

ROCC Business Meeting  
May 20, 2018  
Ridgway Community Center. 7:00 pm

Announcements – Kate Kellogg

1. ROCC needs volunteers for Recycling/Compost Bin Monitoring at the Ridgway Concerts in the Park on Thursdays in July from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Kate passed a sign-up sheet around.
2. Initiative 93 Education Funding Proposal – Taylor Chase

Taylor is a teacher at the Ouray High School and is a member of the Educational Policy Committee of D3 Indivisible.

Tabor and the Gallagher Amendment are big problems in Colorado, since they put severe hurdles in the way of school districts raising revenue.

The state funding for school districts is only 50 percent of what it should. And if the state runs out of funds for the school districts it just issues I.O.U.s to the school districts. Thus, the state now owes hundreds of millions of dollars to the school districts state wide.

This Ballot Initiative 93 will raise revenues by a Colorado Constitutional Amendment, which will remove the hurdles to school funding that Tabor and the Gallagher Amendment created

Adoption of March 11 Business Meeting Minutes:

**Kathy Heffernan made a motion to accept the minutes and Donna Green seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Old Business:

Parking Lot Sale – Kate Kellogg and Rich Niemeier

There were approximately 40 vendors at the sale, which is much lower than in previous years. We might consider moving the sale back to the lot behind the Ridgway Library or consider increasing our advertising of the parking lot sale to potential vendors. And we might consider coordinating the parking lot sale once again with the Love Your Valley Festival, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May each year. Right now, the sale is coordinated with the coast-to-coast Hwy 50 national parking lot sale on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May each year.

One problem with moving the parking lot sale back to the vacant lot north of the library is that the library will be doing an expansion next year and the lot to the west of the library may also be under construction next year. This may result in construction equipment and material being parked and stored on this vacant lot.

We will need to talk to the Town of Ridgway about the use of this vacant lot for construction equipment and construction material storage next year.

We made \$685 from the sale. \$600 from vendor fees and \$100 from our ROCC Booth sales. We had expenses of \$95 and advertising costs of \$247. Thus, net income from the sale was \$339.16.

Treasurer's Report:

See report below.

Net Worth - As of 5/1/2018		
5/1/2018		Page 1
Account	5/1/2018 Balance	
<hr/>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Cash and Bank Accounts</b>		
Alpine Checking	24,370.27	
Alpine PayPal	1,000.09	
PayPal	522.34	
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<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>25,892.70</b>	
<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>25,892.70</b>	
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<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<hr/>		
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>25,892.70</b>	

5/1/2018

ROCC Income/Expense  
12/5/2017 through 5/1/2018

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Category	12/5/2017- 5/1/2018
<b>INCOME</b>	
Interest Inc	1.24
Member Donations Income	1,977.50
Membership Dues Income	6,332.00
Other Donations Income	1,000.00
ROCC Talk Income	170.00
Spaghetti Dinner Income	1,977.00
WCA Membership Dues Income	1,080.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,537.74</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Uncategorized	0.00
Awards Expense	107.95
Bank Charge	74.02
Dues Expense	125.00
Grants	500.00
Leadership Training	500.00
Liability Insurance	267.07
Postage	75.80
ROCC Talk Expense	575.02
Rummage Sale Expense	95.00
Spaghetti Dinner Expense	1,316.22
WCA Share of Membership Income	2,567.80
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>6,203.88</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>6,333.86</b>

Tom Heffernan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Dudley Case seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

## Committee Reports:

### 1. ROCC Talks – Kate Kellogg

In April ROCC showed a film entitled “Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution” at the Wright Opera House. The film was well received by the 45 people in attendance. And we may show this film again in the Fall at the Sherbino.

The next ROCC Talk will be on June 20<sup>th</sup> at which time Ken Logan of Colorado Parks and Wildlife will speak on Living with Mountain Lions on the Western Slope.

In August there will be a ROCC Talk by either Ellen Lapham, Chair of the American Climber Science Program or a presentation on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Wildlife Collision Prevention Program. Ellen is Emeritus Director of the American Alpine Club and expert climber and conservationist. She has climbed Everest and does research on high elevation ecology.

### 2. Ridgway Dark Sky Update – Valentine Szwarc

See PowerPoint committee report below.

The Ridgway Dark Sky Committee requested to be a full ROCC committee.

