



Ridgefield Prevention Council Minutes

February 17, 2021

Zoom meeting 7p - 8:30 p

Mission: 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

Members present: Kim Carone, Tina Malhotra, Karen Facini, Kathy Hanley, Teddy Hunter, Lou Ann Daprato, Carol Ann Sganga

Meeting called to order: 7:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Karen Facini makes a motion to approve the Ridgefield Prevention Council minutes from the January 2021 meeting. Tina Malhotra seconds. Motion passes; all in favor.

Treasurer Report: Karen Facini reports that the balances are the same as what was reported last month. The RPC donation account has a balance of \$9,147.01. The RPC operating account has a balance of \$25,899.95.

Reports/Discussion:

1. January Event: Kim Carone reports that the Liz Jorgensen went well. There were 35/40 participants. Audience was engaged. RPC did not receive much feedback from the follow up survey. Kathy Hanley suggested providing a survey link at the end of future presentations to get a better response. Discussion also included the previously discussed (via email) \$500 donation to Liz Jorgensen for her services. Kim Carone makes a motion to donate \$500 to Liz Jorgensen for her services. Karen Facini seconds. Motion passes; all in favor.
2. Coalition Date Change: Kim Carone asks group to respond to the Google sheet with the proposed date changes for the team building meeting. Meeting will be scheduled for a date that works best for those who respond. Kathy Haney adds that the more RPC members present for the meeting, the more effective it will be. Discussion included whether an April or May date would work better for everyone. Kathy Hanley will speak to Alison about her availability to run the meeting. Kathy will report back to group.
3. March Event: Internet Safety (online scammers): Kim Carone reports that Detective Ryan is creating a pdf about issues they are seeing at the Ridgefield Police Department

(scammers, phishing schemes, etc.). March 25, 2021 would be a possible date for a presentation. This presentation would be geared toward an older crowd and would align with the Internet Safety theme for March. Kathy Hanley asks whether additional information could be provided (i.e., pill disposal, suicide prevention). Discussion included making sure the proposed date does not conflict with the town or senior group's calendars. Karen Facini will also check with Amy to locate the remaining RPC "swag" from previous events.

4. April Event: (Alcohol Awareness Month- rethinking drinking): Kim Carone asks group if anyone has suggestions or ideas that align with the theme. Kathy Hanley mentions the SAMHSA program, "Talk. They Hear You". It is a substance use prevention campaign to help parents talk to their children early about underage drinking. This program could be a toolkit and provide information for parents. Kim Carone will research and forward information to the group.
5. Hidden in Plain Sight: Kim Carone reports that only three RPC members responded to email request for feedback on the program. Karen Facini added that as a parent she thought the program was an interesting idea, but others may have seen the program as an invasion of a teen's privacy. Tina Malhotra adds that the program would be a good resource for parents and that the target audience would be parents of 6th-12th graders. Kim Carone will look at possible May/June dates for the event. Kim Carone makes a motion for RPC to host a Hidden in Plain Sight presentation. Karen Facini seconds. Motion passes; all in favor.
6. The Social Dilemma: Discussion included whether RPC should be planning anything in connection with this program. Teddy Hunter reports that he has watched the documentary in RHS Health class and Riley Courtney has been working with RHS to hold discussions with students. Karen Facini suggests that RPC reach out to Riley to see how RPC can support his efforts. Kathy Hanley asks whether we could expand the Detective Ryan/March event to address issues surrounding social media for younger kids. Group agrees that RPC would need to hold two separate events since the topics are different. Tina Malhotra may attend a New Milford event that will address these topics and will report back to the group.

New Business:

1. WCC Grant: Kim Carone reports that RPC has not received funds from the grant yet. The grant application required revision. Revisions included changing personnel costs to marketing (to address possible focus groups) and the addition of a vaping buyback program. Now that the revisions are complete, RPC should receive a check and group can begin planning. Kim and Tina Malhotra met with Doug Barile to facilitate focus groups for high school students. Groups would be split into 9/10th and 11/12th grade students. Kim and Tina will meet with Dr. DaSilva and Dr. Greenwood to see if having focus groups is a possibility. Discussion included whether we pay Doug Barile for his services. There is an allocation of \$2,000 for payment associated with the grant. Doug is

not expecting payment; however, he would usually charge \$2,700. Group will wait to decide his payment. In addition, Kim is waiting to hear back from Jennifer at Housatonic Recycling about the details for proper disposal of vaping materials. RPC will wait to purchase gift cards for the buyback program until we know our costs.

2. Logo: Kim Carone will resend the potential logos to the group via email. Members must respond with their vote so we can move forward.
3. Rudy Marconi video: Karen Facini asked if we could we get a short interview with Rudy Marconi about why he is passionate about prevention issues? The video could possibly be linked to our website. Kim Carone added that this could possibly be a rolling interview where each person interviewed suggests the next person to be contacted. Tina Malhotra will ask Rudy if he is willing to make a video.
4. Gambling Awareness: Kathy Hanley shared that WCC will be having a presentation on Gambling on March 23rd. This program is designed to raise awareness for potential gambling issues.

Meeting adjourned: 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann D. Sganga