



**Ridgway Youth Advisory Council
Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Due to COVID-19, and pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy,
the meeting will be conducted via a virtual meeting portal

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83740075229?pwd=dHNaVko2akNqTHhiNFJua3VNYUN4UT09>

Meeting ID: 837 4007 5229

Passcode: 612565

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US

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3:45 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL Cooper Ahern, Anna Bartschi, Kayla Bolane, Maizy Gordon, Gillian Jordan, Indigo Krois, River Randolph, Eleni Wallin, Kaitlyn Winkelmann

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2022 Meeting

Item 2 – Update regarding YAC Google Site

Item 3 – Presentation regarding **West Slope Youth Voice**

Item 4 – Update regarding Community Suggestion Boxes

Item 5 – Review of upcoming Town meetings and events

Item 6 – Next Meeting: Monday, March 14, 2022 @ 3:45 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS Presentation from Town Marshal and Victim Advocate

ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA ITEM #1

Ridgway Youth Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 10, 2022



1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Anna Bartschi called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. and Youth Advisory Council (YAC) members present were Cooper Ahern, Kayla Bolane, Maizy Gordon, Gillian Jordan, Indigo Krois, River Randolph, Eleni Wallin, and Kaitlyn Wikelmann. Mayor John Clark and Town Manager Preston Neill were also present.

2. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2021

Maizy made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2021 meeting. Mayor Bartschi seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentation from Safer More Affirming Communities

Ames Risch presented on the Safer More Affirming Communities group, including the mission of the group and their inclusivity sticker initiative. She explained that the group would like the sticker more visible in the Ouray County community. The discussion revolved around how to introduce these stickers into the community in a way that will educate and excite people about what Safer More Affirming Communities is. The hope is to make everyone feel welcome and make know that our community is a safe space for everyone. A few YAC members volunteered to help distribute the sticker and visit with businesses.

4. Discussion regarding YAC Blog

Preston explained that last year's YAC created a blog to post meeting summaries and for their peers and members of the public to learn more about the YAC members and why they were on the YAC. The group agreed to carry agreed to start their own blog/site to post meeting summaries and information about themselves. It was decided that a YAC Google Site would be created for them to manage, and each post would include links to the meeting agenda and video.

5. Discussion regarding YAC activities and projects

Preston reviewed the various topics of interest that the group brought up and discussed during their first meeting. It was decided that the group would move forward with the "Community Suggestion Box" idea so they could learn more from their peers and Ridgway residents about the issues they care about. Once they review all the suggestions and pinpoint the trends/most mentioned topics, the group will be able to decide on a final activity or project to move forward with. The group agreed to reach out to the shop teacher about constructing a few boxes to use and place at the High School and Town Hall.

6. Next Meeting Date

The group decided the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 3:45 p.m.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Youth Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 5:03 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #3

Program Description

The purpose of this program is to elevate West Slope young adults through peer to peer organizing by fostering leadership development and encouraging students to become active participants in their democracy. We know that our local students are the next generation of leaders and decision-makers for Western Colorado and for our country, and we believe in the power of student voices. It is our goal to encourage local youth to view voting as a right and a responsibility, always, from the moment they are eligible to vote.



During its pilot year from 2018 – 2019 the West Slope Youth Vote program placed most of its emphasis on peer to peer **voter registration** through classroom presentations. Now four years in our students have found their footing and, following the passage of SB19-235 for Automatic Voter Registration, have shifted their program emphasis from voter registration to **voter activation**.

Grouped by high school, our interns coordinate with teachers to activate their peers through classroom presentations. In these presentations our students have four main objectives 1) To make sure all students who are eligible, are registered or pre-registered to vote. 2) Play the program video that underscores the importance of voting 3) Share the West Slope Youth Vote Western Youth Issues report - connect students to legislators and the votes they took that directly impacted youth, and ask students what issues are most important to them 4) Encourage students to sign a pledge to vote card, which will be mailed to them as a reminder to get out and vote.

We view our non-partisan, non-profit status as a vital tool in turning students out to vote. While we encourage students to get involved with the political organizations they personally support, we also understand that politics can be polarizing. Our goal is for every student, no matter party affiliation or political views, to feel like they can have a say in their democracy. Additionally, we offer this program as an unpaid internship, so our students can list this work on professional resumes and college applications.



In addition to peer-to-peer activation our Youth Voter Initiative students identify priority bills moving through the state legislature that impact youth. They actively engage in the democratic process by providing testimony, traveling to the capitol for a lobby trip to speak with their legislators, and informing fellow students about legislation being passed that impact their everyday lives.