

# **City of Fruita – Livability Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2024**

**Members in Attendance:** Tom McNamara, Jamie Vavra, Terri Potente, John Rodwick, Jessica Ruffule, Amy Miller, Dave Karisny, Carmen Flores, Anna Harris, and Shiela Adamson

**Members Absent:** Connie Overton and Chris Taggart

**Staff in Attendance:** Shannon Vassen, Kimberly Preisser, and Jennifer Cupp

**Guests in Attendance:** None

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

Tom McNamara, Chair of the Livability Commission, called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

### **II. Public Comment**

Mr. McNamara opened the meeting for public comment. After seeing none, or anyone that wanted to provide public comment to the Livability Commission, Mr. McNamara closed this item.

### **III. Review and Approve Minutes**

#### **a. Regular Minutes – April 25, 2024**

There were no changes to the minutes from the April 25, 2024, meeting. Mr. Rodwick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. McNamara seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by those who had been present at the meeting. Ms. Adamson and Mr. Karisny abstained from voting, as they had been absent from the meeting.

### **IV. Member Reports**

Mr. McNamara asked Ms. Harris if she had any feedback to offer from her first meeting. Ms. Harris said that she had learned a lot about the Fruita Bridge and was interested in learning more about what the Livability Commission did.

Mr. Karisny talked to the group about New Dimensions. He explained that New Dimensions is a lifelong learning institute. It has been around for about 8 years and the Community Center has hosted some of the classes. The classes are designed for adults over 50 and they

are offered as either Fall classes or Spring classes. Mr. Karisny said that many people had taught classes for New Dimensions, and he encouraged everyone to take a brochure that he was offering.

Mr. Rodwick brought age-friendly community materials from AARP to share with the Commission. He told everyone to come by and get anything they would like, or thought would be interesting. Mr. Rodwick also informed the group that anyone can be a part of AARP, they will just not receive benefits until they turn 50 years old. He explained that a membership was \$16 and that the bulletin and magazine are well worth the price.

Ms. Potente let the group know that there will be a “How to Prevent Fraud” event in Grand Junction on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm and in Fruita on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 pm at RSVP. She encouraged everyone to attend, as it is not only Seniors who are susceptible to fraud.

Ms. Potente also informed the Livability Commission that, while she appreciated the votes for Vice Chair of the Commission, she would be unable to fulfill her duties and instead nominated Al Condor for Vice Chair. Mr. Karisny seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McNamara passed out a handout that contained a wheel of the 8 domains of livability to the group. He explained how it tied both localism and communication together.

## **V. Staff Report**

### **a. City Council Meeting**

Councilor Miller gave an overview of the last City Council meeting. There were many presentations and proclamations. Councilor Miller thought that Mayor Breman did a great job running his first meeting as Mayor and that the new council members did a great job as well. She explained that there was a lot of training, including going over the Master Plan and Land Use Code. At the next meeting they will cover the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the Comprehensive Plan, and PHROST Plan in preparation of the strategic plan. Councilor Miller also explained that the Maple Street Bridge replacement will begin in 2025. She said that the new bathrooms have been installed and that the bus stop and the horse art piece have been relocated to in front of the Chamber of Commerce and to Civic Center Park, respectively. Councilor Miller also let the Livability Commission that Reed Park was coming along well.

### **b. AARP Grant Update**

Mr. Vassen informed the Commission that both the book locker and community garden applications for the AARP Grant were not approved. There was some

question about where a community garden would go. Ms. Preisser explained that there was room at the Community Center for the garden as well as classes on gardening and intergenerational gardening. Ms. Preisser said that there is a community garden in Grand Junction and the seniors from Fruita will be touring the facility. Councilor Miller said that Moab also has a community garden. Mr. Rodwick thought that there may be other grants that the City or the Livability Commission can apply for to fund these two projects. Ms. Harris asked for a description of the book locker. Mr. Vassen explained that books you have requested from the library are placed in the locker so that they may be picked up after hours by the patron.

**c. Change of June Meeting Date**

Mr. Vassen asked the Commission if they would mind moving the June meeting from June 20<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup> as both he and Councilor Miller will be at the CML Conference in Loveland on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The Commission agreed to move the date. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 4:00 pm.

**d. Farmers Market**

Mr. McNamara asked about dates for the Farmers Market. Mr. Vassen said they could decide dates at the next meeting. There was some discussion around the signage for the booth and Mr. Vassen let the group know that signs had been purchased. The dates for volunteering and who will be volunteering will be discussed at the June meeting.

**VI. Discussion Items**

**a. Goals Discussion**

**i. What topics would you like to address?**

Mr. McNamara asked the group if they had any ideas on topics they would like the Livability Commission to address. Ms. Vavra said that she would like the Commission to address environmental issues. She thought that the group should think about establishing some kind of volunteer activity, such as a green team. She thinks there is an opportunity within the City of Fruita to get citizens involved with native plant gardening and that it fits within civic liability.

**ii. What would you like to see the Commission accomplish?**

Mr. Rodwick would like to try to recruit younger people for the Livability Commission. Councilor Miller suggested speaking to the FMHS principal to get some recommendations for younger participants. Ms. Ruffule suggested that there could possibly be a school club needing volunteer hours over the summer. Mr. Rodwick thought that some of the CMU students may look at attending the meetings as part of an internship.

**b. Other Items**

Mr. Condor asked about all the conversations regarding helping the seniors and distributing information through Meals on Wheels. Ms. Preisser said that the Mesa County Council on Aging is working toward the same goal. Mr. Rodwick let the group know that Heather Jones was working on that project. Mr. Karisny gave a recount of the group's topics of conversation. It was suggested that Meals on Wheels and Food Bank of the Rockies come in and present. Mr. Rodwick said that he wanted to compile a list of agencies to help seniors and pass it on to various groups. There will be some closure once the group figures out which other entities provide which services.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.