Commissioner Yaffa chaired and called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. Commissioners Beebe, Culhane, Martin, Ternullo, Tewes, Yaffa and student liaison Vohra were present. Commissioner Saleebey was excused.

As the 1st order of business, Ms. Yaffa invited public comment.

As the 2nd order of business, Ms. Martin moved that the 4/15/24 CoA minutes be approved. Mr. Tewes seconded. 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:

(i) Ms. Yaffa reported that distribution of The File of Life to requesting seniors will commence shortly. She is working with Chief Meyers to obtain 500+ Files of Life. A cadre of dedicated summer interns will be contacting all seniors who requested The File of Life and will work out distribution logistics with each person.

(ii) Ms. Yaffa reported that it is her intent to further enhance the CoA Communication Plan, which was approved last month, through recurring public posting of CoA events at participating local businesses and community venues where seniors congregate. She will present the program at next month’s meeting.

(iii) Mr. Tewes presented a well-considered vision for an “expo” focused on seniors. It is contemplated that this event, anticipated to occur in the spring of 2025 and at least break-even financially, will have exhibitions, lectures, networking, food, entertainment, awards, and a ‘take-away’ print program chock full of useful and relevant information for seniors. This matter generated considerable discussion and much enthusiasm. It was noted that the town held a similar event, pre-Covid, at the Rec Center. Following discussion of this exciting update, Mr. Ternullo motioned, and Ms. Martin seconded: That the CoA:

- approve the Ridgefield Senior Spectacular Expo,
- delegate Expo decision-making authority to Commissioner Tewes
- reserve its fund balance, currently approximately $900, for the Expo
- request of the First Selectperson and the Board of Selectpersons a reasonable amount of discretionary funding that might be available from this fiscal year’s surplus funds to support the needed ‘get-started’ activities (secure venue, software to manage the event, etc.) for this important community-wide event

Following brief discussion, this motion was unanimously approved.

(iv) Mr. Ternullo reported that the Goldstone Family Foundation is generously supporting a summer intern with a financial stipend intended to cover costs of stipend and provide additional financial support for the CoA’s administrative activities. In concert with the Town’s human resource department, an internship job description has been developed and will be posted shortly.

As the 4th order of business, Ms. Beebe reported that the Historical Society has already commenced planning for its awards event and, unfortunately, is unable to pursue a separate CoA/Historical Society awards event at this time. Ms. Beebe informed fellow commissioners that an awards ceremony at the Expo is of keen interest, consistent with objectives, and a matter on which she and Ms. Culhane will confer and report back at a future CoA meeting.

As the 5th order of business, Ms. Martin reported that the Gold Card website is now a tab on the CoA website, that updates are continually being made as new businesses sign on to offer discounts and that the ‘quad-fold’ listing of Gold Card merchants has been positively received as a useful, convenient summary listing.

As the 6th order of business, Mr. Ternullo reported that the CoA has received public safety requests from seniors to assist in effectuating the return of the Copps Hill Plaza benches that were removed over the last year or so. The CoA will contact the Commission for Accessibility and propose a joint letter to the property manager requesting that the benches be returned. Mr. Ternullo also reported that the First Selectperson’s office has offered to assist in this public safety matter as well by providing benches in the event the original benches have been discarded.

The 7th order of business relating to “housekeeping” matters was tabled until the CoA’s June meeting.

As the 8th order of business relating to new business, Social Services Director Tony Philips, reported that he, RidesforRidgefield, Ms. Saleebey and Mr. Ternullo are working collaboratively to explore new and expanded transportation possibilities for seniors. It was noted that several CoA members will be in the Memorial Day Parade.

The 9th order of business was informational regarding future dates. No discussion occurred.

There being no other business, Ms. Beebe called for adjournment. Ms. Martin seconded. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 4:00 pm.

The above is a true and accurate summary of the CoA 4/15/24 meeting. - Joseph Ternullo, Acting Secretary

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