**Val made a motion to make the Ridgway Dark Sky Committee a full ROCC committee. Roze Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

The ultimate goal of working with the Town of Ridgway on updating their Dark Sky Ordinance is to try to freeze the amount of light pollution at the current levels that the Town of Ridgway is producing.

The funding that the committee will need from ROCC should be less than \$500, which would be used for two Sky Quality Meters and for the printing of posters and brochures.


Once the Town of Ridgway is dark sky compliant, the committee could start working on getting Ouray County and the City of Ouray to be dark sky compliant.





# **RIDGWAY DARK SKY COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT TO ROCC**

Val Szwarc and Dave Jones  
Co- Chairs RDSC and Dark Sky Advocates  
May 20, 2018



# Agenda Topics

- Introduction and Background
- Ridgway Dark Sky Committee (RDSC) Accomplishments
- Final Assessment Results
  - Ridgway's potential for successful IDA Dark Sky Designation
- Recommendations
- Path Forward



# Introduction and Background

- In March 2018 ROCC approved an exploratory committee and a request for volunteers to focus on assessment of possible pursuit of Dark Sky Designation by IDA for Ridgway
  - Objective of assessing potential effort, timeline, resources, community support, and funding (if needed)
  - Determine Ridgway Town Council willingness for lighting ordinance enhancements
    - To be fully IDA compliant
  - Led by Val Szwarc and Dave Jones
  - Report back to ROCC in 2(TBR) months with mature assessment results and recommendations
- I am here today with the assessment results and recommendations

# RDSC Accomplishments

- Organized the Ridgway Dark Sky Committee
- Prepared and successfully presented Dark Sky Proposal to Ridgway Town Council - April 11
  - Unanimous TC support
- Provided to Planning Dept Manager mature draft of IDA required lighting ordinance regs
  - Incorporated Planning Dept comments and provided second mature draft
  - Currently awaiting Town decision if Planning Commission cycle is required
- Sky Quality Measurements Continuing
  - Measurement procedures updated with lessons learned from other programs
  - Preliminary measurement sites selected
  - Subcommittee of 3-4 members formed under Val Szwarc leadership focused on SQM measurements
- First Public outreach event coordinated as joint event with Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS) and Ridgway State Park – June 2, 8pm
  - Dark Sky Preservation Theme at RSP
  - Multimedia presentations followed by star gazing thru professional telescopes from BCAS and RDSC

## RDSC Accomplishments - continued

- Public Relations activities kicked off
  - Pursuing Support Letters from local governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals
  - Planning additional public outreach events and lectures, media coverage
  - PR Subcommittee formed under Dave Jones leadership
- Preliminary schedule prepared to IDA application submit timeframe
- Contacted IDA with Ridgway's nomination to pursue Dark Sky Designation
  - Awaiting IDA comments
- Initial funding request for (2) sky quality meters (SQM)



# Final Assessment Results

- Ridgway Town Council (RTC) unanimously approved pursuit of IDA Dark Sky Community designation
  - Lighting ordinance update in progress
  - Targeting late summer (TBR) final approval by RTC
- Public comment at RTC meeting very supportive
- Sky brightness measurements and sky darkness comparable to BCNP
  - According to BCNP Astro Ranger Molly Pittman
- Strong support from BCAS, Ridgway State Park, SMPA, and other organizations

# Recommendations

- RDSC continue pursuit of IDA designation for Ridgway
  - Compliments ROCC's past efforts in Dark Sky protection
  - Consistent to ROCC conservation and preservation of environment mission
- Transition RDSC from a ROCC working committee to ROCC committee status with objective of achieving IDA Dark Sky Community designation for Ridgway
  - Significant effort to complete with schedule target of early 2019
  - Total funding requirements projected to be less than \$500
    - 2 SQMs, printing, posters, brochures (TBR)
  - Demonstrates community support from an accomplished organization and satisfies IDA criteria
    - Organizational structure, governance, resource and funding source
  - Co-Chaired by Val Szwarc and Dave Jones

# Path Forward

- Finalize Ridgway Lighting Ordinance
- Initiate joint (Ridgway and ROCC/RDSC) formal nomination with IDA
- Public Relations Subcommittee initiated
  - Support Letters, Outreach, public education
  - Led by Dave Jones
- Sky Brightness Measurement Subcommittee initiated
  - Measure and analyze
  - Led by Val Szwarc

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## 3. Grants – Kate Kellogg and Don Swartz

The committee received two requests for grants. One, from Top of the Pines for \$1,000 and one from Mighty Mini Horse Therapy Program for \$500. See grant applications below.

