



Ridgefield Prevention Council Minutes

March 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, Lou Ann Daprato, Brian Nash, Sean McEvoy, Carol Ann Sganga, Sarah Lorenzini

1. **Meeting called to order:** 7:06 pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Tina Malhotra makes a motion to approve the Ridgefield Prevention Council minutes from the February 2021 meeting. Brian Nash seconds. Motion passes; all in favor.
3. **Treasurer Report:** Kim reports that the check from the Coalition has been received. No treasurer report presented.
4. **Reports/Discussion:**
 - a. **Logo Approval:** Should the new RPC logo with the tree have a black or orange background? Majority of group prefers the black background.
 - b. **Coalition Retreat Recap:** Kim Carone reports that the retreat went well, and a lot of great ideas were identified. Kathy Hanley will share her notes at a future retreat. The group will vote on priorities for each identified category.
 - c. **March Event: Internet Safety (online scammers):** Kim Carone reports that 39 people have registered for the event so far. Parents have asked whether children can attend the event (Kim said yes). Tina Malhotra asks for another social media push to promote the event.
 - d. **April Event: (Alcohol Awareness Month- rethinking drinking):** Kim Carone provides an update on the SAMHSA program, "Talk. They Hear You". RPC applied for the program and was given permission to use the information. Kim suggests posting information twice a week during the month of April. The

information is geared toward middle school/high school age. RPC can ask the PTAs to blast the flyers each week and Siera can post on social media. Brian Nash asks what can be done for parents since the focus is on youth. Kim explains that the flyers focus on how youth mirror parent behavior. We can possibly share information about local treatment centers or include a link to the RPC website with the flyer information.

e. May Event: Kim Carone reports that the meeting with Dr. DaSilva and Dr. Greenwood went well. However, Drs. DaSilva and Greenwood have concerns about using student focus groups due to privacy, zoom, data collection issues, etc. Dr. Greenwood shared information about a program Masuk High School used. Program was run by ADAM (Alcohol and Drug Awareness of Monroe) and included a panel of speakers.

i. Freshman/Parent “Have the Conversation” Event:

Tina shares that an ADAM type event here could provide RPC with the needed data for the grant (like focus groups). This program would focus on freshman and be organized in partnership with RPS. Possible ideas include giving students Health Class credit for attending after completing a student/parent survey at the end of the presentation. Kim shared that a possible RPC event could be both in person (at The Ridgefield Playhouse) and virtual. A panel could include, police officer, trauma team representative, lawyer (social hosting issues), counselor (positive parenting), someone to speak about vaping, etc. RPC has the funds to book The Ridgefield Playhouse for the event. The Playhouse has May 13 at 7pm available for the event. Feedback from the group is positive. Some questions to follow up on are whether a moderator is needed, can questions be submitted anonymously and how to reach all freshman students since Health class is a half year course. **Lou Ann Daprato makes a motion to proceed with planning for a May event at The Ridgefield Playhouse. Brian Nash seconds. Motion passes; all in favor.**

ii. Vaping – Poster idea (middle school): Kim Carone shares an idea to have vaping poster design contest in the middle schools. RPC could provide prizes to the students and print winning posters to display in school buildings. Discussion included that we would need buy in/partnership from the schools and would St. Mary’s and Ridgefield Academy be included. Sarah Lorenzini will contact other prevention councils to see how similar contests are run.

f. The Social Dilemma: Teddy Hunter not in attendance to provide an update on high school involvement; will follow up at next meeting.

g. Rudy Video: Tina Malhotra reports that Rudy will send a video to us this week.

h. Social Media: Kim Carone and Karen Facini have not heard from Siera Fregosi about social media progress. There has not been much posted lately. If

Siera needs help or can no longer manage social media platforms, she needs to let us know.

i. **Boys & Girls Club:** Karen Facini reports that she has reached out to Jeff at the Boys & Girls Club but has not received a response. If needed, Tina can reach out to Mike Flynn.

5. **New Business:**

a. **May Event:** Kim Carone will forward a Google doc to the group with roles listed for members to volunteer for involving the event.

b. **Distracted Driving Program:** Kim Carone shares that ADAM also has a distracted driving program. Maybe this is an event the group could consider for next year.

c. **Vigil:** Brian Nash shares that other towns hold vigils to observe National Recovery Month (September). These events have speakers share their experiences. This is a way to focus on the positive. Could we consider an event like that for Ridgefield?

6. **Meeting adjourned:** 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann D. Sganga