

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
RIDGWAY OURAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD MAY 20, 2021
HELD VIA ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kate Kellogg
Diane Thompson
Austin Ray
Dave Jones
Val Szwarc
Scott Williams
Tom and Kathy Heffernan
Robyn Cascade
Roze Evans
Al Lowande
Linda Browning

SPEAKERS PRESENT: Erica Madison
Andrea Sokolowski
John Clark
Jake Niece

Members were asked to approve the Minutes of the ROCC Meeting held March 25, 2021. With no corrections noted, Scott Williams moved to approve. Val Szwarc seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved as presented.

The membership then listened to a presentation by Erica Madison, the Executive Director of the Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans. Erica highlighted activities in Ouray County addressing workforce and affordable housing as follows:

Space to Create in Ridgway which will create 30 housing units not limited to artists

Land Use Code has doubled the use by right in the historical residential zone

Construction of 3 Habitat for Humanity residences in Ridgway which will house 3 families when completed in 2022

Erica then introduced the Community Land Trust Partnership comprised of Habitat for Humanity of the San Juan, Ouray County Land Trust and the three government bodies of Ouray County through an Inter Government Agreement (IGA).

Andrea Sokolowski, the founder of the Ouray County Housing Trust, gave members an overview of the structure and purpose of the Housing Trust. The goal is to purchase land to be used for affordable housing. Ground leases would be created for those qualifying to build and own the home. The Trust has acquired at least one piece of land and is moving forward to qualify individuals.

John Clark clarified several points and voiced support for both agencies stating the need for all to cooperate in solving the affordable housing issues for Ouray County. Members thanked all the speakers for their efforts on behalf of Ouray County.

Members were advised of the date for the annual picnic which will be held on July 15 at Inspiration Point on Log Hill mesa.

Many thanks to Tom and Kathy Heffernan for organizing and supervising the ROCC road cleanup crews. Over 12 people participated with CDOT calling our volunteers “heroes” for their efforts.

Scott Williams presented the Treasurer’s Report. Upon motion by Kate Kellogg with a second by Linda Browning, the treasurer’s report was approved as presented.

Diane Thompson gave the members an update on the “Save the Blues” campaign. Plans are to place weekly ads in the Plaindealer, print up to 1,200 handouts, and ask for volunteers to man the trailheads, pass out information and answer questions. She asked for up to \$500 from ROCC to support this effort. Linda Browning moved to approve the \$500 expenditure. Upon a second by Scott Williams the motion carried.

Dave Jones next requested a grant of \$2,000 for the Food Pantry to be used in the purchase of the building. Linda Browning moved to approve the grant of \$2000 for Food Pantry building purchase. Diane Thompson seconded the motion and it was approved.

Scott Williams updated the members on the developments with the Special Use Permit Application going before the Board of County Commissioners in late June. Mainly BOCC is considering a change of use for the non-conforming single family residential property which would then allow a commercial business to be operated on the property. He asked for \$500 to cover the cost of an attorney to assist the Land Use Committee in submitting additional comments to BOCC on this matter. Tom Heffernan moved to approve the expenditure of \$500 for attorney fees. Diane Thompson seconded the motion and it was approved.

Additionally, Kate Kellogg moved for ROCC to authorize the Land Use Committee to submit comments to BOCC opposing the Special Use Permit Application being proposed. Tom Heffernan seconded the motion and it was approved.

Kate Kellogg presented expenses incurred by Roze Evans in the use of ZOOM for past ROCC meetings during 2020 and 2021. The total amount of \$717.77 was approved unanimously by the members for reimbursement to Roze Evans.

No action was taken regarding the spaghetti dinner. Planning will be discussed at the next ROCC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.