



**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** March 8, 2023  
**RE: Town Manager's Report**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This monthly report serves as an update to Council on key projects, activities, and community issues.

### **SAVE THE DATE: RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION**

Town staff is working with Artspace to form a planning committee that will organize a grand opening celebration for Ridgway Space to Create. The event will be held on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow!

### **WETTERHORN HOMES PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION**

Join the Wetterhorn Homes team on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Ridgway Community Center for a project update and Q&A session. The night's agenda will include images of the neighborhood and homes, updates on the construction timeline, and an overview of the home sales process, including lottery and deed restriction details.

If you are interested but cannot attend in person, you can listen in via this zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85083565843?pwd=YlhDS1FOQUppYYUFVTjJmNnplc05sZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 8356 5843

Passcode: 183449

The Wetterhorn Homes team will only take questions on Zoom if they are posted in the chat. They will post a recording of the session on the [www.wetterhornhomesridgway.co](http://www.wetterhornhomesridgway.co) site.

### **TRI-AGENCY DINNER**

Ouray County is attempting to set a date for the next Tri-Agency Dinner, which will be hosted by the County. The date options for Council consideration are April 11<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **UPDATE ON OURAY COUNTY WORKFORCE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT**

**Update:** The three participating jurisdictions are collaborating to develop an agreement to govern the program and grant management. The ADA accessible van is expected to arrive in April.

**Background:** The City of Ouray assembled a grant application to the Colorado Department of Transportation's MMOF Program requesting funding to create a regional transportation service between the City of Montrose, the Town of Ridgway, and the City of Ouray. The total estimated



cost of the project over a three-year period is \$710,788. The amount requested of the MMOF Program was \$533,091 with a 25% match rate pulled together by the Town of Ridgway, City of Ouray, and Ouray County. That puts the needed contribution from the Town, City and County at \$59,232 over three years. The estimated contribution from each entity is \$28,000 in year one and \$15,616 in years two and three. The Ouray County Workforce Transportation Project was awarded \$533,091 of MMOF funding by the Gunnison Valley Transportation Region last July. Ouray County has a 25% match requirement, and, per Resolution No. 22-07, the Town of Ridgway expressed a commitment to provide our share of the 25% match requirement which is estimated at \$28,000 during year one (2023) and \$15,616 for years two and three (2024 and 2025) of the grant project.

All Points Transit was identified as being able to provide this service based on a contract at a cost of \$5.00/round trip for ridership. All Points Transit has also agreed to be the program manager and fiscal agent for this grant. Based on the survey data, the service needs to run 7 days per week with multiple trips between the municipalities each day. To make this a reality and assist with alleviating the workforce issues in Ouray County, a budget has been put together with All Points Transit and through a partnership between the Town, City and County.

Reps from the three participating jurisdictions and All Points Transit recently met last fall to discuss next steps and to move forward on the purchase of the ADA accessible van.

### **MT2030 SOLUTIONS PROJECT**

The Town has made a contribution to Mountain Towns 2030 for participation in the Mountain Towns 2030 Solutions Project (MTSP). MTSP is a collaborative cohort-based program that provides communities with real-world expertise and opportunities to collaborate with peers; equipping participants with an impactful pathway to carbon neutrality. MTSP is designed to build capacity in every community, large and small. By working together, sharing ideas, data, and best practices, every participant will have the opportunity to learn from experts and colleagues and accelerate the collective progress on climate.

MTSP is designed to:

- Facilitate collaboration to help the participating communities overcome their shared challenges and accelerate their climate action planning. Each week, communities have the chance to share insights, ask questions and learn from other communities' experiences and specialist advice in real-time.
- Connect communities with actionable tools, data, and valuable resources to achieve their ambitious climate goals quicker and more efficiently. Create a toolbox of peer actions, projects, and progress that will make an immediate impact.
- Build capacity in communities that need additional resources.
- Take the discussion from the intangible to meaningful impact and benefits.



- Build working relationships and establish a network for mountain community colleagues to draw from.
- Facilitate continued collaboration and networking outside of the cohorts.

Participating communities can join a series of seven monthly collaborative work sessions where they will work directly with peers and experts to create an actionable plan that illuminates a pathway for climate action. Each convening gives communities the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues, discuss ideas and best practices, and hear from topical experts, gaining a deeper knowledge of specific climate planning challenges and solutions. The conversation will be supported by an online community platform enabling participants to connect and continue conversations with colleagues as needed.

