

Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging (CoA) Meeting
December 15, 2025
Small Conference Room, Town Hall

Secretary Martin called the meeting to order at 2:34 pm, which was the First Order of Business. Commissioners Richards, Mullin, Tewes, Orr, and Culhane were present. Also present was Karen Gaudian, Municipal Agent for the Elderly. Co-Chairs Ms. Nolan and Ms. Yaffa were excused, as was Ms. Kabasakalian. Tony Philips, Director of Social Services, was also not present. Carolina Gahagan and Eric Berkley attended as guests.

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

As to the Third Order of Business, Mr. Tewes moved that the 11/17/2025 minutes be approved. Mr Richards seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

As to the Fourth Order of Business, Housekeeping- a) Financials, Ms. Gaudian reported that the Office Supplies account is now \$403.60 after expenses. All other account balances remain the same.

4 b) - Mr. Richards moved that the meeting dates proposed for the 2026 CoA meetings be approved and was seconded by Ms. Mullin. There was no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

As to the Fifth Order of Business, Priorities. **Transportation** - Due to the absence of Ms. Yaffa and Mr. Phillips, the topic was tabled until the January 2026 meeting.

Food Insecurity - Ms. Culhane reported that Ms. Orr was instrumental in giving out approximately 35 "Blessing Baskets" for Thanksgiving. Ms. Gaudian reported that Social Services had received wreaths, prepared foods, pies and donations from local business owners.

Senior Voices - Ms. Mullin announced the January 13, 2026 forum would be a presentation by attorney Glen Wagstaff from Utah and his rep in Ridgefield, Drew Berman. The topic is Wills & Estate Planning. **Senior Housing** - Mr. Richards reported that Ms. Kabasakalian had met with builders, but has not heard anything yet.

Adult Day Health - Mr. Tewes distributed the former progress report with new updates noted in red. He has modified the data run to within 10 miles of Ridgefield. The program is designed for 100 participants, most likely not all attending every day. Kenn

Devane of MineTech will review the 2023 senior needs assessment survey to look for other social factors. Nikki Nuut of Founders Hall will be another willing partner to gather information among their membership for partners who are not socializing. Mr. Berkley will be looking at the numbers. Other outreach has been made to SOAR and Compassionate Ridgefield. Possible locations were mentioned by Ms. Gahagan. Between 800 - 1000 sq.ft. will be needed. Mr. Tewes will have another call with Evergreen to keep them interested and engaged.

Digital Divide - Tabled to January 2026 board meeting.

As the Sixth Order of Business - Five Commendations were presented to members of Parks & Recreation for their work on the Expo.

As the Seventh Order of Business - a) No update on **digital Senior Central Directory**.

b) Waiting for website before reprinting new **Rack Cards**.

c) Motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Mr. Richards to keep the **Gold Card** program exclusive to Ridgefield and maintain the 2021 Program Overview. After discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

d) No update on **Senior Tax Committee**

e) No response from IT on **CoA website**

f) Members asked for ideas or suggestions for **Thrift Shop grant**. Must be filed by the end of January 2026.

As the Eighth Order of Business, the next meeting date will be January 26, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 PM following a motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Ms. Mullin. Passed unanimously.

Respectively Submitted by Carmen Martin, Secretary