



Ridgefield Prevention Council

Minutes

Date: Aug 31, 2026

Location: TH Large Conference Room

Meeting Location Change: Upon discovering that the originally scheduled building was unexpectedly inaccessible at the time of the meeting, **Chair Denise Santangelo redirected the meeting to SpireTHERAPY, 415 Main Street**, a nearby location owned by the Chair. A notice was posted at the Town Hall entrance directing any members of the public who arrived for the meeting to the new location.

Invited Panelists

BLAKE RODRIGUEZ (brod328@gmail.com)

JENNIFER ENGLERT (jenglert99@gmail.com)

KAREN FACINI (kfacini@mtb.com)

KIM CARONE (kim.carone@gmail.com)

SARAH LORENZINI (slorenzini@wctcoalition.org)

SARAH MYJAK (saraemyjak@gmail.com)

SIERA FACINI (sierafacibi@gmail.com)

WILL KNISPEL (willknispel@gmail.com)

RPC Mission Statement

The Ridgefield Prevention Council supports a safe and healthy environment for all Ridgefield families through awareness, education and positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use and to reduce high-risk youth behaviors

"Ridgefield Prevention Council meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and all participants are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and treat all those present with respect, empathy and civility."

Meeting Attendees

DENISE SANTANGELO (denise@spiretherapy.com)

JENNIFER ENGLERT (jenglert99@gmail.com)

KAREN FACINI (kfacini@mtb.com)

SARAH MYJAK (saraemyjak@gmail.com)

WILL KNISPEL (willknispel@gmail.com)

Overview

- Core admin updates: Google Drive/Docs access, account recovery and sharing were configured; minutes stored in the shared drive. Access details were exchanged during the meeting.
- Events & outreach prioritized: Drug Take Back (Oct 24) confirmed as a town collaboration; SpireBall (youth multi-ball league) planned for a September start and PTA/school outreach; mental-health “coffee with a counselor” scheduled for September, TBD, and vaping/poster contest scheduled for November.
- Finance snapshot: Treasurer reported \$18,833.80 on hand; LPC (Local Prevention Council) funding discussed (approx. \$5,000 annual).
- Governance items: Minutes and agendas for June 26, July 27, and Aug 31 were approved; a motion passed to change several Zoom meeting times to 5:00 PM for Sept–Dec 2026, to be posted to the town.

Shared Documents & Minutes

- The group moved minutes, agendas and event spreadsheets into a shared Google Drive account (Ridgefieldprevention@gmail.com) so everyone can access a single record.
- The drive contains Word docs and spreadsheets (event calendar, templates, minutes going back several years); users were shown how to toggle accounts and locate the most recent files (sort by last opened/edited).

Access, Accounts & Security

- The Ridgefield Prevention Gmail/Drive account and password were shared during the session so the board can access files; the recovery phone and two-step verification settings were adjusted so the group can manage account access centrally.
- The team agreed access should remain consistent (not dependent on a single person emailing files), and that the account recovery contact will be updated to Denise to centralize administration.

Meeting Logistics & Calendar Changes

- Motion approved to change Zoom meeting times to 5:00 PM for Sept–Dec 2026 (seconded and recorded).
- Agendas, approved minutes and recurring meeting invites will be exported as PDF and sent to town contacts so the town can post the meeting notices.
- The shared calendar will visually mark confirmed dates in red (finalized) so social media can begin posting once dates are finalized.

Treasurer & LPC Funding

- Treasurer (Karen) reported a \$18,833.80 cash balance.
- LPC funding (~\$5,000): the group expects funds and reports quarterly; Denise, the Chair, will follow up on whether LPC mail/funds have arrived, and will ask Karen to confirm mail receipt and status with the LPC contact.
- The final LPC report was submitted mid-June and followed up on; Denise will check that the LPC reviewer has accessed the submission.

