



Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team • (RCD CAT)



Minutes

September 15th, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 pm on Zoom

C.A.T. Members in Attendance: Betsy Baier, Joan Chismire, Amanda Gabrielson, Diane Thompson, Andy Nasisse, Kevin Grambley; **Staff:** Diedra Silbert, Karen Christian (minutes)

1) Call to Order - @3:10 pm

2) Agenda Review (additions or deletions) – There were no additions or deletions.

3) Approval of 8/18 Minutes* - Approved via consensus.

4) Old Business

a) Sanitizer Distribution Planning – Brenda prepared a draft flyer that advertises “Sanitizer Saturday” to be held on September 26. The group agreed that sanitizer would be distributed at 3:30pm in front of Lupita’s Bizarre Bazaar and at 4:30pm in front of where the Burro used to be (the Independence building). The CATs agreed on the flyer content, discussed how the event would be advertised to the general public, as well as logistics for set-up and distribution. Diedra will communicate with the building owners. Kevin, Andy, Diane and Betsy volunteered to work that day.

b) Subcommittee Reports

i) Ridgway Independent Film Festival – Amanda reported 37 submissions have been received so far, including 12 from Iran. The Film Fest subcommittee discussed the types of platforms to use for a virtual event, and she commented more judges are needed. The film submission deadline is September 25, and films will be selected by October 9.

ii) Colorado Creative Corridor (CCI) – Diedra reported that the filming day on Sept. 10 went very well, despite the weather. The Chamber and the RCD split the cost to hire local photographer Elizabeth Riley to take photos of the filming as well as the Creatives in action. Diedra described the activities that took place during the filming at Bluecorn Beeswax, Alice Billings’ Thunder Heart Haven, Cimarron Art Glass and on Clinton Street. Production of the film should be completed in October for promotion in spring 2021. Inclement weather produced a cloudy sky, so Ridgway’s “Dark Skies” were not filmed. Diedra will find out if there is enough money in the CCI grant budget to have Zach Wolfson return to film the night sky. She will also check with local photographer, Gary Ratcliff, to see if he has any time-lapsed film or other video of the night sky that could be provided to Zach for the film.

c) 2020-21 Budget Update - Diedra emailed the draft 2021 Budget to the CATs prior to the meeting and explained the proposed 2021 budget request is almost the same as the 2020 budget, though it is approximately \$1,500 less than last year. She noted \$1,500 is requested for Other Promotions, and that could be used toward website design/consulting, if needed. Diedra commented that it is still unclear if the Creative Corridor group will re-apply for the CO Tourism Marketing Matching Grant for 2021. Funds remain in the 2020 budget to match the 2021 grant, if it is applied for and awarded. The CATs approved the proposed 2021 Budget request via consensus.

d) CAT Retreat Update - The retreat will be held October 6th from 1-5pm at Top of the Pines. Betsy reviewed the menu and reminded everyone to BYOB!

e) Grant Opportunities Update – Diedra reported there are still many grant and loan opportunities for communities, businesses and organizations. She noted the HartBeat of

Main Street grant has not reopened yet, and the Energize Colorado Gap fund is open to businesses, sole proprietors and non-profit organizations impacted by COVID-19.

f) Recent CCI Reporting – Diedra submitted the annual *CCI Values Report* on the impact of RCD and its activities on the community. Please let her know if you'd like a copy of that report.

5) New Business

a) Capitol Christmas Tree Visit to Town? – Diedra and Preston met by phone with the person planning the Capitol Christmas Tree journey across the country. This year's Tree will be cut from the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest. It will be prepared for travel and placed on a semi-trailer truck in Montrose. The tree truck will stop in approximately twelve Colorado cities and is scheduled to stop in Ridgway on November 11 (Veterans Day), if the community wants that. The CATs discussed which organizations in Town might be willing to coordinate a local COVID-safe community event related to this possible stop. The C.A.T. was not interested in taking on the coordination of this event. They also discussed where the tree could be placed for viewing, the possibility of a socially distanced "reverse parade," and honoring the truck drivers by providing food and refreshments. Joan will check with the Elks Club and the Ouray County Ranch History and Railroad Museum boards to see if there is interest in coordinating the tree event and if there is anything else planned for Veterans Day. Diedra will check with Erin at the Ouray County 4-H Event Center and with the School Superintendent to see if they would want involvement.

6) Announcements - Diedra announced that Joan was voted Volunteer of the Year via write-in ballot in the Ouray County Plaindealer newspaper! Joan announced that the National Stock Show held in Denver in January was canceled for 2021. Diane commented that PARC's Plein Air event normally held in the fall should be encouraged as a COVID-safe event since it's outdoors.

7) Reflection on Meeting, Tasks, Next Agenda, and Parking Lot - none

8) Next RCD C.A.T. Meeting – Retreat Tuesday, Oct. 6 (1-5p); *(Cancel Oct. 20 meeting? Next meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17th, 3-5p.?)* - The CATs agreed to cancel the October 20th meeting and also agreed that the monthly meetings are valuable.

9) Adjourn C.A.T. meeting - @4:25 p.m.

10) Short Retreat Planning Subcommittee Meeting – The Retreat Subcommittee reconvened immediately after the RCD C.A.T. meeting to finalize details for the October retreat.

Parking Lot

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