



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



## **E-Meeting Minutes**

**May 19, 2020**

**3:00 – 5:00 pm on Zoom**

**C.A.T. Members:** Betsy Baier, Joan Chismire, Brenda Ratcliff, Andy Nasisse, Kevin Grambley; **Staff:** Diedra Silbert, Karen Christian (minutes)

- 1) **Call to Order** - @3 p.m. by chair, Betsy Baier.
- 2) **Agenda Review** (additions, deletions, changes) – **Change:** Discussion for Agenda Item (5e) - Space to Create Project Update: Diedra informed the group the second application for low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC), which is the major source of funding for the project, was approved by the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA). This allows the rest of the predevelopment process to move forward more quickly with construction planning and finalizing funding, with the possibility of breaking ground by the end of 2020 or certainly by this spring.
- 3) **C.A.T. Prowl Review** (C.A.T. community participation) – Brenda tallied 8 virtual events occurring in the area over the past month and counted 1 CAT who participated. It was suggested that we all support virtual events, and in particular watch Sherbino/Weehawken’s *Princess Bride*.
- 4) **Approval of 4/21 Minutes\*** - Approved via consensus.
- 5) **Old Business**
  - a) COVID-19 Impacts
    - i) *Update on Survey* – After discussion with Preston, Diedra will not be putting together a COVID-19 (C-19) business survey. Ouray County Public Health Director Tanner Kingery has already published a survey about businesses needs for C-19, so it would be redundant for the C.A.T. to also do a survey.
    - ii) *Update on CCI Grant* – Diedra reported that a document is nearly ready with guidelines and an application for businesses to apply for funding to assist with reopening/re-starting costs. Preston wrote it, and Betsy and Brenda would like to give input. Andy volunteered to participate on the review committee for grant applications, as did Betsy, if it didn’t work out for Andy.
    - iii) *Grant Outreach* – The group discussed how it could support getting the word out about this grant opportunity. Brenda will work with Diedra and Betsy to draft talking points/script for liaisons to make contact with their businesses. They will also divide up the list of creative businesses among CATs to be sure outreach hits more businesses that might want to apply.
  - b) Subcommittee Reports
    - i) *First Fridays* - Brenda said the June FF is canceled due to C-19 impacts. She commented the event will likely be canceled for the summer because C-19 recovery may be difficult. However, if businesses are interested in working with the CAT to create some sort of virtual event for First Fridays, something like that could be possible. The CAT budget included advertising dollars that might be able to go toward setting something up. Brenda will reach out by email about First Fridays to the group of businesses who had been involved in the past to let them know about First Friday ideas and learn about their interest.
    - ii) *Ridgway Old West Fest* - Joan reported contacts for performers are being made but it is still uncertain if the event will happen. Andy said the Latinx performers have not returned his calls, though they currently may be out of the office due to C-19.

iii) Ridgway Independent Film Festival - Andy reported the possibility of a virtual event is being discussed by the committee but at this time, that hasn't been decided. The Call to Filmmakers is out with a deadline of Sept. 25.

c) Creative Districts Convening/CCI Summit - Diedra reported the CCI Summit and statewide Creative Districts Convening that was re-scheduled for September has been canceled for 2020 due to the impacts of C-19. The Summit will be scheduled for 2021.

d) Heritage Park Improvements Update - Diedra explained the \$5,000 grant extended by Colorado Main Street for Heritage Park improvements in 2019 must be spent by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Heritage Park plan doesn't have many lower cost items that can fit this grant. A plan was developed with the Chamber to grade, gravel and complete a seating area with a picnic tables near the Visitors' Center to utilize those funds. In the plan, this would have been a much later piece but the reduction in Town budget for this project in 2020 necessitated adjustment.

e) Space to Create Update - Discussion moved to item 2

## 6) **New Business**

a) Alpenglow Arts Community Calendar Proposal - Diedra explained the Ouray Community Calendar, which had been created and maintained for years by an ex-County Commissioner, is in need of a serious update. Alpenglow Arts Alliance has been discussing this for months and is sending letters to the City of Ouray and the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC) requesting funding and a partnership on this calendar. Sherbino/Weehhawken staff have already created a template calendar which could be hosted on the Alpenglow website or elsewhere. It is linked to the current Alpenglow Arts calendar and is similar in format. CATs discussed contributing money from the RCD budget, if that is appropriate to do.

b) Citizen Advocacy - Betsy and Brenda encouraged the CATs to write letters ASAP in support of Colorado Creative Industries which is faced with potential State budget cuts.

7) **Next RCD C.A.T. Meeting** - *Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 5:00p*

8) **Announcements** - Diedra announced that Ridgway Creative Main Street applied for and has been advanced to the level of a Main Street Graduate community! This status provides for \$10,000 in mini grants, as opposed to \$5,000. In addition, Diedra will mentor another Main Street community because the Graduate level is the highest level of accomplishment through Colorado Main Street.

9) **Reflection on Meeting, Tasks, Next Agenda, and Parking Lot**

10) **Adjourn** -@ 4:28 p.m.

### Parking Lot

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