



DON BATCHELDER
JOHN E. PETERS
BEN TISDEL

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

541 4th Street • P.O. Box C • Ouray, Colorado 81427 • 970-325-7320 • FAX: 970-325-0452

November 6, 2018

Mr. Patrick Rondinelli, Regional Manager
Department of Local Affairs
Fort Lewis College
1000 Rim Dr.
Durango, CO 81302
Patrick.rondinelli@state.co.us

Dear Mr. Rondinelli:

Please accept this letter of support for the Friends of the Ridgway Library District's, Tier II, Energy and Mineral Impact Grant Application for expansion of the Ridgway Library located in Ridgway, Colorado. The Board of Trustees and Library District Manager have worked diligently over the past several years on future library services, space assessment needs and subsequent design development of this worthy community project.

It is the Board's understanding; that additional space is necessary to expand facility services for youth and young adult library needs. Other improvements to the property include a vestibule from the parking area, supplementary meeting and activity space as well as full utilization of an outdoor courtyard and patio locales.

The Friends of the Ridgway Library District have undertaken fundraising efforts and is diligently exploring foundation grants to generate the funding needed for the library expansion project. The Ridgway Library is frequented by locals and visitors alike and offers a myriad of library accommodations in one of the most beautiful and scenic locations. Please help the Friends of the Ridgway Library District realize its goal to further enhance this community facility and to continue its literary mission of support and sustainability by bringing people to the Ridgway Library.

The Board extends its thanks in advance for your favorable consideration of the Friends of the Ridgway Library District's Tier II, Energy and Mineral Impact Grant Application.

Respectfully,

Don Batchelder, Chair

John Peters, Vice-Chair

Ben Tisdel, Commissioner

Board of County Commissioners
Ouray County, Colorado



TOWN HALL PO Box 10 | 201 N. Railroad Street | Ridgway, Colorado 81432 | 970.626.5308 | www.town.ridgway.co.us

Letter of Support for the Ridgway Library Expansion Project

November 21, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the award of grant funding for the planned expansion of the Ridgway Public Library. The Town of Ridgway recognizes the value of the project and believes it will increase the quality of life for its residents. The expansion will occupy a slice of the 18,000 sq. ft. parcel of land in the heart of our community, which was donated by the Town of Ridgway for the original construction.

The Ridgway Library has become an anchor in the community for education, development, research, literacy and the arts. The current building is now at capacity. The expansion will include room for a larger collection, add reading and work space, provide additional meeting rooms, isolate the children's area to reduce noise, support additional programs and offer outdoor seating. These improvements are critically needed for our community and will support the efforts of our Creative District.

The Town of Ridgway benefits greatly from library services which include a dozen developmental programs for children from preschool aged to teens. The building is a key display venue for local artist throughout the year in support of the Ridgway Creative District goals. It offers the only free public meeting room in town. In addition, it is a vital resource for tourists visiting the Town of Ridgway.

The Library Staff and Board of Trustees have worked diligently on an expansion plan which will meet the evolving needs of a growing community. This month the Ridgway Town Council and governing body for the Ridgway Creative District voted unanimously in support of the Library's expansion project. Please help the Ridgway Library realize its goal to further enhance this vital community facility.

Respectfully,

John Clark, Mayor for the Town of Ridgway and Chairman of the Ridgway Creative District



November 15, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I write this letter on behalf of the Ridgway School District to express our support of our Ridgway Public Library expansion project.

The Ridgway Public Library has been an anchor and an asset of our small, rural community since its early days in the 1990s. The current building, built in 2004, has served our school district and community for over a decade however the expansion is necessary to meet the expanding needs of our community.

Once upon a time, I could sign up for the meeting room to use as a place for an off-campus teacher professional development location; Today the room is always booked with a myriad of needs from a local non profit meeting to students engaged in science. The new expansion will provide not only more meeting space and room for additional books, but a sorely needed isolated children's area.

