



**Ridgefield
Economic &
Community
Development
Commission**

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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
February 2nd, 2026 at 6:30pm in Town Hall Large Conference Room**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm.

Call to Order:

In attendance: Commissioners Corrin Arasa, Nadia Blair, James Classey, Sean Dowd, Kay Gelfman, Jennifer Gioffre, Peter Kearney, Bob Knight and David Perlmutter. Guests from Founders Hall, Jessica Mancini, Communications, and Nikki Nuut, Executive Director; from Ridgefield Commission on Aging, Co-Chairs Patricia Yaffa, Chris Nolan; business retention and attraction consultant Indra Sen; McCue Studio Productions, Peter McCue.

Announcements: Next meeting is March 2, 2026.

Public Comment

Patricia Yaffa and Chris Nolan, members of the Commission of Aging, joined the meeting to learn how the ECDC may be able to help with some of their initiatives including housing and local transportation.

Vice Chair Gelfman motioned to remove item 6, Guest Arun Thachi, Reach Copilot, from the agenda. Gioffre seconded. All in favor.

Guest: Jessica Mancini Founders Hall

Jessica was joined by her colleague, Founders Hall Executive Director Nikki Nuut. While giving some background on their programs, they shared that Founders Hall continues to be a major driver of attracting new residents within this demographic (older adults) to move to Ridgefield.

The diverse set of programs they offer have been well received by current members and has attracted interest for membership outside of Ridgefield as well. One of the major obstacles they face as an organization is transportation and parking within the town. One suggestion on how other towns have helped overcome this challenge are public/private partnerships such as “GetAbout New Canaan” that provides specialized transportation for seniors and residents with disabilities. The ECDC has requested they provide some data around what percentage of members would use this type of transportation.

Guest: Pamme Jones of the 250 Committee:

Not in attendance.

Chair Knight motioned to add to agenda item to discuss Tiger Shark Tank videographer, Pete McCue. Perlmutter seconded. All in favor.

Guest: Peter McCue TST Videographer

Commissioner Dowd motioned to allocate \$600 for individual videos/sizzle reels from the existing 2025 TST footage. One video for each of the five contestants and one video for the judges. Gioffre seconded. All in favor.

Guest: Indra Sen

Indra was invited to share his thoughts and expertise on how to attract buyers and/or tenant(s) to the Schimenti building for sale on RT. 7. He shared what he had seen successfully done in Bridgeport (Steelepoint Harbor) Darien & Norwalk (McKinsey, AON), Wilton (ASML), Westport (Bridgewater). Although somewhat different use cases, the suggestion is to have an incentive driven approach.

Recap of Recent Events / Info

Commissioner Classey met with Carl Rosa of CT Main Street. Reviewed previous assessment from 2024 and discuss the main drivers of a Great Main Street: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization. Next steps will be to invite Carl back to perform the 2026 assessment and present results to the ECDC.

Commissioner Blair revived the idea of alleyway beautification in the form of a one-off mural. She had suggested we add RiseUp to the March agenda a purveyor of public art. If we successfully create one public wall mural in the Main Street area, perhaps this will open up the town to the alleyway beautification project and more public art.

Commissioner Knight has drafted a survey for the top 25 commercial taxpayers.

Commissioner Kearney had reported the Chamber had an “after hours” event at Terre Sole along with an upcoming morning networking event. Their events have been garnering some positive attention and feedback.

Approval of Minutes January Meeting:

Commissioner Gioffre motioned to approve the January meeting minutes as submitted. Gelfman seconded. All in favor.

Cultural District:

Commissioner Arasa and intern Devin Arasa created a program outline; what's next for the Cultural District. This lays out a plan of action items for the next 4-6months to help define the functions and benefits of the cultural district.

Ridgefield Connect:

ECDC decided to push back the first event to the middle/late spring.

Chair Knight motions to enter executive session at 8:41pm to discuss real estate matters. Classey seconded. All in favor. Subsequently executive session ends at 9:20pm.

The Commissioners discussed several different real estate matters that are of interest during executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21pm