

Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging (“CoA”) Meeting June 17, 2024, 2:30 pm, Large Conference Room, Town Hall (400 Main Street)

Commissioner Ternullo called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. Commissioners Saleeby, Ternullo, Tewes, and Yaffa were present. Commissioners Culhane and Martin participated via telephone conference call. Commissioner Beebe was excused due to out of state travel.

As the **1st order of business**, Mr. Ternullo invited public comment. A resident interested in serving on the CoA introduced himself and explained his interest and background. His candidacy was enthusiastically supported. Mr. Ternullo will follow up on this matter.

As the **2nd order of business**, Ms. Yaffa moved that the 5/20/24 CoA minutes be approved. Ms. Saleeby 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 Expo and presented several expo workgroups that were needed. All CoA members expressed interest in leading and participating in at least one workgroup.
- (ii) Ms. Yaffa provided an update on the progress on the CoA Digital Divide/Overcoming Social Isolation collaboration with the Library. She reported that 20 refurbished Chromebooks had been received from the School Department for this initiative and that, with the library, we are about the business of seeking adequate funding for hotspots, carrying cases, and a digital navigator. Mr. Ternullo moved that if available and if needed the CoA set aside up to \$500 in funding for chrome book carrying cases, explaining that as the initiative moves toward the possibility of applying for funding via competitive grant scenarios, a critical element often includes a tangible demonstration of ‘skin in the game’. Ms. Yaffa seconded this motion. A brief discussion followed. When discussion ended, a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.
- (iii) Ms. Saleeby 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. She mentioned that options available in surrounding communities are being studied, that the group continues to meet and that a stakeholder workshop is under consideration.
- (iv) Tony Phillips, Ridgefield Director of Social Services, provided an update of the CoA’s efforts, in collaboration with his office and others residents, to eradicate food insecurity in Ridgefield.
- (v) Ms. Yaffa presented a Communication Plan Update.

As the **4th order of business**, Mr. Phillips provided an update on discussions regarding the restoration of benches at the Capps Hill shopping plaza.

As the **5th order of business**, Mr. Ternullo provided an update re finances, invited Commissioners to advise him via email if they are interested in receiving business cards, reported that a CoA paid intern job description would soon go live, and advised an individual who was unable to attend today’s meeting, expressed interest in filling one of the two open CoA commissioner slots. This individual is well known in the community and was enthusiastically endorsed.

As the **6th order of business**, Ms. Saleeby reported that as a matter of public safety, it seems important for the CoA to write a letter to the Select Board and the Police Commission urging that they consider the need for a crosswalk on Ligi’s Way at the opening of the walkway. Ms. Culhane proposed that the Commission for Accessibility be approached and invited to coauthor that letter. Mr. Ternullo offered to assist Ms. Saleeby in drafting that letter and motioned that the CoA write such a letter in collaboration with the CfA, if it wishes to be a part of it. Ms. Yaffa seconded. Brief discussion followed. When discussion ended, a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

The **7th order of business** was informational regarding future dates. No discussion occurred.

There being no other business, Mr. Tewes called for adjournment. Ms. Saleeby seconded. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 4:24 pm.

The above is a true and accurate summary of the CoA 6/17/24 meeting. - Joseph Ternullo, Acting Secretary