Early literacy is supported through a number of excellent children activities at the library. The natural activity of young children necessitates an area separate from the adult reading and work areas. Local organizations offer excellent workshops and learning opportunities for our children at the library as well and we need space for these programs to continue to grow and flourish.

Every spring our elementary students take a walking field trip to the library to acquire their own library card and learn about the library's extensive summer offerings for children. The opportunity for expanded outdoor seating will enhance the summer programs as well. A library is the heart of a school and our Ridgway Public Library serves as the heart of our community. We are so fortunate to have such an outstanding facility within our small community. Library staff work closely with our school teachers each year. The hard work of the dedicated library staff and the Board of Trustees, has assured that access to books, media and learning remain accessible to all our citizens. The Ridgway Public Library's partnership with the school district has been exceptional .

The expansion of the Ridgway Public Library will allow the partnership between our public school system and our local library to continue to grow and flourish. Rural areas do not have the funds to build such community resources however our local community has continued to show their economic support for our local library through successful fundraising over so many years.

Your economic support of this very important project will have a lasting positive impact on generations of Ridgway school children, their parents and their teachers. I give my highest endorsement in support of the Ridgway Public Library expansion project.

Sincerely,


Susan Lacy
Ridgway School District Superintendent

District Office
1115 West Clinton St., Ridgway, CO 81432
TEL: (970) 626-4320 * FAX: (970) 626-4437
www.ridgway.k12.co.us



Ouray County Schools Community Resource Consortium

November 12, 2018

RE: The Ridgway Public Library

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the Ridgway Public Library. Voyager Youth Program is very grateful to be able to collaborate with such a great organization.

The Ridgway Public Library not only provides an excellent source of information, it also creates and executes phenomenal learning programs for all ages! The youth whom Voyager serves, ages 5-17, thoroughly enjoy participating in the wonderful programs that this library provides, for example: the Lego Club, Craft Hour, sponsoring the Pinhead Institute, partnering with Ridgway State Park, the Summer Reading program, to name a few.

I also want to take this opportunity to say how much we appreciate the staff at the Library. They continue to be beyond helpful. They go the extra mile to help find resources for any programs that we are preparing; they send outdated or not usable materials our way, so our participants may use them, and they collaborate beautifully when planning their programs that include many of Voyager's participants.

The Ridgway Library has a need to expand to meet our growing community's needs. There is definitely a need for more space, more resources, and room to grow even more excellent programs.

This community is blessed to have such a great Library, and we fully support its expansion.

Best regards,

Lisa Thomason

Lisa Thomason, M. Ed., BCBA
Executive Director

PO Box 709 · Ridgway, Colorado · 81432 ·
970-626-4279

www.voyageryouthprogram.org
Actively Cultivating Tomorrow since 1997



To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of the Ridgway Public Library expansion project on behalf of Weehawken Creative Arts (WCA).

WCA is a long-time non-profit located in Ouray County, CO, offering arts and enrichment for youth and adults.

We view this expansion as a benefit to the community as a whole, as well as an opportunity for us to expand our class offerings with the use of the added space. We, along with much of Ridgway, have seen exponential growth in the last few years and are working hard to find space to accommodate our expanding programs.

Also, as an arts organization, we recognize all that a library offers a thriving community and are excited to see ours growing meet the needs of larger community.

Best Regards,
Trisha Oakland
Programming Director, Weehawken Creative Arts



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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Serving San Miguel and West Montrose Counties
PO Box 130, 1120 Summit Street
Norwood, Colorado 81423
970-327-4393; Fax: 327-4090
<http://sanmiguel.colostate.edu>

November 27, 2018

Dear Grant Committee,

Colorado State University Extension in the San Miguel Basin develops and offers grass roots programming in our local communities to help make the lives of our community members better. In the past we have used the Program Room at the Ridgway Library to hold programs and meetings. In the most recent years we have partnered with the Ridgway Library Seed Library to put on several Seed Saving Classes and Seed Swaps in their Program Room.

