

MINUTES OF THE
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
RIIDGWAY OURAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Carolyn Dresler	Rich Niemeier
	Austin Ray	Carolyn Ray
	Vicki Warner Huggins	Tom Heffernan
	Kathy Heffernan	Val Szwarc
	Anthony Gegauff	Diane Thompson
	Kate Kellogg	Dan Kigar
	Roze Evans	Al Lowande
	Ames Risch	Arlene Richter
	Linda Browning	

The meeting was held at the Community Center in Ouray. The meeting was called to order by Rich Niemeier who introduced Agnieszka Przeszlowska, the President of the Ridgway Community Garden. She spoke to the members about the goals of the Ridgway Community Garden. It is focused on 1: food production for the members 2: education of the members and the community 3: partnering with other community groups and the schools 4: an increasing awareness in the community. They currently have 50 raised beds, have installed a weather station, wildlife fencing and an irrigation system. They serve both children and adults and expect to serve 95 adults and 32 children in 2023. They also partner with the Food Pantry and thus serve another 170 adults and 45 children. The Community Garden continues to serve its members and the community. Agnieszka was thanked for her service and for her talk to the members.

The Minutes of the meeting held March 16, 2023 were presented for approval. Rich Niemeyer asked that the minutes be corrected to show that Tom and Kathy Heffernan, Carolyn Ray and Carolyn Dresler all volunteered to join the Grants Committee. With this correction noted, Tom Heffernan moved to approve the Minutes. With a second by Anthony Gegauff, the Minutes were approved.

Anthony Gegauff reported to the members the income and expenses for the period 12/1/22 through 5/14/22. Income reported was \$12, 068.88 and expense

was \$5,880.04. With a motion by Roze Evans and a second by Austin Ray, the treasurer's report was approved.

Members were advised that all committee reports are to be filed online on the ROCC website. It was then noted that it was difficult to locate the current reports as well as past reports on the website. Following a discussion, it was determined that reorganizing the website was needed. Roze Evans and Austin Ray will work to establish drop down listing for all committees with a link for filing reports. The goal being to have a history of committee reports filed in a manner easily located.

Members were reminded that once written reports are filed online, no verbal presentation at the meeting was expected. Only items requiring membership vote or action are to be reported verbally at the meetings.

It was reported that the Clean Energy Committee may be disbanding. As the chairperson was not present, Carolyn Dresler will contact and ask for a report on the intentions of the committee going forward at the July meeting.

Diane Thompson will file a report on line. She reported that ROCC members are being asked to again participate in the Blue Lakes Trail monitoring and as serving as trailhead ambassadors. An alert will be sent to the membership.

Kate Kellogg reported that she is working with Jason LaBelle, a professor of Anthropology and Geology from CSU, to present a ROCC Talk in September or October on Native American Occupation in the San Juans. No date or venue has been determined. Dan Kigar volunteered to work with Kate on organizing this event Professor LaBelle as a speaker.

Rich Niemeier reported that Barbara Hodge, a ROCC member, contacted him through the ROCC website with a proposal for ROCC to support a public transportation initiative between Ouray County and Montrose. Vicki Warner Huggins will follow up with Ms. Hodge advising her of transportation services currently available for Ouray County residents.

Al Lowande gave a Master Plan update. A community survey is to be sent out to all Ouray County residents in June. The purpose of the survey is to give input to the consultants. Al specifically pointed out that input on Question 14 in the

survey was critical as it provides an open-ended means of giving meaningful input to the consultants.

He suggested that ROCC prepare “talking points” to be distributed to the membership in response to Question 14 and to urge each member to complete the survey. He advised that the survey can be forwarded to all ROCC members. ROCC participation is critical to assure the process continues in a direction positive for Ouray County.

Rich Niemeier gave an update on the organization of the Grants Committee. He commended Dave Jones for his hard work in administering grant requests with little support from the membership. A group of board members and volunteers consisting of Rich Niemeier, Austin and Carolyn Ray, Kate Kellogg, Carolyn Dresler, Scott Williams, Vicki Huggins and Anthony Gegauff met with Dave to learn about current procedures. They learned that a procedure has been in place with a score sheet for reviewing grant requests. The review group is in the process of revising the score sheet and the process for reviewing grant requests. Dave Jones resigned from the Grants Committee. The Grants Committee will now consist of the ROCC board and interested members. Carolyn Dresler will take on the role of the Grants Coordinator and report to the Board. A detailed new process will be developed by the above group and presented at the next ROCC meeting.

Rich Niemeier reported that he attended the Positive Youth Development Training provided by Voyager. He encouraged other ROCC members to attend this training in order to allow ROCC to work with youth in the community and to include them in ROCC’s organization. Tom and Kathy Heffernan, and Al Lowande all indicated an interest in attending the training. Carolyn Dresler will follow up to provide contacts for the training.

Linda Browning reported on the ROCC N BY THE RIVER dinner plans for the June 9, 2023 event. She asked for volunteers for set up and take down. Members present agreed to help with both. To encourage ticket sales, a ROCC alert will be sent to all members. In addition, an ad will run in the Plaindealer the next two weeks.

The Citizen of the Year vote resulted in Ouray Mountain Rescue being selected. In view of the significant number of nominations from the public, Linda suggested a method be established for rating the nominations in making future selections.

Carolyn Dresler presented an opportunity for ROCC to participate in the Communities That Care event being held in July at the 4H center. This would involve ROCC having a booth/table at the event and locating volunteers to make repairs for community members in need. The "Repair Café" will take place at the 4H event center in partnership with the Community That Cares (CTC). The date to be determined. Following a discussion of the needed volunteers, Ames Risch moved the ROCC participate in the event. With a second by Anthony Gegauff, the motion passed. Carolyn Dresler will coordinate with CTC to let them know ROCC will participate and to begin looking for volunteers.

Carolyn Dresler asked about ROCC's printing costs and how to be the most cost effective. Members asked that the most cost-effective provider be used whether it was local or on-line.

Carolyn Dresler asked that the secretary provide a draft of the minutes within 7 days of the meeting. Linda Browning did not feel she would be able to meet this time frame.

Ames Risch then announced resignation from the ROCC Board and as WCA representative effective immediately. The Board thanked Ames for her work and support on behalf of ROCC.

The meeting was adjourned.