

**Town of Ridgefield- Ridgefield Arts Council Meeting**

**February 4, 2026 at 7:15 PM**

**In-Person Attendees:**

**Town Hall Small Conference Room**

**400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut**

**Those Attending Virtually:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3625596884?omn=81069357094>**

**Meeting ID: 362 559 6884**

**One tap mobile**

**+19292056099, 3625596884# US (New York)**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdshP7aqyl>**

Minutes taken by Danielle Roth

Present (in-person): Renee Brown-Cheng, Tracey Bryggman, Nick Catino, Jennifer Dineen, Danielle Roth

Present (virtually): Colleen Cash, Joe Collin (arrived at 7:28pm)

Excused: Pamme Jones, Raje Kaur

Guests: Martha Evans Morris, Peter Bachman, Naomi Bond, Anna Rauchwerk, Jennifer Schiff

**MEETING TO ORDER**

Rene made a motion to call the meeting to order. Dani seconded. The meeting was called to order at 7:16pm.

**MINUTES**

- Dani made a motion to approve the January 2026 Meeting Minutes pending revision of typo referencing “New Business”. Colleen seconded. All else approved.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

- RAC Chairpersons will meet with the RAC’s former Treasurer to make sure the Treasurer role and documents are up to date.
- Outstanding December invoices have been addressed with Town Hall.
- One reimbursement request has been submitted to Town Hall in regards to Canva Pro Account subscription.

**Old Business**

#### Behind the Scenes Planning and Nancy Comstock Andrews Award

- Ridgefield Playhouse is holding Wed, May 6th for BTS, but may potentially be able to hold it on May 7th (waiting for scheduling at Playhouse to confirm). The May 6th date conflicts with the RAC's regularly scheduled monthly meeting. There will be a small fee to rent the space once confirmed.
- Dani made a motion to amend our May Meeting date to Tues, April 28th or Wed, April 29th to accommodate Behind the Scenes Event at The Playhouse if it is to be held on May 6th (provided a meeting place can be secured). Tracey seconded. All approved.
- RAC will email Town Hall to see if space is available for an adjusted RAC meeting.
- The BTS Date at Ridgefield Playhouse will be confirmed for May 6th (if May 7th is not available). May 7th is the preferred date, however.
- Organizations will be contacted to submit nominations this month.
- Talks with ECDC are underway to identify their involvement in event planning.
- The council discussed former winners of the Nancy Comstock Award and potential candidates for this year's award. Council members will decide on the recipient at next month's meeting.

#### Spring 2026 Scholarship

- The scholarship application is open! The deadline to submit is 3/20/2025. Application on the RAC's website.
- Council members are asked to help promote and spread the word. It was announced in the Town Newsletter and RAC's social media as well as shared with Ridgefield schools and channels.
- Spring 2026 Scholarship Fundraiser
  - The council was briefed on Fundraiser event planning.
  - A council member will reach out to the Lantern to see if Thurs, March 26th is available.
  - Next Steps to discuss at the March meeting will involve confirming the date, securing Jazz Band, Visual Artists (for raffle), marketing/promotion, and set-up.

#### Membership renewals

- The council discussed current memberships with various Cultural Alliances.
- Chairpersons will connect with the new ED of the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield and receive more info to help inform RAC's decision on continuing annual membership.

Group Updates as needed

#### Website

- Updates were made to the Town Hall website RAC page and RAC's proprietary website (including the RAC update Charge).
- It seems the council will be able to add links/buttons to information on initiatives and events directly on the Town Hall Website.
- Utilizing the Town's RAC page + Canva subscription may be substantial and allow RAC to phase out its proprietary website. More info to follow!

#### EADR (renamed as Executive & Artistic Director Roundtable)

- A survey was sent out to organizations to poll preferred day and time for further EADRs. Friday AM was the preferred time-slot overall with Tuesdays at 1pm as an alternate.
- 2026 EADR Locations:
  - Founder's Hall (March 20th)
  - Guild of Artists (December 1st)
  - Weir Farm (June or Sept TBD)
  - ACT of CT and The Meetinghouse have also expressed interest in hosting.

#### Cultural District

- A recap of a meeting focused on the Cultural District was given, with next steps and action items noted.

#### MMD

- MMD website will be updated for 2026.
- Meeting with Sugar Hollow Tap Room to discuss how to promote and expand Ballard Park events was very productive. Sugar Hollow will co-promote, help secure a sound engineer, and assist with organizing food trucks!

### New Business

#### Compassionate Ridgefield Update (Martha Evans Morris)

- The council welcomed Martha Evans Morris (Chair of Compassionate Ridgefield Town Committee).
- Martha briefed the Council on Compassionate Ridgefield's mission/goals as a Town Committee including its Youth Ambassador Program and Compassionate Summit.

Pride in the Park 2026

- Pride in the Park is on Saturday, June 6th. RAC will have a presence at the event.

Auxiliary Member Interest

- The council discussed auxiliary membership interest and the need to identify standard operating procedures and oversight of potential volunteers to ensure alignment with council goals and mission.

CHIRP Ad

- Nick made a motion to purchase a half page ad in the CHIRP playbill for \$275. Rene seconded. All approved.
- RAC will look at historic ad designs to see what can be updated for this year!

**ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm following a motion made by Tracey and seconded by Dani. All approved.

The next meeting will be 3/4/2026 at 7:15pm.