I fully support the Ridgway Library increasing their number of community meeting rooms! They only have the single room at this time. Adding more meeting spaces supports their mission to be "a free and vital community resource providing opportunities to explore, discover, learn, grow, and dream."

Sincerely,

Yvette Henson
County Extension Director
Horticulture, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent



P.O. Box 236, 604 W. Clinton St.
Ridgway, CO 81432
970-318-0892
info@sherbino.org
FEIN# 45-4764455

-----A project of the not-for-profit Ridgway Chautauqua Society, Inc.-----

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Sheelagh Williams

November 13, 2018

To whom it may concern:

The Ridgway Chautauqua Society fully supports the Ridgway Public Library plan to expand the 4500 square foot library by as much as 50% and reconfigure parts of the existing library. The objectives of the expansion to broaden the collection, add reading and work space, provide additional meeting rooms, isolate the children's area to reduce noise, support additional programs, and offer outdoor seating with controlled access will help meet the needs of our growing community.

The Ridgway Chautauqua Society's Sherbino Theater and 610 Art Collective is within the Ridgway Public Library District. The library plan is complementary to the activities of the Sherbino Theater and 610 Art Collective. The Ridgway Chautauqua Society focuses on musical performances, theater productions, Chautauqua style talks, and film. While we don't anticipate use of the Library's current or expansion, the community always needs additional meeting space.

Sincerely,

Sue Husch
President
Ridgway Chautauqua Society

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK

PO BOX 4178
TELLURIDE, CO 81435

November 19, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of the Ridgway Public Library expansion.

Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork) is a nonprofit organization serving the rural Colorado region comprised of Ouray, San Miguel, Montrose, and Delta counties. We work to build the health of all residents in our rural, underserved, under-resourced region through innovative, community-based services. Our team of local community members meets clients where they are in the community, connects clients with resources, and empowers clients to overcome barriers to health and wellbeing.

The Ridgway Public Library (RPL) has proven itself a valued partner in serving the Ridgway and Ouray County community. RPL acts as a central hub for education, development, and literacy, and as a community gathering place. To help us better meet the needs of Ridgway residents, RPL hosts TCHNetwork's field workers in their meeting room so that we may offer services to clients at the library. This enhances our visibility in Ridgway, streamlines access to services for our clients, and promotes health and wellness for Ridgway residents.

We are in full support of the expansion of the RPL, as this will allow the library to maintain a larger collection, add reading and workspace, offer outdoor seating, and support the needs of the growing Ridgway community. The expansion will also support more meeting rooms—which is where TCHNetwork currently offers services—and support additional community programs and trainings. When the expansion is completed, we look forward to hosting additional events, offering services more frequently, and connecting with members of the community at RPL.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to support the Ridgway Public Library's expansion. If I can provide any additional information in support of the expansion, please contact me at 970-708-7096 or dsi@tchnetwork.org.

Sincerely,



Rasa Kaunelis
Director of Strategic Initiatives



November 14, 2018

POST OFFICE BOX 1077
RIDGWAY, COLORADO
81432

— roccnet.org —

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Al Lowande

WCC REPRESENTATIVE
ALTERNATE
Dave Jones

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Jen Parker
Roze Evans

Re: Proposed Ridgway Library Expansion Plans

To Whom It May Concern:

The Ridgway-Ouray Community Council (ROCC) is a charitable organization of nearly 250 Ouray County residents, property owners and taxpayers whose primary mission is to maintain and improve the quality of life in Ouray County.

ROCC enthusiastically supports the Ridgway Library's proposed expansion plans. The current library provides a valuable and well-utilized resource for the community - so popular, however, that both the library and the public would benefit greatly from the proposed improvements. The project would provide: a children's area to facilitate after-school and summer use separate from other uses; room for more holdings and exhibits; a larger meeting room; and an outdoor reading area to enjoy Ridgway's wonderful climate, views and library resources all at the same time.