Val suggested that a yearly deadline be set for all grant applications to be received by the committee, so that all the grant applications could be considered at once.

Currently there is \$7,500 in the ROCC budget for grants. \$5,000 from an anonymous donor, \$1,000 in grant donations, and \$1,500 specifically reserved for grants in the budget each year.

After much discussion, Sharon Case made a motion to table further discussion on the grants until the committee could make a full report and written recommendations to the Board and members on all these grants. Roze seconded the motion. Motion passed.





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## Application for ROCC Financial Support

Date 3/29/2018

Name of your organization Top of the Pines, Inc.

Organization address PO Box 535, 1035 Highland Dr., Ridgway, CO 81432

Organization EIN 84-1601734 ,applying organizations must be a qualified 501(c)(3) charity)

Point person Melissa McKay

Contact email address melissajmckay@hotmail.com

Contact phone number(s) 970-708-8477

Amount of support requested \$1000.00

*In answering the following questions, brief answers of 200-300 words are ideal. Answers should not exceed 500 words.*

### 1. Please describe your organization and its mission/goals.

Top of the Pine's mission is to provide a majestic, natural setting that offers individuals, families, public and private groups or organizations, a regional educational facility with rustic camping and outdoor recreational opportunities, while preserving land for open space and wildlife habitat. Our goals include:

- Supporting outdoor educational and environmentally-based learning programs
- Inspiring and educating users to the value of their natural surroundings and open space.
- Establishing an outdoor community facility accessible to all users of all ages and for multiple purposes including artistic workshops, biking, camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, outdoor retreats, weddings, photography, snowshoeing, and youth environmental education.
- Continually maintaining and improving the hiking and biking trails and access to TOP.

### 2. How will these funds be spent and what will these support funds allow you to do?

We intend to continue work on the hiking/biking trail. Thanks to your generous donation in 2016, we were able to retain a professional trail builder to help direct the first phase of a permanent hiking/single track biking trail. This included grading and using volunteers (many provided by the Telluride Adaptive Sports Program) to begin construction of the most difficult sections going up the hill east of the Pavilion. We also roughed in the rest of the perimeter trail. This portion of the trail will also need some hand work in the spring to be considered done. We hope to put in directional signs to mark the new trail, as well as, maps of the trail in that section to encourage and educate more visitor and school use of the trail throughout the year. Other sections of the trail need to be improved and marked out also. (See attached photos.)

**Awardees are required to submit within 1-year of award a report on how the funds were used and outcome measures of success.**



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## Application for ROCC Financial Support

Date April 24, 2018

Name of your organization Mighty Mini Horse Therapy Program

Organization address 448 Marys Road, Ridgway, CO 81432

Organization EIN 82-2323713 , applying organizations must be a qualified 501(c)(3) charity)

Point person Manette L. Steele, President/Founder

Contact email address mmhpt@outlook.com

Contact phone number(s) 303-885-2685

Amount of support requested \$500

*In answering the following questions, brief answers of 200-300 words are ideal. Answers should not exceed 500 words.*

### 1. Please describe your organization and its mission/goals:

Our mission is to nurture and inspire people one pat at a time by promoting health and wellness and visiting individuals as well as institutions.

### 2. How will these funds be spent and what will these support funds allow you to do:

These funds will allow us to register for a program called "Just Say Whoa to Bullying" and make copies of the content to be delivered to the Ouray and Ridgway Schools along with the presentations with the Mighty Mini Horse Therapy mini horses.

The program "Just Say Whoa to Bullying" started after the founder met a child who had a gun pulled on her at school. Outraged that this should happen in her own hometown, she knew she could help reach children with her mini therapy horse, [Amos the Wonder Horse](#) and teach them bullying prevention. It was a big idea - a dream.

Today, they are rolling out the program with other mini therapy horse organizations who are stepping up to teach bullying prevention and save our children. Texas, Utah, Florida, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Washington, Kansas, and Illinois. Missouri, [Colorado](#) (us), and Delaware are waiting in the wings. This is just the beginning!

