

MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING
RIDGWAY OURAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 8, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Rich Niemeier Austin Ray
 Vicki Warner Huggins Al Lowande
 Diane Thompson Tom Heffernan
 Val Szwarc Ames Risch
 Scott Williams Linda Browning

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: 25 WERE IN ATTENDANCE

Vicki Warner Huggins called the meeting to order. She requested all in attendance introduce themselves. Once all were introduced, she next introduced Andrea Sokolowski, the Executive Director of the Home Trust of Ouray County to give an update on her organization. She advised that \$1,035,000 was received in Grants from the State of Colorado for the purpose of land in both Ridgway and Ouray. She informed the members that 14 units were planned for the property in Ridgway and 12 units for the property in Ouray. All properties will be built and managed as Affordable Housing units for residents of Ouray County. She anticipates building to begin on a duplex lot in the Parkside subdivision in Ridgway in the Spring of 2023. The Home Trust is partnering with San Juan Habitat for Humanity to build out the project. Home Trust is also establishing a home buyer assistance program to help with down payments for home purchases. The membership thanked Andrea for hard work promoting Affordable Housing in Ouray County. ROCC had previously given Home Trust a \$1,000 grant.

A copy of the Minutes of the October 13, 2022, general meeting were posted on the ROCC website for review. With no corrections, upon motion by Al Lowande and a second by Rich Niemeier, the Minutes were approved as posted.

No Treasurer's Report was given as Anthony Gegauff was unable to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CLEAN ENERGY: Dave Jones gave an update on activities and issues the committee will be working on in 2023. He asked for new members to join the committee which meets 5 or 6 times a year with the next meeting being on February 23, 2023.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Tom Heffernan spoke on the issues the committee would be addressing in 2023 with the next meeting to place in early January, 2023. Affordable Child Care for Ouray County along with Victim Advocacy will be highlighted.

GRANTS: Dave Jones informed everyone the application for obtaining a grant from ROCC in on the ROCC website. He anticipates that \$4,000 will be budgeted in 2023 for general grants.

PUBLIC LANDS: Diane Thompson reported on the committees' activities in 2022 with the Blue Lakes trailhead volunteer efforts to educate users on conservation wise use of the trail. She asked for input for issues to be addressed in 2023.

LAND USE: Scott Williams (via Zoom) highlighted success on the denial of zoning changes to allow mining in the valley along with the status of the County Road 5 law suit which was appealed and is now awaiting the decision of the Appeals Court. He reported that Jennifer Cram, a member of the Land Use committee was monitoring activities of the Ridgway Town Council. He than asked for a volunteer to do the same for the Ouray Town Council. He reported that the Town of Ridgway had hired a consultant to advise the Town on the update of the town's Master Plan. He urged ROCC's membership to stay aware and remain involved with the process of updating the Master Plan.

ROCC TALKS: Kate Kellogg asked for input on topics for talks to be scheduled in 2023. She will pursue one possible topic of Living With Wildlife with Sarah Coulter.

RECYCLE: No activity and no report.

DARK SKIES: Val Swarc reported on the success of the Dark Sky talk held at Top o the Pines in September. He will be working with the town of Ridgway on their annual report to IDA and on the Master Plan to include Dark Sky requirements

ADOPT A PARK: No report

MEMBERSHIP: Austin Ray and Rein Van West highlighted the results of the mailing during 2022. Membership increased from 135 at the beginning of 2022 to 235 by the end of 2022. Rein proposed changes to the annual membership fees as follows:

	Current	Proposed
Family	\$55.00	\$40.00
Individual	\$35.00	\$25.00
Students and Individuals < 30	\$10.00	\$10.00

Following a discussion by the membership, Al Lowande moved that the proposed fees for ROCC membership be adopted as presented. With a second by Dave Jones, the motion carried.

WCA: Ames Risch (via Zoom) reported on initiatives of the WCA for 2023 which will include climate change issues, affordable housing and ongoing efforts for electrification in Colorado and the Western Slope.

ROCC SUMMER DINNER (Not Spaghetti): Linda Browning agreed to chair the dinner for 2023. She will give a report at the January meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2023/2024

Austin Ray	Communications	12/2024
Linda Browning	Secretary	12/2024
Diane Thompson	WCA Rep	12/2024

Rich Niemeier moved to approve the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee. With a second by Dave Jones, the above individuals were elected for the stated term. The following positions for 2023/2024 remain vacant.

Co-President
Director at Large
Director at Large

These above individuals join the current officers whose terms expire in December, 2023.

Rich Niemeier	Co-President
Anthony Gegauff	Treasurer
WCA Representative	Ames Risch
Director at Large	Scott Williams
Director at Large	Val Szwarc

Vicki Warner Huggins continues as immediate past co-president for 2023.

Membership meetings for 2023 to be held on the 3rd Thursday of the odd numbered months. Dates are as follows:

January 19, March 16, May 18, July 20, September 21, November 16.

The location is to be determined. It was suggested the location be rotated between Ridgway and Ouray.

No further business, the meeting was adjourned.