The 2023 session topics are as follows:

- February: Welcome & discussion: Making your carbon footprint a useful tool
- March: Buildings + Electrification
- April: Clean energy
- May: Transportation
- June: Zero waste
- July: Natural climate solutions
- August: Next steps: Deploying solutions into your community

### **CRWA SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM**

The Town of Ridgway is participating in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) process for our water treatment facility. It's a free service and the process entails meeting with a CRWA representative to evaluate and rank critical infrastructure and providing the CRWA representative with coordinate data of our identified "values at risk" during an on-site visit. That data will be integrated into WFDSS and all critical assets can be viewed within WFDSS by federal fire managers during an incident.

### **REGIONAL GRANTS NAVIGATOR PROGRAM**

With support from the State of Colorado, Region 10 is establishing a Regional Grants Navigator program to support local governments in pursuit of funds from the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Region 10 will provide support, technical assistance and capacity, which may include connecting communities to relevant grant writing experts.

Town staff recently participated in a baseline survey that was put out by Region 10 to understand each municipality and county infrastructure priorities, projects and needs.



### **NEW FREE LEGAL CLINIC FOR OURAY COUNTY**

On the second Thursday of every month from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. there is a free legal self-help clinic for parties who have no attorney. **The next clinic is on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.** By telephone, volunteer attorneys will meet one on one with clinic patrons to answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for civil legal issues, including family law, civil litigation, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord tenant law, veteran's benefits, and civil protection orders.

The volunteer attorneys do not represent you just because they help you at this clinic. This clinic is information only and is no substitute for legal representation. You have the right to retain an attorney of your choice at any time and are advised to do so. Call the Ouray Library at (970)325-4616 to get signed up. ALL FREE, BUT SPACE IS LIMITED.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

From TJ Dlubac, Contracted Town Planner:

The development review team for the Town of Ridgway includes the town manager, town attorney, town engineer, public works department, and town planner. This group meets regularly to discuss various land use and development-related projects and reviews all applications submitted to the Town to ensure compliance with applicable rules, regulations, and standards adopted by the Town Council. This team is currently working on the following projects:

**1. Vista Park Commons**

This project was approved by Town Council on February 8<sup>th</sup> and the applicant is in the processes of meeting conditions to be filed for recording.

**2. RidgSix PUD/PP (Mclsaac)**

A pre-construction meeting was held on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The developer anticipates beginning public improvements on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**3. Four Winds (McChesney) Sketch Plan**

The Planning Commission considered the application at their January 31, 2023 meeting. The request was continued for two months to allow time to staff and the applicant to continue working through outstanding items. The applicant and Town Staff met on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**4. Habitat For Humanity lots**

This project was approved by Town Council on February 8<sup>th</sup> and the applicant is in the process of meeting conditions to be filed for recording.



## 5. **Preserve PUD**

The applicant submitted a request to amend the Master Plan on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The request is being reviewed for completeness and will be processed according to the Master Plan Amendment policy adopted by the Town Council earlier this year.

## 6. **Chapter 7 Updates**

The Project Team met with the Planning Commission on February 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the latest round of updates. Based on that discussion, and follow up discussion with Town staff, the next steps in the project timeline were slightly adjusted to allow for the opportunity to hold a work session with the Town Council prior to the updates being officially considered. Since the Town Council hasn't had the opportunity to have detailed discussions or provide feedback to the project team, this is the preferred path forward. Therefore, the amended project timeline is proposed to be as follows:

- **March 28<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission Meeting**: At this meeting, the project team will give a general overview of the revised process as well as any final changes or edits made.
- **April 12<sup>th</sup> Town Council Work Session**: At this meeting, the project team will give a high level overview of the changes made and reasonings why to the Town Council.
- **April 25<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission Hearing**: This is anticipated to be the Planning Commission's formal adoption hearing of the Chapter 7 updates.
- **May 10<sup>th</sup> Town Council 1st Reading**: This is anticipated to be the first reading of the ordinance at Town Council.
- **TBD Developer Work Session**: At some point after Town Council's 1st reading and the effective date of the ordinance, the project team will hold a development community work session where we'll be able to walk through the revised process and code layout with those who use the code from the private side on a regular or semi-regular basis. The date will be determined once this gets closer and is anticipated to be an in-person discussion held at Town Hall or another event space in Ridgway.
- **June 14<sup>th</sup> Town Council 2nd Reading**: This is anticipated to be the 2nd reading of the ordinance.
- **July 14<sup>th</sup> Effective Date**: If the Town Council does approve the ordinance on June 14<sup>th</sup>, the earliest the ordinance could be effective would be July 14<sup>th</sup> – 30 days after the adoption by Town Council.
- **Moratorium Lifted**: Following adoption and effective date of the new code amendments, the moratorium could be lifted. Based on this project timeline, the moratorium will have to be extended slightly to cover these dates.



