

THE GROWING EDGE

28 June 2017
by Carol Bower Foote

“Remember the way you are all possibilities you can see and how you live best as an appreciator of horizons, whether you reach them or not.” “Though I lack the art to decipher it, no doubt the next chapter in my book of transformations is already written. I am not done with my changes.” So say poets David Whyte (in “Mameen”) and Stanley Kunitz (in “Layers”). Both could be referring to the “growing edge”, the place where we let go of something we can no longer hold on to and step into the less familiar unknown of some new vision.

Following the departure of Jim Wheeler from his nearly full-time volunteer Executive Director role within RioVision, the Board of Directors is leveraging the processes established by Jim to continue the work of this active non-profit organization. Without Jim’s career project management skills, the Board is restructuring the leadership workload into three branches. A standing committee on the Board, led by RioVision Vice President Tom Surh, will oversee Projects and Programs including the Visitor Center, Promotions and Communications, the Trim and Tidy downtown maintenance program led by Jamie Victor, and special projects such as the downtown murals. Working with Board member and Treasurer Ed Vitrano, a newly formed Finance Committee will restructure a concise 6 month budget for RioVision. Ongoing Community and City Relations will be maintained by President MaryEllen Lamothe and Vice President Surh. RioVision stands at a growing edge, changing, yet as “an appreciator of horizons”, continuing to build on the body of work lovingly begun a few years ago. The public is welcome at our next RioVision General Meeting on July 10.

The Hog August Bites Committee which has stepped in to breathe new life into the 4th year of this unique one day Main Street event is hard at work at its growing edge. Last week downtown businesses were contacted about this August 19th event which will close down Main Street from 10am to 9pm to welcome hundreds of people for chili, ribs, libation, live music, children’s games and downhill racing, stock and custom car show, crafters and artisans. Exciting, fun, and free! Volunteers are needed to help with hosting the event. Information, and applications to enter the chili and rib competitions, are available at hogaugustbites.net, discoverriovista.com/events/hog-august-bites, the [riovistahogaugustbites](https://www.facebook.com/riovistahogaugustbites) Facebook page, or write hogaugustbitesrv@gmail.com.

RioVision is hosting a special Meet and Greet Volunteer Recruitment event on Tuesday, July 18th from 4-6pm at the Hwy 12 Diner. Our programs and projects are always in need of shared skills and talents, and helping hands of all ages. If you want to engage in the continual transformation of our town into an ever more vital, energetic, and thriving community, mark your calendar and plan to stop by to see what opportunities are available.

One upcoming volunteer opportunity is to help paint the interior of City Hall on a weekend in early August. Also needing helpers this summer will be the artists who are planning the two new downtown murals at the Youth Center and at 165 Main Street. If you’d like to meet some good folks and be of service, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Marilyn Nelson at marnell111@hotmail.com.

“Look well to the growing edge. ...the upward reach of life.” (Dr. Howard Thurman)