



**Ridgefield
Economic &
Community
Development
Commission**

400 Main Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877 • 203.546.2547

Arnold Light
Chairman

John Devine, Vice Chair
Paul Levine
M. Augustus Ryer
Geoffrey Morris
Karen Sulzinsky

Rudy Marconi,
First Selectman
Ridgefielddevelopment.com

**Approved RECDC Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2018 at 7:30pm
Large Town Hall Conference Room**

In Attendance: Arnold Light, Paul Levine, M Augustus Ryer, John Devine, Karen Sulzinsky,
Geoffrey Morri

Regular meeting called to order by Arnold Light at 7:48P

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Next meeting October 1st 2018, 6:30p, small conference room in Town Hall

2. Approval of August minutes

Motion: Paul Levine

Second: Geoff Morris

Unanimous approval

Karen Sulzinsky to send Arnold corrections to section 6

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. InRidgefield campaign update by Geoff

Website is now live, no additional money raised, Wayne says \$70,000 is promised.

2. RIFF update by Geoff

RIFF is scheduled for Oct 18-21

List of films 70 has been released

Paul Dana, actor, is directing his first film, and it is going national after the film festival.

Also honoring Joe Constantino with emerging filmmaker award to be given out in his name.

Geoff summarizes highlights of the schedule: Playhouse, Library, Keeler, town wide scavenger hunt on Saturday, MS students short films workshop, students making posters.

Geoff reports many sponsors for RIFF.

Website is riffct.org

John will work on creating content for promotion of RIFF.

3. Jazz Funk & Blues Weekend update

John reports total digital views to date: 23,719

3945 video views + 574 clicks

\$295 is the spend so far (\$500 is budgeted but may be increased)

Playhouse almost sold out, library almost sold out

Karen reports Jazz Café at Lounsbury is set up for Sunday. Martine booked as exclusive vendor.

Karen has worked with new RHS band director Rob Volo to organize Jazz Café.

Geoff notes that Ridgefield Wine Week starts Sunday, and end of week party at Lounsbury

Nick Ktorides in audience at the meeting. Nick's wife is the organizer of the wine week.

Discussion about how wine week works.

John will do the same digital marketing for wine weekend as he did for Jazz Funk & Blues Weekend.

Also in audience: Peter Vanderminden states interest in getting involved in ECDC and share thoughts on commercial vacancies. He will talk to Gus offline.

4. Web update by John/Arnold

Adult Ed brings people from other towns to Ridgefield, so ECDC website now features the Adult Ed calendar. Adult Ed also has ECDC url on their website. we now have Adult Ed calendar on our website and they have our url on their website

John also reports that Weir Farm calendar has been added to our calendar and website

5. ECDC vacancy

Nick has sent his CV, Peter is invited to send one

Vacancy has been open for a while

6. Hospitality in Ridgefield update by Arnold

Arnold has been in touch with Jeremy Buffam of Castle Hotels, who is a

resident of Ridgefield interested in building 30-40 room boutique hotel in Ridgefield

John and Arnold are working with him

7. Library Business Education update by Karen

The library calendar of offerings is in place

NEW BUSINESS

Gus will get in touch with Rudy for possible intern to help compile vacancy rates.

With regard to commercial vacancy rates in Ridgefield, the Commission discussed parking regulations, density, landlord cooperation to reposition obsolete buildings, art space, attracting c-suite executives to Ridgefield, and co-tenancy.

Karen suggested ECDC invite Nick and Peter to the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Paul Levine Second: Geoff Morris Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 8:25p
