



Ridgefield Prevention Council

MINUTES

Date

August 3, 2026 6:00 PM Eastern Time

Location

ZOOM - RPC Mission Statement

The Ridgefield Prevention Council supports a safe and healthy environment for all Ridgefield families through awareness, education and positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use and to reduce high-risk youth behaviors

"Ridgefield Prevention Council meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and all participants are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and treat all those present with

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 6:03pm

Attendance

- Denise Santangelo
- Jennifer Englert

- _____
- _____

Approval of Agenda

- **Motion:** Motion to Approve or Amend the Agenda - emailed for approval since we did not meet quorum.
- **Second:**
- **Outcome:** approved

Approval of Minutes (March 2026)

- **Motion:** by email since we did not make quorum
- **Second:** KC
- **Outcome:** approved

Treasurer's Report

Presented by: - KF not present.

Summary: \$19,835.23- treasurer report - as of last meeting.

- Budget Concerns: none
- **Outcome / Action:** _____

Chairperson Report – Denise Santangelo

Updates

- Final report submitted June 15, 2026
 - LPC funds status: received?
 - Board member updates: JE added to 2 events as lead and 1 as assist
 - Website/social media status: JE to lead inquiry regarding have RPC on Town page and then we can focus on adding to our IG page for all of our events.
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New Business

The meeting focused primarily on organizing the Council's 2026–2027 initiatives, increasing community visibility, and assigning responsibilities. Only Denise and Jennifer attended, so no formal votes could be taken due to the lack of a quorum.

Event responsibilities

Council members will be asked to:

- Lead or participate in two events during the next 12 months.
- Assist with at least one additional event.
- Record their selections in the shared 2026–2027 planning document.

Jennifer selected:

- Alcohol Awareness/Drug Take-Back initiative
- Post-Graduation Party support
- Assisting Denise with Coffee with a Counselor/Parents and Prevention

For the Drug Take-Back initiative, Jennifer will coordinate with Kim regarding prior procedures and the appropriate contact at the Ridgefield Police Department. Promotion may include a flyer, Council and SpireTHERAPY social media, and flyers displayed at local businesses.

Post-Graduation Party

The Council has historically provided several thousand dollars to cover the event's DJ. Because the sponsorship is intended to increase awareness of the Council, the group must confirm that RPC branding and prevention information are prominently included in the event materials. This was nearly overlooked during the most recent event and should be monitored carefully going forward.

Coffee with a Counselor/Parents and Prevention

Denise and Jennifer will organize a conversational parent event, ideally for mid-September.

The event will focus on:

- Recognizing early signs that a child may be struggling.
- Responding before grades fall, isolation increases, or the situation reaches crisis level.
- Mental health, substance-use prevention, and strengthening family communication.
- Reframing the Council as a preventive community resource—not merely an organization families approach after a crisis.

The Ridgefield Library is the preferred location because it may feel more private, comfortable, and intentional than an outdoor event. Denise will contact the library and copy Jennifer. Jennifer will follow up if the email thread stalls.

A possible collaboration with a local food business, such as Tazza, will also be explored to provide refreshments and expand promotion.

Visibility and communications

The Council's social media presence has improved to approximately 400 followers, with Sierra managing the account in a paid support role. However, broader community awareness remains a challenge.

The discussed strategy was:

- Investigate replacing or minimizing the existing standalone RPC website.
- Establish a stronger Council page on the Town of Ridgefield website.
- Use the town page primarily for Council information and prevention resources.
- Use Instagram for events, announcements, and active community engagement.
- Add QR codes to promotional materials that direct people to the Council's Instagram.
- Increase distribution through schools, PTAs, local businesses, and partner organizations.

Jennifer will investigate how other town councils are represented on municipal websites and work with Kim to determine how RPC can be added to Ridgefield's site.

Mike, the PTA liaison, should be invited to a future meeting because he can distribute Council announcements efficiently across elementary, middle, and high school PTA networks.

SpireBALL Wiffle Ball League

SpireBALL is expected to launch in the fall rather than the summer because many families were away. The league will be accessible to children who enjoy baseball as well as those who may not participate in competitive organized sports.

Its prevention connection includes:

- Building family cohesion.
- Giving children positive recreational and social opportunities.
- Creating opportunities for parents to support and encourage their children.
- Strengthening protective family relationships that reduce the likelihood of destructive decision-making.

RPC may serve as the primary sponsor beyond SpireTHERAPY - creator of the league, pending confirmation regarding insurance and additional-insured coverage for RPC/Town of Ridgefield.

Funding and larger initiatives

The Council has significant funding that can be used when programming is connected to opioid education or awareness. One possibility is a major community or high-school speaking event featuring a well-known athlete or public figure with a meaningful recovery, addiction, or behavioral-health story.

The Council should continue smaller community activities while also considering one large event capable of drawing several hundred attendees.

Additional sponsorship opportunities discussed included:

- Youth soccer sponsorship in the fall.
- Little League sponsorship in the spring.
- Using these sponsorships to place the RPC name in front of more children and parents.

Monthly programming themes

The planning calendar is organized around prevention themes:

- August: Parents and prevention
- September: Recovery and suicide prevention
- October: Opioids and prescription drugs
- November: Vaping prevention/poster contest
- December: Underage drinking
- January: Marijuana
- Later months: Gambling, alcohol awareness, mental health, and related prevention topics

Other possible programs include a prevention-focused movie night followed by a clinician/community panel.

Formal business and next meeting

Because only Denise and Jennifer attended, the Council could not approve prior minutes or conduct other formal voting. Denise will circulate an email motion to approve the previous minutes. At least two board members must respond in agreement before Denise can declare the motion approved.

The next meeting is expected to be Monday, August 31, 2026.

Immediate action items

- Denise: Resent during the mtg the 2026–2027 event-selection document to all members.
- All members: Select two events and one additional event to assist.

- Denise: Contact the Ridgefield Library regarding a mid-September parent event and copy Jennifer.
 - Jennifer: Follow the library email thread and help coordinate Coffee with a Counselor.
 - Jennifer: Connect with Kim regarding Drug Take-Back Day and Ridgefield Police coordination.
 - Jennifer and Kim: Investigate placing RPC on the Town of Ridgefield website.
 - Denise: Explore Planet Pizza or another local business collaboration.
 - Denise: Follow up on SpireBALL insurance and RPC sponsorship.
 - Denise: Investigate fall youth-soccer sponsorship.
 - Denise: Invite the PTA liaison to the next meeting.
 - Denise: Circulate the prior meeting minutes for email approval.
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Adjournment

- **Motion:** approved by JE
 - **Second:** -
 - Meeting adjourned at: 6:43pm
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