Our members, like the rest of the community, would, of course, benefit directly and individually from these improvements. On top of that, Ouray County's quality of life is fueled by many nonprofit volunteer groups like ROCC which are in dire need of moderately-sized meeting areas to gather and conduct business. The proposed larger meeting room would go a long way towards meeting that need.

We are reminded of a local bumper sticker in our neighbor Telluride – "I Came For The Skiing, Stayed For The Library." This illustrates well the value added to a community by a modern, well-designed and appropriately-equipped public library.

Thank you for considering ROCC's support for the proposed Ridgway Library expansion.

Very truly yours,

Don Swartz, President
Kate Kellogg, Vice President,
Ridgway-Ouray Community Council



Cub Scout Pack 503
Ouray County, Colorado
November 9th, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

Ouray County Cub Scout Pack 503 formed in 2016. The Pack has utilized the Ridgway Library as a central meeting point for many gatherings and functions. The Pack has also leaned heavily on library staff with scouting experience for leadership, organization and understanding of Scouting structure and best practices. The library space and staff expertise has been invaluable as Pack leadership continues to work on developing a thriving, robust and active group of young Scouts.

Pack 503 is inclusive of all of Ouray County. An expanded library would benefit the Pack on many levels. As our Pack grows, we will quite simply need more space to keep pace with our volume demands. We will also need more flexible space. As the Pack grows and diversifies, different youth attain different levels of Scouting classification. These classifications will require their own spaces, not just one large space. Any effort that provides additional meeting rooms is most welcomed by our organization. Safe, accessible meeting space in the county is scarce and a burdensome task to locate and secure.

We recognize and appreciate that an expansion of the library would help support our anticipated growth in Scout programming as the Pack grows and diversifies. We are also excited about the proposed outdoor seating element, as so much of Scouting is focused on outdoor education and activity. We start our annual Pack bike ride from the library. A more vibrant and welcoming outdoor library presence would allow us to consider starting more Pack functions there.

Lastly, an increased book collection would greatly benefit the whole community, including our Pack. As our youth grow in Scouts, they will have many projects and tasks to complete. Having a vibrant community library as a resource to help research, facilitate and actually complete said projects is an invaluable asset.

Ouray County Cub Scout Pack 503 would benefit greatly from a Ridgway Library expansion. We fully support this initiative.

Cub Scout Pack 503
Ouray County, Colorado



November 20, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you on behalf of D3 Indivisible Colorado in regard to the Ridgway Public Library. We are in full support of an expansion of the current library building as it serves as a social, educational and community hub of Ouray County.

The Ridgway Library is a highly utilized anchor in this community. Our organization has used the conference room for meetings on many occasions, and we would be beyond thrilled to utilize larger (and additional) meeting rooms for our gatherings, as well as outdoor seating in the warmer months. To be honest, our numbers are growing and we are already at, or way over, capacity in the small space that currently exists.

The region is evolving quickly, and it is time for this wonderful resource to expand to meet the new needs of our growing community. We ask that you please consider supporting an expansion of the Ridgway Library. It is bursting at the seams! And it is a perfect time to make this absolutely vital update.

Thank you for your consideration and kindest regards,

Erika Gordon & Nicole Greene
Founders, D3 Indivisible Colorado
P.O. Box 473
Ridgway, CO 81432



November 18, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I write today as a representative of our Northern San Juan chapter of the national organization Great Old Broads for Wilderness to unconditionally support the expansion of the Ridgway Public Library. As individuals, our members utilize the library regularly in multiple ways and value this community resource and facility as a center of education, research, literacy and creativity. This letter, however, highlights the extraordinary benefit the library affords our organization comprised of over three hundred supporters.

