

Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging (CoA) Special Meeting
February 2, 2026
Small Conference Room, Town Hall

Co-Chairman Yaffa called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm, which was the First Order of Business. Co-Chair Nolan, Commissioners Mullin, Kabasakalian, Martin, Tewes, Richards and Orr and volunteer Eric Berkley were present. Absent was Commissioner Culhane. Tony Phillips, Director of Social Services and Karen Gaudian were also present. Guests included Adelia Lubitz and Pastor Beth Anderson of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Ridgefield.

As to the Second Order of Business, Ms. Yaffa invited public comment. There was none.

As to the Third Order of Business, Ms. Orr moved that the 12/15/2025 minutes be approved. Mr. Tewes seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

As to the Fourth Order of Business, Housekeeping-Financials. Amounts remain the same as reported at the 12/15/2025 board meeting.

As to the Fifth Order of Business: Priorities Follow-Ups/Updates. **Transportation** - Ms. Yaffa and Mr. Phillips reported that there is no pilot program yet. The issue of liabilities is being studied. A report will be forthcoming in March. **Food Insecurity** - Ms. Orr reported donors have made both regular and matching donations. While funding has been generally good, she would like to see recurring monthly donations. Mr. Phillips provided "in need" statistics and trends since the November SNAP cuts. The CoA should remain aware of the continuing need and, if possible, tag on to any other community events to increase awareness. A public relations approach with a signature logo was discussed to represent the Social Services food program. A Neighbor Fund logo was mentioned. Ms. Yaffa asked that we come to the next meeting with other ideas. **Senior Voices** - There was a record total of 144 people in attendance on Zoom and live at the January Wills & Estate Planning meeting. Ms. Mullin met with Kayla Todd of Meadow Ridge, who, in February's SV, will provide an overview of Meadow Ridge, a continuing care retirement community. The March SV will be called "Food for Thought," presented by RVNA. **Senior Housing** - Ms.

Kabasakalian and Mr. Richards met with P&Z Chair Robert Hendrick and Aarti Paranjape, another member, to explore where more senior housing can be established. Ms. Kabasakalian distributed a copy of the present P&Z4 *Age-Restricted Housing District (ARHD)4* guidelines. A zoning change would be required for additional senior housing. Mention was made of a “floating zone” that can be age-restricted. The P&Z has legislative power. The CoA was asked to stay aware of the Branchville development plans. The ECDC was mentioned as a possible partner. **Digital Divide** - Ms. Yaffa reported that the Library has done research regarding the connectivity issue and a meeting will be scheduled shortly. **Adult Day Health** - On 1/6/2026, Mr. Berkley met with Pastor Beth of St. Andrew’s Church. Evergreen has been reaching out to town officials. Mr. Tewes stated that hurdles for a social model are not insurmountable. The CoA must help Evergreen with our combined email lists from Gold Card, Expo, Summerfest, etc., to assist in making everyone aware of the program.

As to the Sixth Order of Business - Commendations. Ms. Yaffa gave the Commendation for Kristin Ternullo Siegel to Joe Ternullo to give to her on our behalf. Some thought should be given to future Commendations.

As to the Seventh Order of Business - Ms. Martin reported that the new **Gold Card** page is live and working very well, thanks to Gillian. We hope to be able to obtain a redirect link from IT before going to print new gold cards. Rack Card has been ready for print. A digital file must be located before any revisions can be made to the Senior Central Directory. A **Grant** has been submitted to the Lewis Fund for \$1,000.

As to the Eighth Order of Business - The next meeting date will be February 23, 2026.

As to the Ninth Order of Business - The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM following a motion made by Ms. Kabasakalian and seconded by Mr. Tewes. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Carmen Martin, Secretary

