

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE RIDGWAY OURAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP
HELD JANUARY 19, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rich Niemeier Austin Ray
 Carolyn Ray Gene Ulrich
 Tom Heffernan Kathy Heffernan
 Kate Kellogg Roze Evans
 Dan Kigar Al Lowande
 Val Szwarc Linda Browning
 Rein Van West

The meeting was called to order by Rich Niemeier. He presented the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting held on December 8, 2022. Al Lowande moved to approve the Minutes as presented. With a second by Austin Ray, the minutes were approved.

No Treasurer's Report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clean Energy: No report

Social Justice: Kathy Heffernan reported the committee was focusing on affordable child care in Ouray County. The committee will meet February . The meeting is to be attended by a representative from Montrose who will provide information on how their group organized and developed a child care program in Montrose.

Grants Committee: No report

Public Lands: Will meet on Monday, January 23 at 3:30 at the library. Kelly Crain will attend to provide information on animal migration in the San Juans. Several members spoke regarding concerns for the safety of the elk migrating in the area of Round Top off of Highway 62 and CR 24. It was the consensus of those in attendance that local animal migration paths should be on the agenda of the Ouray County Planning Commission in the updating of the County Master Plan.

Land Use: No report

ROCC Talks: Kate Kellogg asked members for suggestions for speakers and topics. Sarah Coulter and Susan Holland were both mentioned as possible speakers. Kate will follow up.

Dark Skies: Val Szwarc reported that he will be focused on working with the Planning Commission on the inclusion of Dark Sky protections in the current update to the County Master Plan.

Membership: Austin Ray reported there were 238 members of ROCC at the end of the year. Letters have been sent out requesting membership renewals. There were 138 members as of today's date. A second letter will be sent to those whose membership expired urging renewal.

WCA: No report

Land Use: Members in attendance urged participation in the planning for the Update to the Ouray County Master Plan to assure protection of the current land use code requiring a minimum of 35 acres for building.

Based on the committee reports, Val Szwarc initiated a discussion on the benefits of coordinating the committees of ROCC in order to give input to the Ouray County Planning Commission on the updated to the Master Plan.

Roze Evans recommended the establishment of an AD-Committee to focus on working with the Planning Commission on the Update of the County Master Plan. All in attendance concurred. Al Lowande agreed to organize an initial meeting to establish this committee. A ROCC Alert will be sent out announcing the time and date. It is important for the membership to show up and give input. In addition to the current membership being invited to join, Tom Heffernan suggested seeking participation from the high school students here in Ouray County. He will follow up to see how this might be done.

ROCC Annual Summer Dinner: Linda Browning reported the pavilion at PaCoChuPuk has been secured for Friday, June 9. She asked for approval from the members to increase the cost of a meal from \$10 per person to \$15 per person. With a motion from Rein Van West and a second from Kate Kellogg, the price of \$15 per person was approved. The dinner planning committee is comprised of Linda Browning, Kate Kellogg, Roze Evans and Vicki Warner Huggins. They will meet in February to organize.

Rich Niemeier brought the members up to date on the proposal for rotating the meetings between Ridgway and Ouray. He reported that the Ouray Community Center charges for the use of the rooms with the cost ranging between \$50 and \$65. It was decided the March meeting will be held at the 4H Center in Ridgway and the May meeting will be held in Ouray. This will provide time to find a no cost location in Ouray.

Rein VanWest requested a correction to the slate of officers elected at the annual meeting in December. Al Lowande was to have been elected as the WCA alternate rather than Diane Thompson. He reported that two Director at Large positions remain vacant. Dan Kiger, who was present in the room, agreed to fill one of these positions. With a motion by Roze Evans and a second by Linda Browning, Al Lowande was elected WCA Alternate and Dan Kiger, Director at Large.

The members present asked for clarification on the \$2,500 annual contribution from ROCC to the WCA. What does ROCC get for this money in exchange? Al Lowande agreed to meet with Ames Risch, the ROCC WCA representative, and Emily Hornback, the WCA director, to clarify WCA's role and contribution to ROCC. Al was requested to discuss with Emily and the WCA, the desire for ROCC to have a designated advisor.

Linda Browning presented a proposal to the members for an advertising campaign to be placed in the Plaindealer on a monthly basis for 2023. The purpose is to encourage membership, highlight committees and to educate the public on what ROCC has accomplished. Roze Evans moved to approve advertising in the Plaindealer for 2023. Linda estimated the cost to be \$119 per ad. With a second by Kate Kellogg the proposal was approved.

Several members voiced concern over the lack of attendance at the membership meetings. Those present felt the current structure of the meeting was the major deterrent to attendance. A discussion on how to modify the structure with the goal of increasing attendance was held. The conclusion was to mandate a structure which would eliminate repetitive and lengthy committee reports, limit the time of the meeting and make them more relevant. To accomplish these goals, the following structure was proposed:

1. Each meeting would have a time limit of 90 minutes.
2. Each meeting would secure a speaker to speak on an topic of interest
The speaker would be allotted a maximum time of 30 minutes at the beginning of each meeting to present.
3. The Business Meeting would then follow with a time limit of 60 minutes.
4. Committee reports to be posted to the ROCC website. No verbal reports to be given at the meeting
5. Committee chairs to present only actionable items at the meeting verbally. If written documentation is needed, it is to be prepared as a power point presentation in the format found on the ROCC website.

Al Lowande moved to approve the above structure to be implemented at the March 19 meeting. With a second by Val Szwarc, the structure for future ROCC meetings was approved.

The meeting was then adjourned.