

## **City of Fruita – Livability Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2021**

**Members in Attendance:** John Rodwick, Mary Jane McCoy, Thomas McNamara, Sarah Brooks, Michael Handley, and Denise Hight.

**Members Absent:** Terri Potente, Karen Leonhart, Amanda Quigley, Chris Taggart (all excused absent)

**Staff in Attendance:** Dave Krouse, Shannon Vassen

**Guests in Attendance:** Jean Rodwick

#### **I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

#### **II. Public Comment**

John Rodwick, Chair of the Livability Commission, opened the meeting for public comment. No guests that were present wanted to provide a public comment.

#### **III. Review and Approve Minutes from July 15, 2021, Meeting**

Mr. Rodwick then moved onto the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. There were no changes to the minutes from the July 15, 2021, meeting, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **IV. City of Fruita Update**

1. General Updates – Before getting into the Q&A, Mr. Vassen shared a few general updates from the city.
  - a. Roundabouts Celebration – Mr. Vassen invited the Livability Commission to the ribbon cutting for the completion of the Hwy 340 Roundabouts project. Mr. Vassen shared that the final four sculptures were recently installed, and the City was hosting a ribbon cutting on the opening night of the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival.
  - b. Mike the Headless Chicken Festival – Mr. Vassen also shared that the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival is on for the end of the month. Mr. Vassen went over a few of the highlights of the upcoming event.
  - c. Mulberry Street Grant – The City of Fruita was recently awarded a grant through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to create a design for the Mulberry Street Closure. Public engagement will be a large part of the potential design, and Mr. Vassen shared that he will keep the Livability Commission updated on the progress of that plan.
2. Q&A with Dave Krouse, Chief of Police

- a. Mr. Krouse shared a few updates on the Fruita Police Department, and also took a number of questions from the Livability Commission. The updates and responses to questions include:
  - i. For the first time in several years, the Fruita Police Department is fully staffed.
  - ii. The Fruita Police Department is currently in the process of implementing a body-worn camera program for all officers. A requirement due to recent legislation, the body-worn camera program has been going well and there has not been any issues with the roll out.
  - iii. Mr. Krouse answered a question regarding the biggest issues facing the department and shared that it is making sure that the department is staffed enough to continue to keep up with growth in Fruita, and that officers can be proactive with community outreach and engagement.
  - iv. Mr. Krouse also answered a question a regarding Neighborhood Watch programs and “National Night Out”. Mr. Krouse shared that these programs are usually a function of Homeowners Associations and stated that Police Department is always happy to meet with neighborhoods and help out with these types of community programs.
  - v. Mr. Krouse also discussed with the group the importance of mental health resources and the Police Department’s partnerships with Family Health West and Mind Springs Hospital. Mr. Krouse stated that the department has great relationships with both organizations, and often both are involved when responding to mental health incidents.

#### **V. Affordable Housing Discussion, Livability Commission Member Dave Karisny**

For this agenda item, Livability Commission Member Dave Karisny, presented a recap of a recent AARP webinar Affordable Housing. Both Mr. Karisny and Mr. Rodwick attended the webinar. Mr. Karisny shared a few highlights from the webinar, that included –

1. Mr. Karisny discussed recent state legislation that may aid in affordable housing development in the near future.
2. Mr. Karisny also shared information on inclusionary zoning, universal design in development, best practices for promoting density and affordability via zoning, middle housing, and details on Accessory Dwelling Units.
3. The webinar expressed the need for affordable and accessible housing for the fastest growing demographic in Colorado, those 65 and up.
  - a. After the recap of these topics, the Livability Commission had a general discussion on how they can advocate for these types of changes, challenges of the current housing market in Fruita, and the role of commission when making recommendations. The Livability Commission also encouraged staff to present on current housing strategies at the next meeting.

**VI. Other Items**

There were no other items discussed.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.