda attended the March 4 ROWF meeting. A country Western performer has been secured, and others are being explored. Eve presented to Town Council and requested \$500 from the 2021 budget (since she did not request any from the 2020 budget). Press releases are anticipated in April. ROWF is marketing to locals and visitors. The Ranch History Museum plans to feature leatherwork.

- iii) **Film Fest:** Amanda reported that she and Diedra met, and she really wants to get the Call to Filmmakers out by April. She's been sick and hasn't been able to work on this much. The group discussed ideas for judges. She's planning to call a meeting of the subgroup next week. The subgroup could use a couple more members, and judges with film background would be desirable. Diane offered to help with promotions.
- b) **Creative Corridor:** Diedra said that Emily Sellers has been working on interviews and photos of Creatives, but she wasn't sure what was happening now with COVID-19 and wouldn't be surprised if there might be delays. Zach Wolfson is expected to make a video for all five Corridor towns this spring—no dates yet for his visit.
- c) **ArtSpeak** (added to agenda): Brenda asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to help ArtSpeak continue. Diedra noted that she and Betsy have not spoken yet with Julia, and that needs to happen before anything else can take place, since ArtSpeak is not a C.A.T. activity (Julia started it on her own). Andy said he would be willing to contribute to this effort, if that could be helpful.

7) New Business

- a) **State Creative Districts Convening and CCI Summit, May 13-15** – John, Amanda, and Diedra would like to attend. Brenda and Joan may want to attend. Joan also noted that she is willing to step back since she has attended before, in order for someone new to go. It was suggested to offer a spot to Town Council. (*Note: Since this meeting, the Convening and Summit have been postponed.*)
- b) **Mural Idea - 2021?** – Diedra explained that she was approached by a muralist who told her about two businesses he said were interested in putting murals on their buildings' walls. She spoke with one of the business owners who is interested but does not imagine having the funds to pay for a mural for some time. Diedra noted that the RCD could potentially cover some costs through a grant, and she was interested. The group was in favor of seeing more murals in Ridgway and of utilizing the CCI Project and Technical Assistance Grant next year (2021) for this purpose. It would need to go through the Town budget process, and many details would need to be sorted out about the public process, business participation, and hiring of an artist. Diedra emphasized the process would need to be transparent and planned. Joan asked if a mural could go on the Visitor Center building, and Diedra explained that the Heritage Park/Visitor Center Strategic Master Plan does not include a mural there, nor is that building "permanent." The Space to Create building may have options for a mural(s). Diane suggested making a wall available where each year the senior class could paint a mural.
- c) **CML Magazine – First Friday and Creative Corridor** - Diedra told the group that she was contacted by the Colorado Municipal League about an article they're writing about First Friday-type events. She and Brenda will work on content for that article. The discussion with CML also led to an even longer article about the Colorado Creative Corridor which will be written by Carbondale admin for the Corridor.
- d) **COVID-19 Response** (added to agenda) – Diedra suggested the group consider how the RCD can respond to the current health emergency. Ideas brainstormed were: encourage purchase of local gift certificates by community, tax refunds to nonprofits, takeout from restaurants; showcase Creatives on our website, using the stories that Emily's working on and beyond (someone would need to step forward to work on that); post local business hours and share their info on Facebook. A positive for some: self-quarantine can be good for Creatives who can get a lot accomplished!

8) Next RCD C.A.T. Meeting

Tuesday, Apr. 21st, 3:00 – 5:00p

9) Announcements – Brenda reported that Jenn Dewey at Amulet Arts is open to hosting a tour of her shop during the April or May C.A.T. meeting.

Diedra updated the group about the Heritage Park Request for Bid for a landscaping/irrigation contractor being published to work on the first phases of improvements at Heritage Park. She also noted that she applied for the CCI Project and Technical Assistance grant to help fund this, as had been discussed previously. She asked if people had any ideas on potential contractors, and Diane suggested one.

It was also noted that today was Ninah Hunter's last meeting as a C.A.T. since she is not running for Town Council again. The group hates to see her go and thanked her for her time with the group and on Council!

10) Subcommittees' Work Time: This did not take place due to this being a virtual meeting.

11) Reflection on Meeting, Tasks, Next Agenda, and Parking Lot – A few people stated that they enjoyed this virtual meeting, that it worked well.

12) Adjourn - @ 4:37p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diedra Silbert

Parking Lot

1. Representation to honor native heritage
2. Healing Arts Moon Walk
3. Ambassador to connect with schools