

City of Fruita – Livability Commission

Meeting Minutes – September 24, 2020

Members in Attendance: Dave Karisny, Karen Leonhart, John Rodwick, Denise Hight, Adrienne Kaga, Sarah Brooks, Terri Potente, Doug Van Etten, Chris Taggart

Members Absent: Lori Chesnick, Amanda Quigley, Michael Handley, Thomas McNamara

Staff in Attendance: Shannon Vassen

Guests in Attendance: Ellie Reynolds and Ken Stevens of Waste Management, Jean Rodwick

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from August 27, 2020 Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes from the August 27, 2020 meeting, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Recycling Discussion with Waste Management

Ellie Reynolds and Ken Stevens, of Waste Management, provided the Livability Commission with a presentation on recycling. Mr. Stevens presented an overview of the Grand Junction Waste Management facility and answered questions from the group. Some of the highlights from the presentation and questions were:

- The Grand Junction Facility processes 1,000 tons of recycling per month, 593 tons come from Fruita (on average) over the past the year.
- For recycling, the cleaner the material is the better, as it requires less sorting and less processing. The material does not have to be washed but could be cleaned (such as scraping) before setting it out on the curb
- Plastic bags cannot be recycled through the curbside program; however, it is recommended that people bring these bags to grocery stores to be recycled.
- Plastic bottles and caps can be recycled, Mr. Stevens noted just to empty the bottle and to keep the cap on.
- Cardboard boxes can be recycled, and shipping tape does not need to come off the box before recycling them. Mr. Stevens commented that the only cardboard boxes that cannot be recycled are boxes that are coated in wax (such as vegetable boxes).
- Styrofoam is not recyclable.
- Fruita has done a great job over the past year as far as recycling participation, and Fruita's contamination rate is low compared to the rest of Colorado.
- The electronic recycling event will take place next year in Fruita, probably in the spring.

4. City of Fruita Update

Shannon Vassen provided the City of Fruita update.

- Mr. Vassen shared that the City of Fruita continues to be in a healthy financial position during the pandemic, almost all tax revenues continue to be higher than the previous year.
- Mr. Vassen also shared that the Peach Street dining space is now open, and the Mulberry Street dining space will be opening soon. He explained that the City is excited to be offering these spaces for our downtown businesses, and hope that this will drive more residents and guests to downtown Fruita. Also, Mr. Vassen noted that the City did purchase similar supplies for the Southside Businesses.
- Mesa County is moving into the “Protect our Neighbors” phase of the state’s COVID-19 response. The major changes include (from the previous Safer at Home Order) allowing gatherings of up to 500 or 50% (whatever is less), and a few exceptions to the statewide mask order (when exercising at a gym, when seating at a place of worship and six feet apart from others, and when seating in an office or cubicle).
- To conclude the update, Mr. Vassen provided an overview of the potential “Adopt a Street” program that the Livability Commission would like to implement. Mr. Vassen explained that the program will likely be low-cost to implement, and the commission should determine potential locations for trash cans and the number of trash cans needed. According to the Public Works Department, the streets that will the most amount of trash piled typically tend to be streets without sidewalks (such K.4, K.6), and streets with sidewalks can get cleaned up with the street sweeper. At the next meeting, there will be a discussion as to where the trash cans should be placed throughout town, and the potential number that the commission wants.

5. Event Reports

a. Recap of AARP Livable Communities Transportation Workshop

Both John Rodwick and Sarah Brooks attended the AARP Livable Communities Transportation Workshop earlier that month. The workshop was held virtually this year and was free to attend, and still can be watched at this [link](#). Mr. Rodwick and Ms. Brooks described that there were sessions on safe streets and mobility, accessibility, resiliency, and more. The videos can be found at the above link.

b. Fruita for Equality Event Report

At this point, there was not enough time left in the meeting to discuss the Fruita for Equality event. This agenda item was moved to the next meeting, and commissions members are encouraged to review the results of the event (emailed to the commission before this meeting) and take the survey questions that will be sent out ahead of time.

6. Discussion Items

There was only one additional discussion item, and that was on the potential holiday meeting schedule for the end of this year. Mr. Vassen shared that most Boards and Commissions cancel their November and December meetings due to the holiday. Mr. Rodwick suggested putting this discussion item on the agenda at the next meeting.

7. Adjourn

There was no discussion or new business. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.