

Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging
March 16, 2026 - 2:30 PM
Small Conference Room, Town Hall

Co-Chairman Yaffa called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM, which was the First Order of Business. Co-Chair Nolan, Martin, Mullin, Kabasakalian, Richards, Tewes, and Culhane were present. Absent was Orr. Also present was Eric Berkley, a volunteer and Alden Cushman, a guest. Tony Phillips, Director of Social Services and Karen Gaudian, Municipal Agent for the Elderly, were also in attendance.

As to the Second Order of Business, Mr. Cushman introduced himself and family as long-time residents of Ridgefield. He is a retired IT advisor and is an active volunteer for several groups in the community.

As to the Third Order of Business, Ms. Nolan moved that the Minutes of the 3/2/2026 special meeting be approved. Mr. Richards seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

As to the Fourth Order of Business - Housekeeping-Financials, Ms. Yaffa reported that the Office Supplies Account decreased slightly to \$328.29 as of March 16, 2026. The Leir, Expo and Intern accounts remain the same as the March 2, 2026 reporting.

As to the Fifth Order of Business Priorities and Follow Up/Updates. **Transportation.** Ms. Yaffa announced that she is now on the Board of the Transportation Task Force. The Task Force met and are close to a pilot program. Mr. Phillips explained how the program will work and the criteria for participating. Ms. Yaffa is scheduled for a round-trip test. Ms. Yaffa and Ms. Nolan have met with the ECDC for outreach and they are willing to help with transportation. **Food Insecurity.** Mr. Phillips has consulted a graphic designer for a flyer. Mr. Phillips was complimented for the social media December contributions piece. He will submit a blurb for the upcoming Bulletin being prepared by the CoA. **Senior Voices.** The March 10, 2026 SV on Nutrition was very well attended. Jay Correia of Professional Physical Therapy will present "How to be Physically Fit for Today and Ten Years from Now" at the April 7, 2026 SV meeting.

Senior Housing. News of the Binn Farm development for a new 30-40 apartment complex will be aggressively explored. Ms. Kabasakalian will contact the applicant's attorney, Robert Jewell, for more information. Both Ms. Kabasakalian and Mr. Richards are scheduled to attend the April meeting of the Affordable Housing Committee. **Digital Divide.** Mr. Phillips has been informed that a grant has been applied for hot spot funding. **Adult Day Health.** Mr. Berkley reported the hold up has been in trying to locate a suitable space. Discussion followed exploring the CoA involvement and the possibility of informally asking the ECDC to assist with identifying a 1000-1500 sq. ft. space. **Gold Card/Rack Card.** Ms. Martin reported that both cards are in the process of being shipped. **Senior Central Directory.** Ms. Yaffa suggested the project be taken on once a new board is in place. **New Business.** Ms. Nolan has a mockup for the quarterly Email-Blast Bulletin from the CoA. It will be a light reminder for seniors with voter information, SV reminders, potential senior tax offset, Gold Card info, Food Insecurity reminders, and updates from the Public Safety Facilities Committee. **CoA Website.** Ms. Yaffa will update after the new board is in place. Ms. Martin and Mr. Tewes were thanked for their service as they leave the board. Upcoming dates of interest: 4/17/2026 Founders Hall Board of Ed meeting open to the public and May 29, 2026 Live Well at FH where the CoA will have a table.

The next meeting date will be April 20, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM following a motion made by Ms. Kabasakalian and seconded by Mr. Richards and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Carmen Martin, Secretary
(Term expires April 1, 2026)