

Ridgefield Commemorates America at 250 (RCA250)

Approved Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes

July 24, 8 am - Town Hall Annex

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 am

In attendance: Co-chairs Geoffrey Morris, Pamme Jones; members Stephanie Heering, Renee Brown-Cheng, Sara Champion, Louzette Dovaras, Elizabeth Ellis, Dawn Fawcett, Deborah Rundlett (via phone), James Carone (via phone)
Guest: Hilde Grob

Agenda items

- Selection and election of Secretary and Treasurer

There had been discussion at the June 26, 2024, meeting about the positions of Secretary and of Treasurer. Liz Ellis had expressed interest when invited to be the secretary and James Carone had expressed interest to be treasurer. **Co-chair Morris motioned that we nominate Liz Ellis to be the secretary, Louzette Dovaras seconded the motion, all voted in favor. Morris motioned that the committee nominate James Carone as treasurer, Stephanie Heering seconded and all voted in favor.**

- Committee mission statement

Chair Morris had drafted a mission statement. Various committee members shared their opinions and edits including co-Chair Jones and members Brown-Cheng, Heering, Ellis, Carone, and Champion. A revised draft is being circulated and will be voted on at the August 21 meeting

- Fine-tune the brainstorming of ideas: events, activities, programs, fund-raisers...

Many committee members have offered creative ideas for the yearlong timeframe. There was much discussion about how to kick off and culminate the year. All involved in the meeting contributed to the conversation and ultimately the plan is to hold a barbecue open to all who would like to purchase tickets on Friday, July 4, 2025, at Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center. A subcommittee including Hilde Grob, Dawn Fawcett, and Liz Ellis will provide more details and report to the full committee on August 21.

There was even more discussion about how to hold the ultimate commemoration on July 4, 2026. Co-chair Jones had suggested a townwide community event, Grob had suggested a reading of the Declaration of Independence, and many people suggested a parade. In the end, the idea is to have a July 4 parade with themed floats and bands, with a reading of the full Declaration of Independence in Ballard Park afterward, with

many more events planned over the weekend of July 3-5, 2026. A subcommittee consisting of Morris, Ellis, Douvaras, Brown-Cheng, and Fawcett was formed to iron out the details.

- Discuss branding look and designer proposals (Sikora)

With Sikora unable to attend the meeting, this agenda item was moved to the August 21 meeting

- Website look and manager (Brown-Cheng)

Renee Brown-Cheng proposed setting up a WordPress website that features a calendar, mutlipages, and the ability to conduct e-commerce. The url will be *ridgefield1776.org*. Brown-Cheng will get started on the setup of the page and it will be determined at a future date if the committee needs to hire a webmaster

- September 19 evening social/brainstorming event at Keeler Tavern

A wine reception with members of the arts and culture community to inform them of committee proceedings and get input on a logo design etc will be held September 19, 4 pm, at Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center in the Garden House.

- Next meeting: August 21, 2024, 8 am, Town Hall Annex

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 am