

Ridgefield Commemorates America at 250 (RCA250)
Minutes
March 18,2026
Meeting at Town Hall Annex

Meeting was called to Order at 8:10 a.m.

Attendees:

Stephanie Heering (Co-Chair), Pamme Jones (Co-Chair) , Dawn Fawcett, Renee Brown-Cheng, James Carone, Sara Champion, Louzette Dovaros, Deborah Rundlett, Hildi Grob (ex-officio)

Minutes of March 4 Meeting Approved

BUSINESS:

Financials:

Treasurer Jim Carone reported that he has sent out tax information letters to our 2025 donors. He has processed invoices for the table at the Women's Forum, sound for the Lounsbury event and a banner. He is working on a budget for the 2026 events.

Events:

Event Flyer. Renee brought in a proposed flyer listing all our events. We made some changes so she can finalize it.

Cannon Ridge DAR Parade-April 25, 2026 at 12 Noon

Members of the RCA-250 Committee will march in the parade. Sara will ascertain the time and place for parade set-up.

Stars and Stripes Soiree at Lounsbury House – July 3, 2026

Stephanie is arranging for Porta Potties. We decided to order 1 handicapped unit and 3 flushable units with water. Louzette reported that there will be several layers of sponsorship ranging from \$250 to \$2500. Sponsorships will include recognition on our social media posts, signage and banners. We discussed location of the RSO String Trio and after considering outside on the porch, we realized that because of the potential July heat, they should probably be inside on the staircase landing. We will engage them for an 1 ½ hour .

Party in the Park! At Ballard Park-July 4, 2026

We discussed having multiple A frame stands to display two posters; One will identify and thank sponsors, the other will contain the program for the day's events. This will make information available but eliminate the need for paper programs.

Our event will be from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. As we have received approval to close Gilbert St from Main St to New St (leaving the Ballard Green driveway accessible), we plan to have food trucks there. They have not been finalized. Hopefully at least one will offer ice cream. Jim and Dawn will speak to Chez Leonard. Prospector would like to have a table so they can sell their popcorn. Committee members have met with Hildi to discuss activities for that day. Hildi is contacting demonstrators. Others are exploring craft events for children such as Pop Art!Kids. Jennifer Dineen will be contacted about a stilt-walker.

The tentative schedule for the day is as follows: The Fife and Drum group will process from Ballard Park to St. Stephens and back to Ballard Park, entering the park at 10:30. The Contra Band will play. The Declaration of Independence Program will be led by Kimberly Wilson and will begin around 1:10. Kimberly will sing the National anthem. There will be a sing-a-long with easily identifiable American patriotic songs. There should be a flag ceremony, which we have not yet arranged. The program (and the Party) will end on a joyous note with the Fife and Drum group playing and marching out of the park.

Signature Cocktail Contest---

The competition will run from Memorial Day to June 30. 5 local restaurants have agreed to participate: Posa, Tablo, Terra Sole, 850 and R House.

Memorial Day- May 25, 2025

We have a truck, trailer and driver. We still need a theme. We continue to explore having a vintage baseball game that day.

Passports-

We will make the activities available again in April. The passports and instructions are available at Keeler Tavern and History Center. Jim and Hildi will check on inventory.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Group photo was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Champion
Secretary

