

Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging ('CoA') Meeting **DRAFT**

June 26, 2023, 2:30 pm, Small Conference Room, Town Hall

Mr. Ternullo called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm, took a roll call (Commissioners Bancel, Connor, Martin, Noyes, Saleeby, and Ternullo were present. Commissioners Beebe and Culhane were not present and had been earlier excused for personal and family reasons). Mr. Ternullo serves as acting secretary for this meeting.

As a 1st order of business, Mr. Ternullo invited comments from the public. None elected to comment.

As a 2nd order of business, Ms. Martin called for approval of the May 2023 CoA meeting minutes. Mr. Noyes seconded. Mr. Ternullo called for discussion. There being none, the commissioners voted on the motion. It passed unanimously.

As a 3rd order of business, Ms. Martin provided an update re the Ridgefield Senior Directory. It is out to printers/graphic designers for bid and awaiting minor edits and a URL check as the Town is moving to new URLs in early July.

As a 4th order of business, Ms. Saleeby reported on the CoA/Ridgefield Playhouse partnership and the steadfast support of the Director of Social Services in arranging transportation for seniors. Brief discussion followed.

As a 5th order of business, Ms. Martin discussed ways to spread word of newsworthy CoA and other events of relevance to Ridgefield seniors. She referenced the new Town Hall newsletter and its growing readership. Discussion followed. It was noted that with the pending needs assessment survey and other matters, a newsworthy fall seemed likely.

As a 6th order of business, Mr. Ternullo and Mr. Bancel reported on the needs assessment survey progress: two experts are guiding matters, the BoS has approved funding, a project timeline has been presented to the BoS, the CoA is in contact with nonprofit stakeholders that provide substantial ongoing services and programs to Ridgefield seniors.

As a 7th order of business, Mr. Connor presented an overview of a new monthly CoA/Library program intended as a forum that gives Ridgefield seniors a voice, ensures they are heard, and enables them to connect with others and learn through a robust exchange of ideas. Each event will include three components: (1) community news of relevance to seniors, (2) an educational session, and (3) an audience participation session in which seniors express themselves. Mr. Connor called for naming suggestions and educational content suggestions for the first two events, scheduled to occur on Tuesday, 9/12/23 and Tuesday, 10/10/23, both from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the library. It was suggested that:

- the series be branded "*Ridgefield Senior Voices*" with a suitable subtitle that provides further context.
- the inaugural 9/12 event be entitled "Introduction to Senior Voices" and several celerity moderators be recruited to interact with the audience and shape future programming best meeting their needs and interests.
- the 10/10 event focus on Medicare Open Enrollment and Ridgefield's Municipal Agent for the Elderly free review.
- a future session suggested was a review of the CoA's newly developed Senior Directory.

As an 8th order of business, Mr. Ternullo summarized various CoA housekeeping matters. No discussion followed.

As an 9th order of business, Mr. Ternullo noted that with four CoA members appointed in the last year and an open slot, to accelerate fulfillment of CoA's mission he is recruiting a CoA blue ribbon panel of advisors who - by dint of their standing in the community and demonstrated commitment to Ridgefield - can offer advice, introductions, and endorsement of CoA's activities. This is especially important as it relates to the fielding of the needs assessment survey and follow-up efforts to present survey results publicly and marshal resources to meet unmet needs. Mr. Ternullo reported on an introductory meeting that he and Ms. Beebe had with the Ridgefield Fire Chief and their discussion of ways in which the parties might collaborate to distribute Ridgefield Professional Fire Fighters Association's FILE OF LIFE (which gives first responders medical information when patients can't, including allergies, medications, contact persons and more). The FILE OF LIFE's visibility and readability ensure that first responders can access it quickly when responding to an emergency medical call. The information contained in the FILE OF LIFE is not only helpful, but potentially lifesaving.

As a 10th order of business, Mr. Ternullo invited the identification of new business matters for the CoA. There being none, Mr. Ternullo invited a motion to adjourn. Ms. Saleeby called for adjournment. Mr. Noyes seconded.

The above is a true and accurate summary of the CoA 6/26/2023 meeting.

Joseph Ternullo, Chair and Acting Secretary

6/26/2023

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