

City of Fruita – Livability Commission

Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2020

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

Members Absent: Lori Chesnick, Doug Van Etten, Tom

Staff in Attendance: Shannon Vassen

Guests in Attendance: Jean Rodwick

1. Welcome

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2020 Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes from the July 23, 2020 meeting, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. City of Fruita Update

Mike Bennett, City Manager for the City of Fruita, provided the update to the Livability Commission. A few highlights are:

- Mr. Bennett began his update discussing the current financial position of the City. Despite the pandemic, most of the City's tax revenues have continued to increase when compared to the previous year. Both the City's sales tax and the County sales tax were up in the month of July, and a portion of this can be attributed increases from food and retail businesses, as well as online sales. Local businesses continue to do well, and this is encouraging for the local community.
- For the next portion of the City update, Mr. Bennett provided the commission with an overview of the seating areas that are being constructed in downtown Fruita. The City is in the process of closing both N. Peach Street and N. Mulberry Street, from Aspen Avenue to the alley, and construction will begin soon. Once complete, these outdoor spaces will be open to everyone and will provide much need seating and shade for downtown customers. Mr. Bennett showed the group the two renderings of the project. The City is also purchasing enough materials to create similar spaces at southside businesses, if it is approved in the private parking lots.
- To conclude the City update, Mr. Bennett discussed how the City is spending its Coronavirus Relief Funds dollars. Mr. Bennett described that the City is in the process of creating a marketing and communication campaign focused on positivity and reinforcing the best practices to limit the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the City is stockpiling personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, in case there is another spike in cases.
 - John Rodwick, Chair, asked if these outdoor spaces will be available during the winter. Mr. Bennett responded that the City also purchased propane heaters for the spaces and would like to keep them up during the winter.

- Dave Karisny asked about the food truck on the Peach Street seating area. Mr. Bennett responded that staff is still in the process of determining how this would work, and that there may be a lottery system to determine what food truck would be able sit in the spot (there has been a lot of interest in that from food truck vendors).

4. Update on the PHROST Master Plan, Ture Nycum

Ture Nycum, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Fruita, shared the progress of the Parks, Health, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan Update (“PHROST”). This planning update kicked off early in the year and is an update of the 2008 POST Plan. Once complete, Mr. Nycum described, this plan will identify the priorities for parks and recreation in Fruita for the next several years. Mr. Nycum shared a PowerPoint presentation that was sent to the Livability Commission, and a few of the highlights from the presentation are:

- PHROST Purpose:
 - Obtain a snapshot or baseline of Fruita Parks and Recreation programs, activities, and community facilities
 - Develop a profile of community needs and wants
 - Define standards for programs and facilities
 - Create an actionable master plan to provide direction for the next 10 years
- Community Survey
 - Community input was obtained through both a community survey and an online website for feedback.
- Key Findings from public engagement methods:
 - Shade structures, parking at recreation facilities and trails, recreation programs and activities, and playgrounds received above average importance ratings, but below average needs-met ratings. These may be key areas for improvement.
 - Youth Activities and Nutrition Survey – teenagers want a hang out space, sports and sports facilities, a water park, and skate/dirt bike parks.
 - Site Visits Summary – wide variety of parks offered, some parks need updates or improvements, and the City needs to establish standards for parks components and amenities such as benches, tables, and shade (especially pertaining to HOA/Developer built parks)
 - Key issues include capacity at the Fruita Community Center, opportunity sites at Little Salt Wash Park, Reed Park, and the mountain properties, pathway and trail connections, and others.

5. Livability Commission Discussion Items

a. 2020 AARP Livable Communities Transportation Workshop

Mr. Rodwick shared information on the upcoming 2020 AARP Livable Communities Transportation Workshop. For the first time, the workshop will be held virtually and is free to attend. It is a national workshop on transportation. Mr. Rodwick encouraged the

members to attend and stated that he will provide a recap of the workshop at the next meeting.

b. Potential Projects and Future Discussion Items

- After the presentations, the group continued to discuss potential projects and future discussion items. The group recommended the following discussion items for future meetings:
 - Terri Potente recommended that the City reach out to Waste Management to see if the company could provide an update on recycling. Specifically, what can and cannot be recycled. Michael Handley seconded, and asked if Waste Management could also provide an overview of whether or not the City is making any money on recycled materials, due to decreases in the recycling market. Staff will reach out to Waste Management and see if a representative can attend a future meeting.
 - Mr. Rodwick asked if staff could reach out to the social action groups within the valley to discuss current events and social justice items. Staff stated that they reached out to groups in the valley, but have not heard back from them yet. Staff will continue to reach out to them.
 - Karen Leonhart, Council Liaison to the Livability Commission, shared an upcoming event on the subject. Ms. Leonhart shared that Mesa County Public Libraries, the Lithic Bookstore, and the Fruita Rotary Club are sponsoring the event and it will be a discussion on race, equity, and prejudice in our community. Ms. Leonhart shared that residents will be asked a number of questions on boards for the meeting, and that is an exercise that the Livability Commission could do at a future meeting. Staff shared the flyer for the event.
 - Finally, Mr. Handley asked about the cell service in Fruita and what can be done to improve it. Mr. Vassen shared that the City continues to meet with contracts regarding infrastructure improvements (and what potential broadband could like in Fruita), and this could be another discussion item at a future meeting.

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.