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/justsaywhoatobullying/>

NOTE: We are the only representatives in Colorado. This is a great program, excellent content and bullying happens everywhere. The intent is to start this program in Ouray County and roll it out over the western slope.

**Submission due date 1 May. Anticipated decision on awards by 1 June. Awardees are required to submit within 1-year of award a report on how the funds were used and outcome measures of success. Questions and competed applications can be sent to Dave Jones at [drdjic@gmail.com](mailto:drdjic@gmail.com) or 240-454-1398.**

#### 4. Clean Energy – Rein van West

No report

#### 5. Public Lands – Jim Stephenson

No report

#### 6. Social Justice – Kathy and Tom Heffernan

See report below.

##### Report of ROCC Social Justice Committee for ROCC General Meeting May 20, 2018

Over the past couple of months we have been trying to keep affordable housing in the forefront of agendas of OCHAC, the BOCC, Town of Ridgway, and Ouray City Council.

One idea that has been floating around in different places is amending Tabor and bringing back the transfer fee to be used for affordable housing. Telluride was grandfathered in on the Transfer fee and they bring in quite a bit of money for affordable housing. This is one idea we are going to continue to stress OCHAC meetings. OCHAC seems to think that this is the best way to go. Amendments, I believe, have to happen on even years. That would make 2020 the first year it could happen. It takes quite a bit of work, so even if it didn't happen until 2022 it would be a good thing to work towards. Other areas throughout the state are also thinking that this might be the way to go.

We want to continue to suggest that ROCC consider being a member of CIRC just like WCC is. They only take businesses and organization members. It would be a good way for us to support them. Karen Perez said that they have 5-member groups throughout the state and all of them need more members. These groups are a coalition of people from various businesses and organization. These groups give CIRC power to engage the community. It strengthens them to do the work they have to do. There are so many threats against the immigrant communities. Karen would be very thankful if you would consider becoming a member.

Kathy and Tom Heffernan,  
Co-chairs of SJ Committee

## 7. Membership – Roze Evans and Austin Ray

Rein van West volunteered to be Chair Person of the committee, and the Chair Person will be rotated among committee members every few months.

A ROCC membership house party will be held on either Wednesday, August 1 or Thursday, August 2 at Chris Lance and Howard Greene's house. Or if this does not work out with Chris and Howard then Rein and Jan will hold the party at their house on Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Currently ROCC has 146 memberships, representing 231 individuals.

2018 revenues have been \$3,717.20 from membership dues, and \$1977.50 from extra contributions to ROCC.

In 2017 ROCC had 86 memberships, representing 130 individuals.

2017 revenues were \$2,315.25 from membership dues, and all extra contributions went to WCC.

This is a huge increase in memberships and revenues from memberships from 2017 to 2018, which is due to ROCC taking charge of its own membership and the resulting hard work of the Membership Committee, especially Austin who worked his spreadsheet and mail sorting magic.

## 8. Legislative – Roze Evans

Roze is stepping down as Chair Person of this committee. Therefore, the committee needs a new Chair Person. Please consider volunteering for this position.

During the legislative session each year the committee meets once a week each Tuesday morning.

## 9. WCA – Al Lowende and Dudley Case

At the last WCC Board meeting the Board primarily focused on finishing the rebranding of Western Colorado Congress into Western Colorado Alliance (WCA) and delivering WCA's message to the various communities on the Western Slope.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, June 4, at which time Peggy will lead a training session on fundraising for the Board.

WCA's Fundraising Committee had a telephone conference on May 16<sup>th</sup> and most of the meeting was devoted to creating a new 2018 Fundraising Plan with the guidance of Peggy Mathews, who is WCA's new Fundraising Consultant.

On Tuesday, June 5 there will be staff training on membership recruitment.

In the period from May through July there will be a major donor outreach and drive campaign. As well as, a new membership drive and small donor drive.

There will be a Fall campaign focused on increasing membership and fundraising.

New Business:

1. Adopt-a-Highway clean-up date – Tom McKenney

There was a clean-up on Hwy 550 in April, which was not well attended due to the short notice given of the date of the clean-up.

Tom Heffernan volunteered to organize the next clean-up, which may be in the Fall.

2. Board and Officer Nominations Committee – Tom McKenney

The committee needs a Chair person. So please consider volunteering for this position.

Adjourn

**Kathy Heffernan made a motion to adjourn and Sharon Case seconded the motion. Motion passed.**