



FRUITA
COLORADO

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

TO: FRUITA CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR

FROM: SHANNON VASSEN, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

DATE: APRIL 25, 2023

AGENDA TEXT: LIVABILITY COMMISSION DISCUSSION

PURPOSE

The Fruita City Council has been (or will be) hearing from and discussing each Fruita Board and Commission throughout this year. For this meeting, the focus will be on the Livability Commission and providing feedback and direction to the group. The purpose of this agenda item for the Fruita City Council to discuss the purpose, past accomplishments, and goals of the Livability Commission.

Members of the Livability Commission are invited to attend this workshop and participate in the discussion with the City Council. The information and ideas discussed will help shape future projects and priority items while providing feedback on the Commission's purpose and goals.

BACKGROUND

In late 2018, the Livability Commission was formed after the City of Fruita was designated as an AARP Age-Friendly Community. At the time, Fruita was one of seven cities – along with seven counties – in Colorado with the Age Friendly Designation. This recognition showcased Fruita's commitment to ongoing age friendly efforts and the creation of the Livability Commission to support these efforts and other community goals.

After the Livability Commission was formed, the City of Fruita kicked off a number of long-range planning updates to prepare for the next decade. These planning updates included the Comprehensive Master Plan Update, the Parks, Health, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PHROST) Master Plan, an update of the Land-Use-Code, and the Multi-Modal and Active Circulation Master Plan. Public input was essential throughout these planning updates to ensure the final plans were consistent with the goals and vision of the community and Fruita residents. When the group was created, the mission statement read "serving in an advisory capacity to the Fruita City Council, the mission of the Livability Commission is to continually gather community input and make recommendations to the City Council pertaining to the eight domains of livability that support healthy aging and improve the quality of life, economic health, and lifestyle of Fruita community members. The by-laws, which include this mission statement, are available at our website [here](#), and are included as an attachment to this cover sheet. The Livability Commission played an important role by providing public engagement and feedback on these plans, but also identified key goals for the group from the plans.

Since the City of Fruita wrapped up these plans, the Livability Commission has worked on a number of projects. In 2021, the Livability Commission adopted the Fruita Age Friendly Action Plan (a requirement of being designated as an AARP Age-Friendly Community), which identified five key areas to focus on in the future. The Age Friendly Action Plan can be found on our website at this [link](#).

In addition to that, the Livability Commission created the City's Adopt a Street/Trail Program in 2022 (more information can also be found at our website [here](#)), which has been very successful in its first year. The commission also participated and had a tent at five of the Fruita Farmers Markets events in 2022, to provide information to residents and guests on Board and Commissions and to also aid in recruitment efforts.

This year, most of the discussion at the Livability Commission's meetings has been focused on narrowing down priority areas for the group. This discussion with the City Council will help with these efforts through the feedback that is provided.