

City of Fruita – Livability Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2021

Members in Attendance: Karen Leonhart, Sarah Brooks, Thomas McNamara, Dave Karisny, Michael Handley, John Rodwick, Denise Hight, Terri Potente, Mary Jane McCoy, and Chris Taggart

Members Absent: Amanda Quigley and Adrienne Kaga (both excused absent)

Staff in Attendance: Shannon Vassen

Guests in Attendance: Shanachie Carroll, Kim Pardoe, Indibuild LLC, members of the public

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. Public Comment

John Rodwick, Chair of the Livability Commission, opened the meeting for public comment. After seeing none or anyone that wanted to provide a comment to the Livability commission, Mr. Rodwick closed this item.

III. Review and Approve Minutes from February 18, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Rodwick then moved onto the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. There were no changes to the minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Affordable Housing Discussion

Kim Pardoe, of IndiBuild LLC, presented to the Livability Commission about a potential housing project in Fruita. Indibuild is an affordable housing development group based out of the Boulder Area, and Ms. Pardoe stated that the group is interested in pursuing a project in Fruita. Ms. Pardoe shared that she was excited to present to the group and to get their feedback on what the community may need as far as development.

For her presentation and the discussion, Ms. Pardoe shared some of the projects that she has worked on in the past, and asked the Livability Commission general questions about housing needs. Mr. Pardoe and her staff also shared how affordable or attainable housing projects are typically financed and built, and informed the Livability Commission that she is planning on presenting to the Planning Commission in the future. The Livability Commission answered a number of questions from the Indibuild group, and encouraged her and her staff to keep them updated moving forward. This is an issue of interest to the Livability Commission because it has been identified in the Age Friendly Action Plan as a priority and is a real need in the community.

V. Fruita for Equality Update

Shanachie Carroll, the Manager of the Fruita Branch of Mesa County Public Libraries, presented an update on the group Fruita for Equality. As briefly discussed at previous meetings, Fruita for Equality is a non-political initiative to promote and support equality, inclusivity, and diversity through meaningful conversation and action in the community. Mr. Carroll explained that group includes members from Mesa County Libraries, the Fruita Rotary Club, Lithic Bookstore, and more.

Mr. Carroll provided a general update about the group and then shared upcoming events that the Livability Commission may be interested in. These events include a community book read, discussions on how to be an ally, and a virtual author talk on the book chosen for the book read. Upcoming events include:

- May 7, 2021 – Kickoff Event for Community Book Read and Discussion at Civic Center Park
- May 8, 2021 – Anti-bias Workshop for Community Book Read, Virtual
- May 21, 2021 – How to be an Ally Discussion, Civic Center Park
- May 26, 2021 – Fruita for Equality Community Bok Read and Discussion, Civic Center Park
- May 27, 2021 – Virtual Author Talk with Eli Saslow, author of “Rising out of Hatred”, which will be held virtually.

Mr. Carroll concluded his presentation with inviting the Livability Commission to these upcoming events and thanked them for letting him present.

VI. City of Fruita Update

Shannon Vassen provided a brief staff update to the Livability Commission. The updates focused on:

- 2021 Fruita Community Survey – Mr. Vassen informed the Livability Commission that the Community Survey should be arriving at homes soon – and encouraged the members to take the survey (if interested). The survey results will help guide decision making for the next four years, and is important to identify priorities and resident satisfaction with core services.
- Upcoming Meetings – Mr. Vassen also shared that the group can, if interested, return to in-person meetings for the next meeting. Mr. Vassen also stated that a virtual option can be provided as well for those would like to attend online.

VII. Discussion Items – Community Challenge Grant

For the final agenda item, the group discussed potential projects to apply for the AARP Community Challenge Grant. Staff shared that this grant is open to a number of different projects, and that no match is required. Mr. Vassen also shared a number of previous grants that were funded through the grant as a starting point for potential projects.

The group discussed several ideas, and advised staff to apply for one or two of the ideas. The ideas included an informational session on how to ride public transit, electronic vehicle charging stations, park upgrades, wayfinding efforts, and more. Staff shared that they will update the group at the next meeting on what project they applied for.

VIII. Other Items/Discussion

There were other items for discussion.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.