

The Historic Town of Rio Vista, Now

24 January 2018
by Carol Bower Foote

Since the R/UDAT team concluded its report on Rio Vista in March 2014, RioVision has held a monthly General Meeting that is open to all. This was later modified so that every third monthly meeting is the Information Forum, which consists of all organizations that are committed to improving life in our city. The general meetings provide a time for our committees to report on and be accountable for their projects, programs, and events, to understand the full scope of our plans, to exchange ideas and information relative to our mission, to ask questions, request help, and provide support, and to welcome and inform interested citizens who want to become involved in helping their community. Now in our 4th year, our Board is reviewing formal operating procedures to provide guidance to our committees and additional structure to support the volunteers of our organization.

At our first general meeting of 2018, RioVision had a unique opportunity to renew our partnership with the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce in working toward the enrichment of our town for all its people. Jim Wheeler, our former Executive Director who is now filling that role for the Chamber, extended an invitation and challenge to us to “join forces” with the Chamber in this historic year as Rio Vista approaches the 125th anniversary of our articles of incorporation dated December 30, 1893. In this milestone year, we intend to link the rich history and past achievements of our town with our future’s promise by taking action here in the present. A buzz of excitement built in Vets Hall as we spoke of ways in which we can make our fascinating past more alive and visible to our own citizens and visitors, how we can provide a more intriguing invitation to potential visitors to come see what we are about and have to offer today, how we can make our town easier, safer, and more comfortable to explore and enjoy...and how RioVision and Chamber volunteers and businesses can collaborate to facilitate this evolution. We’ve reported on work that has already been completed, but are more committed than ever to support the general plan and the R/UDAT recommendations for revitalizing our city.

Many actions fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Rio Vista. Progress has been made with the construction of the Promenade, the resolution to begin construction on the City Boat Dock replacement and, with Youth Services, the work already in progress on the long-awaited Dog and Skate Park in the city. But there is so much more to do. Side-by-side, RioVision and the Chamber will use our collective community support to advocate with the City for needed changes. We will work to provide leadership and encourage you, our Rio Vista citizens, to do the same. We’ll attend City Council meetings, and others (e.g. Planning Commission) as needed. This anniversary year is a perfect time to speak with clear, articulate, informed, committed, consistent, persistent, and reasoned voices. We can continue to advocate for a clean, well-kept and maintained downtown area by all property owners (resident and non-resident). We can help provide a vision and achievable options for a path to realize that vision.

Mark your calendar: February 6th City Council meeting when we will hear more about the Chamber’s plans to celebrate our 125th anniversary throughout 2018 with events and projects in town. RioVision will be there. We are excited that our own plans sync well with this vision for a landmark year and look forward to finding additional ways to give the historic town of Rio Vista new life.