

Commission on Aging June 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Monday, [June 15th 2020](#) at 7:15pm

Meeting was held via conference call and time change due to the COVID-19 Virus.

Attendance: Laura Giovannoli, Sheila Silverman, Karen Guadian, Debra Franceschini and Andrea Beebe, Mary Morrisroe.
Absent: Lynn Marie Wieland, Cathleen Savery, George Noyes

Andrea Beebe made a motion to approve May meeting notes, Sheila Silverman seconded, all were in favor. Minutes approved.

Laura Giovannoli talked Phase 2 opening and that seniors should continue to social distance. Those seniors at high risk should continue to follow CDC safe guards. The affect of self isolation is having an impact at their quality of life. How can we help those folks?

Andrea Beebe brought up that Compassionate Ridgefield has been posting many political cause posts on their FB page. Laura said that our goal is to advocate for seniors with no political affiliations. Neighbors to Neighbors is part of Compassionate Ridgefield. We need to keep eye on it.

Congregate Housing has a major issue with quality of food. The Commission will start by communicating directly with RHA about the issue via a letter from the Chair/Secretary. Laura and Deb will take the reins on this communication.

Commission discussed doing a Zoom call for July. All commissioners felt it was easier for the public to be able to just call in. Not everyone we serve has access to computers.

The Commission discussed wether or not we should take our usual summer recess in July and August. We discussed that it's important to keep the meetings going over the summer given the current landscape with pandemic. Deb made a motion to to have meetings in July and August, Mary seconded motion. All were in favor. George Noyes and Andrea Beebe will be out of town for July and August meetings.

Aidin Sulzinsky from the Bridging the Minds program joined our call as a guest speaker. He's a junior in High School. His program brings teens and seniors together who are experiencing loneliness. He mentioned that 47% of adults are affected by loneliness, which is why he created the intergenerational group Bridging the Minds. The group is a Zoom based community with a strong group, but no members from Ridgefield. Sheila discussed that seniors in town are equipped with many groups in town like Founders Hall as an example. Aidin would like to switch this to a community based program. Laura spoke about Founders Hall perhaps not needing the program but Ballard Green and Congregate Housing residents May and they have their own community room.

Mary talked about the RUOK program and calls are being made everyday to the seniors who need and want them.

Mary expressed interest in sharing his program on her daily calls. Debra will forward the entire Commissioner Roster to Aidin. Karen suggested putting his program in her weekly Social Services newsletter that is sent out to her clients who may not be Founders Hall members. Aidin's meetings are on [Saturday](#) at 3pm.

Laura made a motion to adjourn, Deb seconded, all in favor. Meeting ended at 8:01pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, [July 20th, 2020](#) conference call [at 7:15pm](#) on conference bridge [1\(425\) 436-6354](#) #737162.

NOTE: Anyone requiring special accommodation due to disability is asked to contact Town Hall.

Sincerely,
Debra Franceschini-Gatje
Meeting Secretary