### **CLERKS' OFFICE UPDATE**

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Treasurer:

#### **Annual Election Cancelled**

The 2023 annual April election has been cancelled. There were three council seats open, and only three candidates filed nomination petitions by the deadline on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The three candidates are all incumbents, Polly Kroger, Beth Lakin and Russ Meyer.

#### **Love Your Valley Festival**

Planning for the Love Your Valley Festival on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> is moving forward. Not all brewer invitations have been responded to, but at this time there are 16 breweries which will be represented. Our local band, Joint Point, will perform during the event which will be held between 1:00 and 6:00 pm. Local restaurant, The Lazy Dog, will be serving BBQ and salads during the event.

#### **Concert Series**

This year's Concert Series is also being planned. Returning sponsors are: Billings Artworks, Mountain Anne's, Ridgway Real Estate, Rocky Mountain Cannabis, San Juan Wine and Liquors, the Todd Hoffman Foundation, Orvis Hot Springs, Alpine Bank, The Market at Ridgway, Ridgway Lodge, Julie and Dave Duff and KVNF Radio. At this time new sponsors include Ouray Riverside Resort.

The brewers providing beer in the alcohol tent have been lined up. Forty-one letters were sent to local non-profits inviting them to participate in a drawing to be held in May to serve in the alcohol tent during the shows and receive a portion of the proceeds. As of this date, eight responses have been received for the four slots. Food vendors have been lined up; and preparations for this year's tee shirts are underway.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE**

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

#### **Main Street Conference**

Tera will be attending the annual Main Street Now Conference in Boston, MA from March 27 to 29.

#### **Ridgway FUSE Strategic Plan**

Ridgway FUSE has finalized its strategic plan, which is now available on the Town's website. Check it out by clicking [HERE](#).



## Committee Updates

FUSE assigned a chairperson to each sub-committee. The sub-committee chairpeople for 2023 are:

- Build: Guthrie Castle
- Connect: Donna Jaffee
- Gather: Arielle Bielak
- Share: Alison Ethridge

**BUILD:** *We BUILD by championing initiatives that make Ridgway's physical fabric fiercely distinguishable for generations to come.*

## Furnishings

100 chairs have been purchased for the space; Wi-Fi installed. Final design and budget allocation are being finalized based on public input. The goal is for the space to be functional by grand opening June 8.

## Space to Create Public Art Input Sessions Feb 8, 9

- Over 20 Ridgway area residents met with Greg Foley from Artspace.
- Greg shared a presentation of public art projects in Artspace properties nationwide.
- A write up of the meetings are available on the FUSE website.
- A specific timeline for a mural has not been determined and is pending funding.



## Space to Create Community Room Design Sessions February 27, March 1

Seventeen residents participated, generating rich ideas, and clarifying the way forward with the community room space. Complete notes available on the FUSE website [HERE](#).

**CONNECT:** *We CONNECT: by facilitating cross-sector connections to welcome, value and nurture diverse Ridgway perspectives while connecting locals with resources beyond the community.*

## Recent accomplishments

- Conducted an analysis of missing perspectives on FUSE and decided to open applications for four new members starting in March 2023.



- Creating an outreach plan to commercial district businesses to build relationships, learn about challenges facing local creative district businesses and update online business inventory.

**GATHER:** *We GATHER: by supporting, planning, and executing events that showcase Ridgway's creative and entrepreneurial spirit.*

#### March 14<sup>th</sup> - The FUSE Happy Hour

- Space to Create community room
- 4:30-6PM - socializing and refreshments
- 6PM on: Envisioning our creative summer! Bring your ideas! What's the best way we as a community can collaborate to promote local creatives this summer?

#### Ridgway Independent Film Festival

The Ninth Annual Ridgway Independent Film Festival is calling for volunteers! The application is available [HERE](#).



**SHARE:** *We SHARE: by broadcasting through various community channels the impact of creatives and entrepreneurs in Ridgway and sharing resources to support their success.*

#### Recent accomplishments

FUSE partnered with Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce to produce a walking map of downtown Ridgway Featured in the centerfold of the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Guide.

#### 2023 priorities

- Buildout the Creative Directory
- Maximize Downtown Map & Directory
- Promote Events (in collaboration with other community players)
- Celebrate 10 years as a Creative District, by Documenting Oral History of Creative District and Main Street
- Scope out options for a Local Gift Card
- Explore how to support housing affordability issues and SHARE resources that could be of use to local businesses, entrepreneurs to combat the epidemic of rising house costs.





### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Ridgway Town Council Regular Meeting** – March 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – March 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Wetterhorn Homes Project Information Session** – March 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town hall and virtually via Zoom
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – March 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Planning Commission Meeting** – March 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – April 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – April 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

From Sue Husch, Volunteer Extraordinaire:

Why do dinosaurs make lousy pets?

Because they're dead.