

## GETTING IT DONE!

6 September 2017  
by Carol Bower Foote

“It’s not enough to be busy (so are ants). The question is, what are we busy about?” (Henry David Thoreau-essayist, poet, historian, activist). RioVision is filled with volunteers on a common mission who bring passion and intention to what they do. Their commitment is infectious – bringing new volunteer talent, business owners, non-profits, schools, and city officials from our community into the shared work of creating a town we want to be part of, to live in, to visit.

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RioVision board member Walt Manos, a 13 year Rio Vista resident and 3 year RioVision volunteer, loves working with this coalition of committed talent for the good of the community. Like most of us in our 30s and 40s, Walt was committed to his wife and daughter, his work, and the animals on his small ranch. But since his retirement, he has wanted to engage in a larger space, taking his love of people and ‘doing’ into his community. He began in his immediate surroundings as an active leader in Trilogy, serving as president on a village Board of Directors for a number of years, a Master Association delegate, a number of HOA committees, and on the Bocce Club board. He entered his service on the town’s Parks and Recreation Commission 8 years ago. Then he met Jim Wheeler at a RioVision general meeting he visited.



Jim recruited Walt into what, Walt says, has become a very satisfying relationship with his larger “village” of Rio Vista through RioVision. Working with Jim, Walt took on management of the RE: Church community garden project. Then came the Riverview Middle School garden project which, working with the school and district, became “Riverview Farms”, a budding program involving students, faculty, and parents in sustainable growing in the raised beds built by RioVision volunteers. Walt hopes this program will not only engage the imagination and efforts of young people in our community, but also serve as a model and inspiration for other schools in our area, especially those without a lot of resources. A planned expansion, with the help of an October fundraiser and a grant secured by Principal Sonia Rambo, will add a shed and walkways, planted fruit trees, and eventually a Bocce Court for intergenerational family activity, an idea Walt loves.

Walt enjoys walking about town and getting to know business owners. He was excited to see how RioVision outreach to local businesses resulted in new sponsors becoming involved with Hog August Bites. He is enthusiastic about engaging in dialog with the Chamber of Commerce, the City, and Rio Vista’s small businesses to see how RioVision can better support their success. He is also looking forward to the continuing renovation of the lighted signs that bring Rio Vista to life at night, including the Flamingo sign and Lucy’s. Walt lives the notion of getting things done with intention and purpose. Sound familiar?!

Join us!

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RioVision has some additional “thank you”s for support on Hog August Bites: To the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce for funding and providing the stage. To Hope Cohn of the RV City Council for her time. To the Baptist Church youth organization for selling the chili tasting kits and to whom RioVision will be making a donation. This is the kind of cooperation in “doing” we all find exciting.

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NOTE: The Information Forum planned for September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Veteran’s Memorial Hall has become a RioVision General Meeting where we will begin planning for next year’s projects. The public is welcomed.