

City of Fruita – Livability Commission

Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2020

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

Members Absent: Amanda Quigley and Lori Chesnick.

Staff in Attendance: Shannon Vassen

Guests in Attendance: Jean Rodwick

1. Welcome and Introductions

At this meeting, the Livability Commission welcomed its two newest members, Karen Leonhart and Dave Karisny. Karen Leonhart is the new Council liaison for the Livability Commission and stated that she is excited to be joining the group. Mrs. Leonhart teaches Kindergarten at Rim Rock Elementary and has lived in Fruita for several years. Dave Karisny was recently appointed and is a former City Council member. Additionally, for the past several years, Mr. Karisny has served in a number of different roles for the City and is a retired teacher.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2020 Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes from the February 20, 2020 meeting, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. City of Fruita Update

Shannon Vassen, Management Analyst for the City of Fruita, provided the update to the Livability Commission. A few highlights from the update are:

- **COVID-19 Response** – Since the last Livability Commission meeting, the City of Fruita has been responding proactively to the COVID-19 pandemic. All City information (and relevant information from other regional, state, and federal agencies) can be found at fruita.org/covid19
- **Financial Implications** - Despite the pandemic and public health orders related to it, the City of Fruita has been ahead of sales tax revenues from the previous years. Although the City is in a better position than originally anticipated, there are still several businesses are struggling and it is important for residents to continue to support local Fruita businesses. Also, some City funds have been impacted significantly, such as the Fruita Community Center and the Marketing and Promotion fund.
- **Municipal Election** – In April, the City conducted its 2020 Municipal Election. Fruita voters elected Joel Kincaid to Mayor and Ken Kreie, Heather O'Brien, and Matthew Breman to the City Council. Additionally, Fruita voters approved an additional 3% lodging tax to be used on economic development and parks and open space in future years.

- **CARES Act Funding** – The City of Fruita is receiving around \$1.1 million in CARES Act Funding. The City is open to hearing suggestions from boards and commissions on how this money can be spent.
- **Planning Processes** – Mr. Vassen also discussed all of the current planning processes that the City of Fruita is going through and encouraged the Livability Commission to get involved in these.

4. Livability Commission Discussion Items

a. Goals or Projects

The Commission continued to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and how the group can best align their efforts with the goals of the plan. At the last meeting and this one, the group discussed focusing on multi-modal transportation, affordable housing, connectivity, and communication. The group also discussed potential use of CARES Act dollars for misc. projects around Fruita. For example, commission members suggested more shade for parks or for downtown Fruita, wayfinding to help with cycling and walking (to help with social distancing), and additional education efforts. It was encouraged that commission members bring additional ideas to the next meeting.

b. Potential Meeting Schedule

The group agreed to schedule the next meeting for July 23, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

c. Other Items

There were no other discussion items.

5. New Business/Discussion

There was no discussion or new business. The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.