

Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging Special Meeting
March 2, 2026 - 930 AM
Small Conference Room, Town Hall

Co-Chairman Yaffa called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM, which was the First Order of Business. Co-Chair Nolan, Commissioners Richards, Martin, Culhane, and volunteer Eric Berkley were present. Also present was Tony Phillips, Director of Social Services. Absent were Commissioners Tewes, Kabasakalian, Orr and Mullin.

As to the Second Order of Business, there was no public comment.

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 is \$364.37 as of February 23, 2026. The Leir, Expo and Intern accounts remain the same as the February 23, 2026 reporting.

As to the Fifth Order of Business Priorities and Follow Up/Updates. **Transportation.** There will be a transportation meeting in March. Ms. Nolan and Ms. Yaffa will attend and speak at an ECDC meeting tonight (3/2/2026) with regard to the CoA and the Task Force Pilot Program. Founders Hall representatives attended the February ECDC and voiced their concerns about transportation to Founders Hall. **Food Insecurity.** Ms. Yaffa read a text from Ms. Orr about her work with AI to promote ongoing gift card donations. Ms. Culhane felt it was important to advertise the twice-a-month perishable food truck that parks at St. Andrews and the Ruby's Pantry locations. It was suggested that they be announced on the town's weekly newsletter and that flyers be generated to give out at Senior Voices forums. Social Services serves 250-280 individuals a month with gift cards and continues to attempt to get a designation to promote the ongoing need for food insecurity. **Senior Voices.** The March 10, 2026 presents RVNA Registered Dietitian, Carmen Weber, who will speak on Nutrition for Memory & Brain Health. The April, May and June programs are set. The fall lineup is being explored as well. **Senior Housing.** Mr. Richards reported that he and Ms. Kabasakalian will attend an April meeting of the Affordable Housing Committee. Defining the linkage between senior and low-income housing needs clarity. **Digital Divide.** Ms. Yaffa reported that it is on hold for now, with nothing to report. **Adult Day Health.** The Elders at St. Andrew's Church rejected using its location. Mr. Berkley will continue to explore other locations. **Commendations 2026.** The three candidates are Nikki Nuut of Founders Hall, Amy Escribano, former Administrator to First Selectperson,

and Gillian Lewis, current Public Communication and Emergency Management Director for the town. Ms. Nolan made a motion to accept the nominees. Ms. Martin seconded. Passed unanimously. **Gold Card/Rack Card.** Ms. Martin reported that both cards are ready to be printed pending the CEAP program date change. She will be in touch with the printer tomorrow to finalize the order of 500 copies of each. **Senior Central Directory.** To be tabled. **New Business.** Ms. Nolan presented the idea of a quarterly EMail-Blast newsletter from the CoA using the CoA email database. It could be used to promote CoA activities, suggest areas of interest and educational briefings, in particular updates from the Public Safety Facilities Committee. **CoA Website.** Ms. Yaffa will update after the new board is in place. A discussion followed regarding skill sets suggested when considering future board member candidates in order to fill continuing projects and to bring other talents to the board.

The next meeting date will be March 16, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM following a motion made by Ms. Nolan and seconded by Mr. Richards. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Carmen Martin, Secretary