Events & Program Planning

- Drug Take Back: October 24 confirmed as the town's Drug Take Back Day; RPC will volunteer and staff a table/handouts. The preferred location discussion favored easy pull-through sites (pharmacies/Walgreens or a town horseshoe driveway spot) rather than the police lobby, to reduce perceived barriers.
- Coffee with a Counselor: planned as an open conversation for parents about teen mental health; format will be “cookies, coffee and conversation with a counselor” with an informational one-sheet (warning signs, resources) and RSVP via the library.
- SpireBall (youth multi-ball league): seasonal program starting in September (indoor/outdoor rotations: wiffle ball, borgo ball, blitz ball). The team will promote via PTAs and school liaisons; banners and netting will display RPC branding at the play site.
- Vaping awareness / poster contest: scheduled for November with a poster-contest component; RPC to run school outreach and contest logistics.
- Drug Take Back (April and October): acknowledged as recurring national dates; local planning will be done for both.

- Speaker/guest outreach: a young NA/AA speaker (Nick H., “Lost Then Found” group) and other speakers (e.g., a director with a film on addiction, Grant Rosenmeyer) were identified as possibilities for upcoming meetings and outreach events.

Speakers & Community Partners

- Nick H. (Lost Then Found group) identified as a candidate speaker for the next meeting; Karen will text him to obtain an email and confirm participation. Denise will add him to the RPC contact list once an email is available.
- Grant Rosenmeyer (film/director dealing with addiction) was suggested for February (possible screening/talk at Prospector Playhouse); Karen will reach out to coordinate.
- Police liaison (Captain Brian Durling) was contacted by Denise regarding Drug Take Back logistics; RPC will offer volunteer support and confirm the site with him.
- School, PTA and recreation partners (Mike Bonham – PTA liaison, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA/Yannity gym) were discussed as venue/partner prospects; RPC to coordinate outreach once dates/venues are finalized.

Communications & Publicity

- Social media: Sierra (contracted) will manage Instagram posts; calendar items will be shared with her to post once dates are finalized (red = final).
- RPC will prepare a one-sheet for events (warning signs, talking points) and handouts (pads/pens) for public events and Drug Take Back.

Closing & Approvals

- Agendas and minutes for June 26, July 27, and Aug 31 were approved by the members present.
- The meeting was adjourned after motions to approve the calendar and minutes; attendees agreed to follow up offline on outstanding items (mail/funds, speaker confirmations, calendar PDFs to town).
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Action Items

Owner	Action Item & Details
Denise	Share Drive access and credentials Grant board members access to the shared Ridgefield Prevention Google Drive (Ridgefieldprevention@gmail.com), provide the

	password, and confirm the list of recipients. Ensure everyone can toggle accounts and access Word docs and spreadsheets.
Denise	Update Zoom/calendar and send PDFs to town Change the Zoom meeting times to 5:00 PM for Sept–Dec 2026 in the shared calendar, export the updated calendar/agenda as PDF, and email/post the PDFs to the three town contacts so the town can publish the new meeting dates.
Denise or Karen	Follow up on LPC report and mail/funds Confirm whether the LPC (Local Prevention Council) mail/funds have arrived and whether the final LPC report was reviewed. Follow up with the LPC contact if no confirmation, and report status to the group.
Karen	Contact speaker leads (Nick H. and Grant) Text Nick H. (Lost Then Found group) to obtain his preferred email and confirm availability for the next meeting. Reach out to Grant Rosenmeyer about arranging a February screening/talk (director/film on addiction) and report back with availability.
Denise, Jen & Sarah	Plan Drug Take Back logistics and staffing Coordinate RPC volunteer staffing for Drug Take Back on October 24, confirm site (pharmacy/drive-through spot or police-approved location), prepare handouts (pads/pens), and request any needed town support for traffic/collection.
Denise	Promote SpireBall and school outreach Finalize the SpireBall seasonal plan (September start), prepare promotional info and distribute it to PTAs and school liaisons (Mike Bonham) so schools can share with families. Arrange banners/netting for the field and confirm venues.