

**Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging (“CoA”) Special Meeting
October 21, 2024, 2:30 pm, Small Conference Room, Town Hall**

Commissioner Yaffa called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Commissioners Crook, Culhane, Martin, Nolan, Saleeby, Tewes, Yaffa and Ternullo (who participated via phone) were present. Commissioner Beebe and student liaison, Rutvi Vohra were excused from today’s meeting. Intern Ryssa Swanson and Social Services Director Phillips were present.

As the **1st order of business**, Ms. Yaffa invited public comment.

As the **2nd order of business**, Ms. Nolan moved that the 9/16/24 CoA minutes be approved. Ms. Martin seconded. A vote followed. The minutes were unanimously approved.

As the **3rd order of business**, progress reports on the CoA’s 2024 goals were provided as follows:

- (i) Mr. Tewes discussed the progress in organizing the Expo and outlined the significant work ahead.
- (ii) Ms. Yaffa summarized the status of our Digital Divide/Overcoming Social Isolation Library collaboration.
- (iii) Ms. Saleeby and Mr. Phillips provided an update on the CoA’s investigation, in collaboration with Ridgefield Social Services and Rides for Ridgefield, of the possibility of expanding transportation available to seniors.
- (iv) Mr. Phillips provided an update on the CoA’s efforts, in collaboration with Social Services, to eradicate food insecurity in Ridgefield and noted that a by-product of this initiative is that the Prospector Theater has offered to contribute to overcoming senior loneliness and isolation. Mr. Phillips and Ms. Saleeby are following up on this and more will be reported at the November COA meeting.

As the **4th order of business** relating to senior safety concerns:

- (i) Ms. Saleeby noted that, thanks to the efforts of Tony Phillips and others, a bench will be placed at the Copps Hill shopping plaza shortly, thus enabling seniors to have a safe place to rest with their purchases as they wait for a bus or other transportation home. A ribbon cutting is in the planning.
- (ii) Ms. Yaffa noted that there have been complaints that speeding on Catoonah St is excessive and dangerous.

As the **5th order of business** relating to ‘housekeeping’ matters:

- Mr. Phillips reported that the CoA has a \$4,625 grant fund balance. He noted that because an intern is paid from these funds, it is important to track funds to ensure that the CoA does not overspend. Ms. Yaffa will follow up.
- Ms. Yaffa reported that she is working on obtaining business cards for commissioners who have requested them.
- Mr. Tewes acknowledged the important contributions of Rutvi Vohra and Ryssa Swanson to the CoA.
- Mr. Phillips mentioned that, with assistance of others, he is developing a Progress Report/Impact Statement

As the **6th order of business**, Ms. Yaffa mentioned that Compassionate Ridgefield invited Mr. Phillips, Grace Weber of Founders Hall and Ms. Yaffa representing the CoA to speak at Lounsbury House on combatting social isolation, tomorrow, Tuesday, 10/22 from 5 pm to 7 pm. All are welcome.

As the **7th order of business** Ms. Yaffa invited a discussion of new business. There was none.

There being no other business, Ms. Yaffa called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Tewes made that motion. Ms. Martin seconded. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 4:14 pm.

The above is a true and accurate summary of the CoA 10/21/24 meeting. - Joseph Ternullo, Acting Secretary