



## **Ridgefield Prevention Council Minutes**

**January 20, 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, Tara Sleight, Teddy Hunter, Siera Fregosi, Brian Nash, Lou Ann Daprato, Carol Ann Sganga, Sarah Lorenzini, Carolyn Knupp, Sean McEvoy

**Meeting called to order:** 7:03 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** Lou Ann Daprato makes a motion to approve the Ridgefield Prevention Council minutes from the December 2020 meeting. Karen Facini seconds. Motion passes; all in favor.

**Treasurer Report:** Karen Facini reports that the RPC donation account has a balance of \$9147.01. The RPC operating account has a balance of \$25,899.95.

**Reports/Discussion:**

**Website:** Kim Carone reports that the RPC website will be going live today. The website is now more user and family friendly. Website includes: Fall 2020 vaping survey results, links to resources, RPC member bios, contact information, donation information, and an events page (past and future RPC events). Karen Facini notes that both Teddy and Tarah are full members of RPC (Kim will fix). Please contact Kim with any other corrections and additions.

**Logo:** Kim Carone asks group if the RPC logo should be redesigned to incorporate the town on Ridgefield. Wix designed 5 free logos with Ridgefield themes. Kim will share logos with the group via email. If group chooses to keep the current logo, it will need new formatting for the website. Discussion included keeping the current logo, tweaking the existing logo, or adopting one of the new logos. Feedback should be sent to Kim.

**January Event: What Are Teens Into Now...weed, dabbing, vaping & more:** Tina Malhotra reports that she and Kim Carone spoke with Liz Jorgensen. She will be donating her services for this online event. The format will be 90 minutes with Liz presenting 30 minutes for questions and answers. Kim and Tina will moderate and a google form will be available for

questions. PTAs have included information in weekly eblast and event has been posted on social media. So far there are 15 registrants. RPC members are encouraged to attend. Karen Facini suggested that RPC make a donation to Liz for her time, perhaps in the form of a scholarship fund for her clients. Tina will ask Liz what she prefers and will report to group. Siera Fregosi asks group if it would be worthwhile to spend \$25 to boost the event on Facebook. Boost would allow event information to go to 2,000 Ridgefield/06877 linked accounts. Lou Ann Daprato makes a motion to spend \$25 to boost January RPC event. Brian Nash seconds. Motion passes; all in favor.

February Focus: Community Partners: Discussion included reaching out to the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club. Karen Facini shared with group that the 'Candid Conversations' event was never finished due to the pandemic. Karen will contact Jeff at the B&G club to see how the club is doing and possible ways RPC could help. Kathy Hanley shares that Coalition Building is a topic for February and training could be done for RPC.

March Event: Internet Safety: Kim Carone contacted Officer Giglio. He mentioned that there have been more issues lately with adults and internet safety. RPC could possibly provide a program that would educate all ages. Lou Ann Daprato suggested including Founders Hall members. She will follow up with them.

Social Media: Siera Fregosi has posted information on Instagram (RidgefieldPreventionCouncil) and Twitter (RidgefieldPrev1). Karen Facini will ask Emily Pambianchi to delete the old RPC twitter account. Siera asks that ideas be sent to her. She would like to post three times a week. Discussion included adding Siera to the WCC weekly email distribution, aligning posts with each month's theme, and posting the content calendar.

New Business:

Opioid Grant: RPC members were sent an email with details about an opioid grant application. Kathy Hanley shared that this is the fourth or fifth round of this grant. Grant is to help groups at the local level to raise awareness surrounding the opioid crisis (Narcan training, suicide prevention, etc.). Discussion included whether RPC needs to apply for this grant since the group has funds to spend. Also, since RPC is in the process of rebranding, would taking the time to apply for the grant be the best use of group time? Sarah Lorenzini suggested that RPC could still use the plan (included with the grant) for ideas and use RPC funds to support any future programs. Possible ideas include offering an event for high school seniors, approaching B&G Club and/or RHS/health teachers to partner, and offering incentives for kids to attend programs. Brian Nash shared that his friend, Lisa Arnold, works with Fairfield University to provide sober living support and programs for students in recovery. Kim Carone suggests that this topic could be a possible May event where RPC could possibly partner with Kids in Crisis, Lisa Arnold, and/or The Ridgefield Playhouse. Brian Nash will reach out to his contacts. Tina Malhotra makes a motion for a vote regarding those in favor of applying for the Opioid Grant. Lou Ann Daprato seconds. 2 in favor, 11 opposed; Motion does not pass.

Team Building: Kathy Hanley explained the team building process/program. This program works well with groups that need a fresh start. RPC last did this three years ago. Program usually involves a three hour event outside the regularly scheduled meeting time. Due to the pandemic, a 90 minute webinar could be offered instead. A writing assignment would be sent in advance and should be completed by members independently. The webinar would help establish a group mission/vision, set group guidelines for meetings and subcommittees, and

provide overall team building. Possible dates include 2/8 or 2/10. Group will be asked for availability.

Meeting adjourned: 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann D. Sganga