

**Ridgefield Prevention Council Minutes**  
**February 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm**  
**Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street**

**Attendance:** Kim Carone, Sarah Lorenzini, Siera Fregosi, LouAnn Daprato, Brian Nash, Lynn Tidgwell, Will Knispel, Carol Ann Sganga, Robin Ronain, Pat Haggerty

**Call to Order:** 7:06 pm

**Reports/Discussion:**

Welcome HS student Will Knispel, Robin Ronain from The Ridgefield Playhouse (TRP) and Pat Haggerty VP of Business development for R.E.A.L.

The Ridgefield Playhouse would like to partner with us on upcoming education events and movies. Their Clean and Sober event had good attendance. You can see more about their Reel to Real series on YouTube

([https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=Ridgefield+Playhouse](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Ridgefield+Playhouse)).

Pat Haggerty introduced us to an online guide for parents of young people with substance abuse problems <https://www.recoveryeducation.com/>. The cost for this online guide is \$600 per month for the town with unlimited use for all residents. We spoke about the ways this could be used for the town and how the cost could be funded (opioid funds from the state, multiple organizations, etc). Pat said he would give us all 90-day free access to test out the site.

**Approval of Minutes:** Sarah Lorenzini make a motion to approve the January 2024 minutes. Kim Carone seconded. Motion passes - all in favor.

**Treasurer report:** No report given.

**Reports/Discussion:**

- Asset Development Event
  - Will reschedule in April.
  - Will be putting out 2-3 flyers leading to the new event to get parents familiar with the 40 assets. Will send the flyers out to PTAs to blast.
  - Will also send out social media posts to make the public aware of what the developmental assets are. RPC members and partners will be asked to send out the social media posts.
- March- Gambling Month
  - We will be partnering with Planet Pizza to put our gambling awareness on their pizza boxes.
- April- Alcohol Awareness
  - We're looking for a different business to partner with alcohol awareness for the month of April.
  - RPC liquor stickers will be going out in April.
- Bylaws Update
  - The name and financial information that was added was approved. Lou Ann Daprato made a motion to approve the changes. Brian Nash seconds. Motion passes - all in favor.
- Social Media Discussion
  - We need to know who our target audience is for impactful social media engagement. It was decided that a social media committee should be formed and Lou Ann Daprato, Brian Nash and Sarah Lorenzini would be on that committee. They will meet separately to determine RPC's social media direction.
- SOR Grant Funds- Requirements (document sent separately)
  - We reviewed the requirements of the WCTC grant.
    - #6 - Kim completed.
    - #12 - Kim met with Tony Philips- He's requesting \$25 gift cards for 35 families in need. Sarah will look into shopping bags with our logo on them. Kim will ask NCL to provide snacks for the families, as well as ask them to stuff the bags for us. This would happen in June.

- #4 - Will Knipsel will help set up NARCAN training at the high school before the end of the school year. Date to be determined with Sarah and Will.
  - #1 - RPC will be hosting an Opioid Response Committee event with the town of Ridgefield on 3/28/2024. We are inviting 20-30 town leaders and community members to help us discuss where our community is, what challenges we see and how we can overcome those challenges and make a positive change (with a sustainable outcome over the next 15 years).
    - Kim will share a spreadsheet with the group on who has been invited. RPC members can add people they would like to invite and will update the spreadsheet with responses.
    - Kim will also send out a sample email to send to invitees.
    - Need to determine who will be working on objectives #1, 2, and 3.
- Chamber of Commerce Membership
  - Discussion involved the benefits of becoming a member of the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce. Sarah Lorenzini made a motion for RPC to become a member of the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce for an annual cost of \$150. Carol Ann Sganga seconds. Motion passes - all in favor.
- Suicide Postvention Training Seminar
  - Discussion postponed until next month.
- CADCA Training
  - Kim attended a 4-day training on (Community based, Advocacy driven, Data driven, Coalition building, Association) Prevention. The main goal is to fix the cause. To change the environment. We should be focusing on changing policies. It's not up to councils to provide treatment, it's up to us to tell people where to go for treatment.
  - We need more data collection methods. Are there neighboring towns we can use? Does local law enforcement have data (drinking citations, vaping citations, calls to homes for parties, or loud noises)? Do the local health departments have data we can use? Are the planned RPC events meeting the town's needs or should we be focusing on other things?
  - We also need more sectors in our coalition. We have to diversify our workload and we should be sharing the responsibility. Our goal should not be doing all the programs but working with sectors on programs.
    - Kim will be sharing the notes from her 4 days of training via email.
- 501c3 Meeting
  - Kim attended a 501c3 meeting presented by the WCTC. There is a checklist of things to have in place if we want to have our own non-profit status and not fall under Friends of Ridgefield. We might want to look into this a bit more.
- CT State Opioid Settlement Funds Workshop
  - Kim attended a meeting by the state at WCSU. Ridgefield is slotted to receive over \$250,000 over the next 15 years in Opioid Relief funds. As part of our SOR grant it would be in our best interest to form an Opioid Response Committee for our town to ensure these funds will be spent with a sustainable outcome over the next 15 years. See above for details.

**New Business:** Any new business will be discussed next month.

**Adjourned:** 8:53pm

Respectively submitted,  
LouAnn & Kim