The Northern San Juan chapter holds our monthly meetings in the conference room of the current library and has done so for over three years. We so appreciate this clean, naturally lit, and technology equipped meeting space in our small but growing, rural town where options for meeting space are limited and costly. The public library offers this space free to nonprofit groups, and the calendar for use is quite full. We schedule our meetings for the following year in September just to assure availability. Therefore, it is no surprise that our organization is thrilled that the proposed expansion will triple the meeting room space! Given the architectural design with movable walls, the new conference/activity room space will have the flexibility of one large room, three small rooms, or a medium and small room where groups can meet simultaneously thereby affording so many more openings on the now crowded calendar.

Furthermore, our organization frequently offers guest speakers and/or trainings during our meetings as well as special events outside our normal meeting times. We welcome the public – not just members - to all these gatherings and we publicize widely - not only in our town but to our neighboring communities. The current capacity of the existing conference room is 20 people, so for well attended events, we need to rent another space at considerable cost to our chapter. The option of adjustable room sizes will be a huge benefit to our organization as we grow and expand our offerings.

In addition, as an organization whose mission focuses on public lands stewardship, education and advocacy, our members enjoy being outdoors and the proposed outdoor seating spaces will afford opportunities to meet outside in favorable weather.

Our members and supporters couldn't be happier about the library's proposed expansion, and we endorse it wholeheartedly. Please support the Ridgway Public Library expansion project with your most generous contribution. Your financial support of this project is so very appreciated and will benefit our community long into the future.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 970-318-6719 or northernsanjuanbroadband@gmail.com if you have questions or need additional information. It would be my pleasure to elaborate on our endorsement of the library expansion.

With much gratitude,

Robyn Cascade, Leader
Northern San Juan chapter
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Ridgway, CO

Peter Kenworthy
545 Chipeta Drive
Ridgway, CO 81432
pfkenworthy@gmail.com
(970) 708-3839

November 19, 2018

Via Electronic Delivery

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as president of Solar Ranches Filing 1 and 2A Homeowners' Association in support of the library's plan to expand its existing building.

Our HOA board meets at least quarterly in addition to an annual meeting of our entire membership made up of some 40 property owners. Additionally, we have sub-committees that meet as needed. The question of where to meet is always paramount as appropriate public space in Ridgway is limited. The library is always an obvious choice both for convenience and because of its public mission. Due to its space limitations, however, we find that the library cannot always accommodate our requests. We very much wish that it could and hope that its expansion plans will be realized.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for additional details.

Yours truly,

Peter Kenworthy

November 13, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Log Hill Home and Property Owners Association enthusiastically supports the expansion and reconfiguration of Ridgway Public Library.

This vital community resource must meet the growing demands of a expanding community.

James McCarthy
President LHVH&POA

Jim McCarthy
1560 Canyon Drive
Ridgway, CO 81432
970 626 4306 (H)
970 729 2548 (C)

Loghill Village Park & Recreation District

180 Ponderosa DR, Ridgway, CO 81432



November 7, 2018

To whom it may concern:

The Loghill Village Park & Recreation District fully supports the Ridgway Public Library plan to expand the 4500 square foot library by as much as 50% and reconfigure parts of the existing library. The objectives of the expansion to broaden the collection, add reading and work space, provide additional meeting rooms, isolate the children's area to reduce noise, support additional programs, and offer outdoor seating with controlled access will help meet the needs of our growing community.

The Loghill Village Park & Recreation District is within the Ridgway Public Library District. The library plan is complementary to the activities of the park district. All of the park district expenditures are outdoors for trails, trail maintenance, and related structures and activities. We anticipate occasional use of the added meeting facilities the library hopes to provide.

Sincerely,

Jan J. Burwell

President Loghill Village Park & Recreation District

November 19, 2018

To: Whom it may concern,

The Fairway Pines HOA fully supports the Ridgway Library expansion plans. We have been a party of this community from inception in 1992. We have actively donated books to the library during that time span and would love to see the Library grow and prosper. For a small town like Ridgway the Library has become a safe place for young and old alike to go and enrich their lives with books and information.

Sincerely submitted,

Mark Hartman,
President FPHOA