

ROCC Ad Hoc Master Plan Update Committee Report / March 16, 2023 Business Meeting

Committee holds first meeting: The well-attended meeting took place via Zoom on February 15th to organize, review the current status, and work on a plan of action. Al Lowande and Scott Williams will continue as co-chairs. Regular meetings are planned for the first and third Mondays of each month, and the Committee met on March 6th via Zoom.

Background: The Ouray County Master Plan is a comprehensive, long-term guide for decision-making by the County on such issues as zoning and land use, housing, agriculture, mining, recreation and tourism, water, scenic and natural resources, wildlife, etc. - most anything that affects the quality of life in Ouray County. But, the current Master Plan, adopted in 1999, is out-of-date.

The updating process has finally begun. The County has hired an outside consultant to work with the Planning Commission, staff and the public to update the Plan. **The “Kickoff” Master Plan update meeting was held February 21 at 2:00 PM at the 4-H Center in Ridgway.** We had a good turnout, and a number of Committee members attended and presented comments at the end.

The consultant outlined the intended process. For more information they have set up a dedicated website for Master Plan: <https://klj.mysocialpinpoint.com/ouray-co>

The first step is to gather background data on the existing conditions and trends to provide a context. This is supposed to occur in the next two months. As the data becomes available for particular topics (such as water, agriculture, etc.), the Planning Commission workshops will focus on those topics. There will also be a series of public "town hall" meetings. You can review his presentation on the website for more detail on the process.

The Process: The “estimated timeframes” are:

Spring 2023: Public Town Hall to identify issues

Fall 2023: Public Town Hall to review identified issues and input

Winter 2023: Public meeting to review and comment on draft updated Master Plan

Spring 2024: Public meeting to review and comment on final draft

In between these sessions the Planning Commission will be meeting as well, and the first Planning Commission meeting was held on March 7th. The Commission, the consultant and staff discussed the types and sources of background data and information they think they need, the overall process and timeframes, and potential public survey questions. Committee members presented both written and oral comments to the Planning Commission. The next Planning Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 28th.

Overall Plan of Action: We plan to be involved at every step of the way to help the Planning Commission settle on the best possible Master Plan by identifying the issues that need to be addressed and advocating for solutions. We have a wide range of interests represented on the Committee since it includes member of the other ROCC Committees.

What You Can Do:

Join the Committee: Contact Al evanslowande@gmail.com or Scott s_swilliams2001@yahoo.com to be added to the email list.

Review the Master Plan Update webpage and sign up for notifications:
<https://klj.mysocialpinpoint.com/ouray-co>

Attend the Planning Commission meetings and Town Halls and voice your thoughts: You don't need to be a ROCC Committee member to provide your own personal point of view. The Committee will send out ROCC alerts for particularly important opportunities to participate when the Planning Commission needs to hear from as many people as possible!