



**Ridgefield
Economic &
Community
Development
Commission**

400 Main Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877 • 203.431-2700

**Bob Knight – Chair
Kay Gelfman – Vice Chair
James Classey - Secretary
Commissioner Arasa
Nadia Blair
Sean Dowd
Jennifer Gioffre
Peter Kearney
David Perlmutter**

**Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson
ridgefieldct.gov**

Meeting Minutes

May 11th, 2026 at 6:30pm in Town Hall Large Conference Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

Call to Order:

In attendance: Commissioners, Nadia Blair, Kay Gelfman, Jenn Gioffre, Peter Kearney and David Perlmutter. Commissioner James Classey arrived at 6:46pm.

Announcements: Next meeting is June, 1st 2026.

Public Comment

No public comment

Guest Christine Santori: Christine was not able to attend this month. ECDC will invite her to June's meeting.

Recap of Recent Events / Info

Commissioner Gioffre met with author Jennifer Schiff and discussed ways to celebrate local authors. Commissioner Blair mentioned a current Ridgefield Resident suggested an event honoring Richard Scarry, author and illustrator. Son Huck Scarry is also an artist who would be interested in honoring him as well. Commissioners Blair and Arasa were also thinking about expanding the Bailey Avenue event to four times per year. They had the idea of Books on Bailey with author talks, crafts, breweries, can maybe coordinate with timing of library book sale.

[Amended by Commission action on June 1, 2026.]

Approval of Minutes March Meeting:

Commissioner Perlmutter motioned to approve the April meeting minutes as submitted. Gioffre seconded. All in favor.

Cultural District:

Commissioner Arasa shared the following with Commissioner Blair to report: Our social media account is live and already has 250 followers! @ridgefieldculture. The goal is to provide an insider view to arts, culture and community in Ridgefield. Upcoming posts are Ellen Burns/ Books on Common, BTS of ACT musical *Dear Evan Hansen*, Memorial Day Parade, Dinner and a Show recommendations, June Cultural Bucket List, and Chirp opening day.

We are going to expand out the Locals Love concept by focusing on artistic community members and their favorite way to spend a day in Ridgefield- Steven Schwartz- Artists from Aldrich and local Musicians.

TRAFFIC BOX PROGRAM: The CD will launch a call for artists within the next month so we can cover the traffic boxes in art. The CTDOT process has started.

The CD is working on a new logo, using the Fountain as Icon.

The CD is working with the state to develop a 5-year CD Plan- this is a new initiative they are doing with all of the Cultural Districts we Ridgefield is the first.

The CD has initiated expenditures that fall within their approved budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Marketing:

Commissioner Gioffre will work with the Chamber to finalize a join calendar to highlight different events in town. She will connect with Western CT Tourism District to help with suggestions on best practices for marketing via social media.

Memorial Day Parade:

The ECDC will not participate in the Memorial Day Parade.

CT Main Street:

Commissioner Classey met with Carl Rosa to perform the CT Main St Center Assessment. The town saw improvements in both the Economic Vitality Point and Organization Point, however still plenty of room to grow. Design and Promotion scores were constant – both high

performing. High points for the completion of the Commercial Property Inventory by Commissioner Perlmutter.

P/T Consultant:

The job description has been posted and we have one applicant. We concluded the main deliverables will be assistance with Tiger Shark Tank, along with support for Marketing i.e. Calendar. Without a true VC expert on the ECDC, we believe it's prudent to loop in the founders of TST, Sean Dowd and Mark Riser, to assist with screening.

Commissioner Gioffre motioned to have former Commissioners Sean Dowd and Mark Riser speak to the candidate to about the expectations for consultant's TST support role. Commissioners Knight, Gioffre, and Kearney will interview the candidate and vote on offering the candidate the consultant role. Classey seconded. All in favor. Gelfman spoke to Riser and he will speak to candidate about TST expectations. Riser will also mentor the TST applicants. Gelfman will also speak with Dowd.

Ridgefield Connect:

The event, "Marching Forward: Revolutionary Women in Business" will be held at 5:30pm on Tuesday May 26th at Keeler Tavern. with a panel on woman owned business led by Commissioner Arasa. Megan Searfoss, owner of CT Run CO., and Rosie Snow Voulgaris, Pop Art! Kids will participate.

Tiger Shank Tank:

No further updates.

Planning & Zoning:

Commissioner Gelfman reviewed minutes from meetings over the past few months. Some important topics that may be of interest to the ECDC are overall regulation changes, bed and breakfast discussion for North Salem Road property, short term rental conversation, and the status of Branchville development plan. ECDC is eager to have a more communicative relationship with PZC.

Real Estate Project:

Commissioner Perlmutter did the heroic deed of finally creating the property listing for the ECDC website. He will tend to it.

Film Update:

No update.

Commissioner Perlmutter motions to adjourn. Gioffre seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm