

Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging (“CoA”) Meeting February 26, 2024, 2:30 pm, Small Conference Room, Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm. Commissioners Beebe, Martin, Saleeby (participating via phone due to illness) Ternullo, Tewes, and Yaffa were present. Commissioner Bancel (absence excused due to travel) and Commissioner Culhane were not present. Mr. Phillips, Social Services Director, and Ms. Gaudian, Municipal Agent for Elders, ex officio advisors were present.

As the **1st order of business**, Mr. Ternullo invited public comment. Safety concerns relating to fencing that was recently erected around the Grove St. hard-topped sidewalk pathway at the top of Old Quarry Rd. were raised. Mr. Ternullo promised to investigate and report back at the CoA’s next meeting.

As the **2nd order of business**, Ms. Beebe moved that the 12/18/23 CoA minutes be approved. Ms. Yaffa seconded. There being no discussion, a vote followed. The minutes were unanimously approved.

As the **3rd order of business**, progress reports on the CoA’s 2024 goals were provided as follows:

Goal	Description	Lead	Report
1.	Collaborate with Fire Department to distribute File of Life to requesting residents, explore ways CoA can assist in creating awareness of and participation in FD’s safety initiatives, and invite Chief to present at a Senior Voices forum.	Yaffa	IN PROCESS: Meeting pending. Chief accepted invite to speak at future Senior Voices
2.	Write to SB to express support for a cost-of-living adjustment for all elderly-related tax credits, tax deferments and renter abatements and offer to engage in primary research needed and appear before the SB in further support.	Ternullo	COMPLETED: Detailed email was sent to 1 st Selectperson & Selectboard
3.	Explore whether CoA is the proper organization to identify senior citizen behavioral health needs and coordinate municipal programs re same.	Ternullo	IN PROCESS: Discovery discussions on 1/30 & 2/13. Next discussion 3/5
4.	Grow CoA’s email list and develop a recurring CoA communication plan	Yaffa	IN PROCESS: Ms. Yaffa presented a draft plan
5.	Activate a CoA grants program	Ternullo	IN PROCESS: Deliver draft plan after 1 st Selectperson’s 3/12 public release of Senior Survey results
6.	With Commissioner Tewes as editor- in-chief, explore expanding the Senior Directory to a revenue generating	Tewes	IN PROCESS: Mr. Tewes presented exemplar for group discussion
7.	Adopt and grow Gold Card Program	Martin	IN PROCESS: Ms. Martin meeting with Gold Card volunteers pending.
8.	Launch an awards program celebrating excellence and commitment to serving seniors	Beebe/ Culhane	Update tabled to CoA’s March meeting
9.	Explore the feasibility of CoA authoring a book on high performing CoA’s	Ternullo	DROPPED: Ternullo will focus on Goal 5, Grants.

The **4th order of business**, relating to a review of proposing adjustments of CoA commissioner terms to comply with the recently approved Town Charter changes, was tabled to the CoA’s March meeting.

As the **5th order of business**, Mr. Ternullo reported that he spoke with Senator Kushner, Senator Maher and Representative Berger- Girvalo and invited all to attend and present at a future Senior Voices forum. All expressed great interest in doing so. Ternullo will coordinate with each.

The **6th order of business** clarified future meeting dates. No discussion occurred.

The **7th order of business**, Mr. Ternullo invited a discussion of new business. It was felt that discussion of the gas blower matter should be delayed to a future time when there is more information available and perhaps not be discussed at all. There was interest in learning more about when Town emails would be provided to all commissioners. Additional information will be shared at the March meeting.

There being no other business, Mr. Ternullo invited a motion to adjourn. Ms. Yaffa called for adjournment. Ms. Martin seconded. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 3:50 pm.

The above is a true and accurate summary of the CoA 2/26/23 meeting. - Joseph Ternullo, Acting Secretary

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