



Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team • (RCD CAT)



Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2020

3:30 – 4:30 pm on Zoom

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

1) Call to Order - @ 3:37p.m.

2) Agenda Review – no additions or deletions

3) Approval of 11/17 Minutes* - approved via consensus

4) Old Business

a) C.A.T. Leadership, Membership, and Structure – Betsy said she and Brenda will be stepping down from their roles as Chair and Vice-Chair in January. Betsy may stay a while longer to assist with C.A.T. transitions, if needed, but she is resigning from the C.A.T. Brenda will stay as a member of the CAT for now. A call was made for someone on the Team to transition into the Chair or Vice-Chair roles, and no one volunteered.

The Team discussed combining the Main Street initiative more fully with the C.A.T./Ridgway Creative District (RCD) citizen committee to broaden the reach and scope of both initiatives. Diedra provided a brief PowerPoint about Main Street’s framework so the Team could better understand the relationships between Main Street and the Creative District. The Power Point revealed how Main Street desires to transform communities by focusing on 4 main points: economic vitality, design and historic preservation, organization, and promotions. (Diedra will email the PowerPoint presentation to the Team after the meeting. She will also compile the 2020 Ridgway Creative Main Street accomplishments for discussion at the January meeting.)

The C.A.T.s agreed that uniting the citizen group for the two entities is a good idea. Amanda suggested rebranding ideas, such as “Ridgway comes together to support our downtown. Get involved in your community.” The group also liked an idea floated by community member Sue Husch of “March into 2021,” if the transition would be ready by then. Joan and Kevin will work with Diedra to discuss strategies for uniting a Main Street and RCD citizen group. Betsy is also open to helping with this. Diedra noted that Town Council needs to support this idea before moving it much further.

b) Sanitizer Distribution - The Team discussed how to make this happen and determined the best solution would be to just show up at local businesses and provide them with a quart container of sanitizer. Everyone (excluding Betsy) volunteered to meet at Town Hall at noon on Saturday, December 19. Diedra and Kevin will show up a bit earlier to fill quart containers and make labels. The C.A.T.s decided to wear either a Christmas hat or other “fun” hat to inspire the merchants with good cheer while distributing the sanitizer.

c) Space to Create Update – Diedra announced that financial closings for the project are anticipated by the end of January with construction beginning soon after that. She noted Andy is working with her on a social media campaign to promote Space to Create.

5) New Business

a) Moving Descant Artwork during Construction* - Diedra proposed displaying the artwork in Heritage Park instead of deconstructing it for storage during construction, as had been assumed when the piece was commissioned. The pros and cons of displaying the artwork in various locations, including parks in town, were discussed. The Team agreed the best solution would be to mount the artwork on the north wall of the Chamber building. This location would allow non-town residents to safely enjoy the piece as well. Diedra will contact

the Chamber regarding their thoughts about hanging the artwork on the north wall of the building and will report back to the Group.

6) Next RCD C.A.T. Meeting - *Tuesday, January 19th (3-5p)* - to discuss new "C.A.T" concept

7) Reflection on Meeting - The Team sincerely and sadly thanked Betsy and Brenda for their hard work over the past 4 years. Both will be a "hard act to follow."

8) Adjourn - @4:40 p.m