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Arnold Light, Chairman
John Devine, Vice Chair, Secretary
Amanda Duff
Paul Levine
Geoffrey Morris
M. Augustus Ryer
Karen Sulzinsky

Rudy Marconi, First Selectman

Approved RECDC Meeting Minutes
March 4th, 2019 at 6:00pm
Conference Room, Library

In Attendance: Arnold Light, Paul Levine, M Augustus Ryer, John Devine, Geoffrey Morris, Amanda Duff

Absent: Karen Sulzinsky

Public in Attendance: 11 members of the public attended

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. Motion by Arnold Light. Seconded by Gus Ryer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Next meeting April 1st, 2019

2. Motion to postpone items 5, 6, 7.

Motion: **Geoff Morris** Second: **John Devine** Unanimous approval to postpone items.

GENERAL DISCUSSION.

1. John Frey, CT State Representative from the 111th District

- A. John Frey discussed a bill he's proposed, which would allow towns to have cultural districts approved.
- B. A few states, including Maryland and Massachusetts, have done this successfully.
- C. Ridgefield is perfectly suited for this because of its many culturally-rich businesses, including the Aldrich, Playhouse, Keeler Tavern, ACT of CT, Weir Farm and more.
- D. Ridgefield's excellent sidewalk system and variety of in-town restaurants also make it a prime candidate.
- E. Districts don't necessarily have to be entire towns, but could be areas within walking districts within towns. For example, the Mark Twain House and Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford.
- F. State would be able to put effort behind promoting cultural districts similarly to how they promote the CT Antiques Trail, CT Wine Trail and CT Beer Trail.
- G. "A lot of synergy could come from this at very, very low cost." JF
- H. "What better town than Ridgefield? There's certainly others, but we've got it all." JF

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2. POCD: Glenn Chalder and Rebecca Mucchetti
 - A. Discussed the forthcoming update of the Ridgefield Plan of Conservation and Development in accordance with CGS Section 8-23.
 - B. Glenn asked ECDC for advocacy of these matters, ECDC to speak at April 2nd meeting. No written plan required, just a presentation that's 10-minutes max.

3. Kim Bova, Executive Director of the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce
 - A. Discussed many of the accomplishments and challenges she's faced since taking over the position of Executive Director five months ago.
 - B. Her greatest accomplishment thus far was the creation of a health care portal for members, through which members may access competitive health insurance rates.
 - C. In general, Kim is seeking plans with benefits she can pass on to her members – be it a great rate on a health care plan or a Verizon Wireless phone plan.
 - D. Completely redesigned the Destination Ridgefield website, and did it all in-house.
 - E. Hosting spring & fall job fairs at the Ridgefield Rec Center.
 - F. Upcoming Events: Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce Inaugural Breakfast 2019 (March 15th); Women's Event (May 16th)

4. Approval of February minutes as amended. Motion: John Devine. Second: **Geoff Morris**. Unanimous approval to approve minutes as amended.

5. Motion to adjourn at 7:51 by Geoffrey Morris. Motion seconded by Gus Ryer. Unanimous approval.