

## Ridgefield Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2023, 7:00-8:00 pm

Location: Zoom Webinar

### **Attendees Members:**

Denise Dammer-Qualey Chairperson

Mary Doherty

James Yavenditti

Michael Lordi

Tina Malhotra

Rian Malhotra

Alexandra Avila

Aundrey Camino-jars

Julia Knispel

Skylar Knispel

Jeffery Smith

Tom Dardis

- No public comments were made
- The members had no comments on the November 2, 2022, meeting minutes.
- “Learning from people you disagree with - civil discourse in a polarized society” will be the panel discussion hosted by the Commission. The panel will be held via Zoom on February 1, 2023. The panel composition was discussed; Mary will contact John Frey and Aimee Berger-Girvaloto to confirm their availability. Lizzie Lordi will participate as a past Ridgefield High School graduate and Shylar Kleinman as a current student. Rian will ask Jen DeJulio, a teacher at Ridgefield High School, to see if she can participate. Jim confirmed that Sonia Bell, the Director of College Counseling at St. Luke’s School, will be a panelist. Youth members of the Commission will be the moderators and direct questions to the panelist.

Panelists’ bios and email addresses should be sent to Commission members by Monday, January 9, 2023.

Skylar will draft potential questions that the moderators will ask the panelist. Commissions members should forward comments and suggestions to Skylar.

Alex will introduce the panelist and moderators the night of the event.

Youth members, if available, will attend the Board of Education meeting on January 23, 2023, at 7:00 pm to inform BOE members of the panel discussion during the BOE public comment. Adult members were encouraged to attend.

- The members discussed strategies to recruit new members. The Commission members felt that reaching out to the BOE and PTA Joint Council would help recruit new youth and adult members. Audrey suggested that school newsletters could help recruit new members. Tina suggested that we also use the district newsletter. Alex, Audrey, and Briana will draft a flyer for the newsletters.
- The holiday stroll party was a success. Proceeds went to the Boys and Girls Club.
- Alex and Audrey gave an update on TeanTalk
- No official votes were taken during this meeting.