



**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

April 13th, 2026 at 6:30pm in Town Hall Large Conference Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm.

Call to Order:

In attendance: Commissioners Corrin Arasa, Nadia Blair, James Classey, Sean Dowd, Kay Gelfman, Jenn Gioffre, Peter Kearney and David Perlmutter. Guests include: Andy Holman

Announcements: Next meeting is May 11, 2026.

Public Comment

No public comment

Recap of Recent Events / Info

Commissioner Dowd will not be renewing his membership. He will assist with transitioning the responsibilities for Tiger Shark Tank to be a continued success.

Commissioners Arasa and Blair have a scheduled Zoom Meeting with RiseUp to discuss options for a mural downtown.

Not for Profit fair this Sunday, April 19th at 2pm in Yanity Gym.

Approval of Minutes March Meeting:

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

Western CT Tourism District:

Commissioner Gioffre reappointed as the ECDC representative.

Cultural District:

Commissioner Arasa reported a new work group has been created and met three times to determine 2026-2027 priorities. These include raising awareness of the CD and the entities while rolling out marketing programs designed to attract visitors. The CD will also launch an Instagram page this Spring, currently working on approval to showcase public art from Ridgefield artists, and will attend several events this summer to promote the Cultural District.

Cultural District Awards:

The awards ceremony will be held on May 18th at 6pm in the Keeler Tavern Garden. Space is limited to award recipients and their families.

Marketing:

Commissioner Gioffre has completed a calendar for marketing items this year.

Memorial Day Parade:

Commissioner Perlmutter has volunteered to march in the MDW parade with our ECDC banner.

CT Main Street:

Commissioner Classey to schedule time with Carl Rosa to perform 2026 assessment.

P/T Consultant:

Finalizing the job/project description for the consultant search. With the news of Commissioner Dowd stepping down, the ECDC emphasized a desire to have a consultant who can take on Tiger Shark Tank work, as well as, help with Ridgefield Connect and the Cultural District work. Due to budget constraints, we will have to hire a consultant for finite periods.

Ridgefield Connect:

Tuesday May 26th at Keeler Tavern. Details to follow. Hoping to assemble some Ridgefield business women to participate in a panel conversation.

Tiger Shank Tank:

Commissioner Dowd will provide files and SOPs for all TST deliverables.

Planning & Zoning:

ECDC is still looking for new ways to grow our relationship with members of P&Z.

Real Estate Update:

Commissioner Perlmutter will maintain and update a file of commercial buildings available for lease/sale. Working on having this linked on the ECDC website.

Film Update:

Someone has inquired about using a location in town for filming. The ECDC has guided them to

request a permit to do so. Commissioner Arasa suggested hiring a photographer and videographer to highlight places in town that would be worthwhile for film locations.

Vice Chair Gelfman motions to enter executive session at 7:40pm to discuss real estate matters. Blair seconded. All in favor. Subsequently executive session ends at 8:14pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm