

Spokes Updates

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2025-09-11 Spokescouncil Meeting Update

Completed projects

Withfriends account	Link	QR - Click for larger size in new window
Withfriends.events homepage	https://withfriends.events/o/ridgewood-commons/	QR-RC-withfriends.png
Withfriends.events donate page	https://withfriends.events/o/ridgewood-commons/donate/	QR-RC-withfriends-donate.png
Patreon account		
Patreon.com homepage	https://www.patreon.com/cw/RidgewoodCommons	QR-RC-patreon.png
Riseup mailing list		
Riseup list homepage	https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/ridgewoodcommons-nyc-info	QR-RC-ridgewoodcommons-nyc-info.png
Riseup list subscribe page Requires free riseup list account and sign-in Working on better subscription flow alternatives	https://lists.riseup.net/www/subscribe/ridgewoodcommons-nyc-info	QR-RC-ridgewoodcommons-nyc-info-subscribe.png

Withfriends account	Link	QR - Click for larger size in new window
Forms		
"Rental Application for Ridgewood Commons" (assume owned by main google account)	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FApQLScMsyQwvfUK1nt_hMQ6wo2JiytbNCVp_ix6H0WlQfyI2B_hdw/viewform	QR-RC-rental-application-gf.png
"Programming at Ridgewood Commons" (assume owned by main google account)	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FApQLSeZttCPYzVbobKJ6rVx2muerTWUoevBcc60BbHwptgrUPGwxg/viewform	QR-RC-programming-submission-gf.png
"Film Screening Proposal Form" (don't know form owner)	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FApQLSfgC-HNbTdfnE5g9EydPZce10ms8s78a5wRq2CJVbXOEWeM4A/viewform	QR-RC-film-proposal-gf.png
Socials		
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/ridgewoodcommons/	QR-RC-instagram.png
Bluesky	https://bsky.app/profile/ridgewoodcommons.bsky.social	QR-RC-bluesky.png

Active projects

- Basic site / "landing page"
- Single streamlined calendar management workflow that doesn't leak personal information using existing google tools
 - Custom non-google calendar and event management
- Web hosting via solidarity partners
- Documentation and instructional screencasts re: wiki
- Financial software
- Brainstorming and development of communications beyond existing use of signal groups
- Improving copy and aesthetics of funding platforms
- Migrating our stuff off of woodbine.nyc and not breaking the old site -- the wiki being the most visible to the group

Needs expressed

- More group participation by those interested in a combination of people/tech/communication to...
 - ...think about ideas and systems to democratize communications
 - ...find existing "pain points" and communication bottlenecks within and between working groups
 - ...create compelling, clear, copy for communications
- People with graphic design & branding skills
- People who actually use and are fluent in corporate social media
- Please try <https://ridgewoodcommons.nyc/> and report any issues with your device. Flag us down after meeting to report plz.

Projected budget needs (annual)

In discussion! Trying to get it down down down ☐☐

- ~\$250 financial software
- ~\$40-125 site hosting, email lists

Other

Internal discussion of re-naming group from "Tech & Comms) to make group function more clear (e.g. building workflow for content, but not creating content), or take on more responsibility for crafting content as listed in above needs list.

2025-10-11 Spokescouncil Meeting Update

Completed stuff

- Schedule maker tool: <https://ridgewoodcommonsnyc.github.io/RC-schedule-maker/index.html>
 - Takes exported file from [calendar page](#) (sample: [ridgewood-commons-weekly-schedule\(10\).html](#))
 - Can use community supplied backgrounds!
 - Sample output: [schedule-9x16-2025-10-11\(2\) Medium.jpeg](#)
- Social post maker: <https://ridgewoodcommonsnyc.github.io/RC-presents-IG-maker/index.html>
 - Take an image, adds "Ridgewood Commons" header
 - Sample output: [poster-story-1760210929618 Medium.jpeg](#)

Current Practices

- manually updated rolling (first day listed is today) sidebar calendar on <https://ridgewoodcommons.nyc/>
- effort to post weekly calendar poster to community announcement chat / IG
- using withfriends for event RSVPs to free events to present opportunity for donor conversion.

Upcoming

- Online non-google collaborative schedule/calendar prototype

Analytics report

Withfriends (~LP)

tier	#	\$	\$ total/month	% total
Vision Supporter	10	\$10	\$100	9%
Rent Contributor	14	\$25	\$350	31%
Infrastructure Upgrader	3	\$50	\$150	14%
Future Planner	2	\$100	\$200	18%
Coworker	3	\$100	\$300	27%
Total			\$1,100 net (\$1,001.95 gross)	

For posterity/other groups: Makes me think tiers are not optimal bc of big drop from \$25 to \$50 tier. (~LP)

Adding arbitrary donations to tiers such that you can sub as a Rent Contributor but then **more** would maybe be optimal. Maybe worth talking to Withfriends about this.

Membership jumped up, plateaued, bumped again, plateaued

Hard to say why, but would be good to keep a solid posting schedule and review

[RC-withfriends-analytics-october.jpeg](#)

Patreon

? Don't have access because of two-factor setup. (~LP)

we need to fix that! (~ p cm)

tier	#	\$	\$ total/month	% total
Vision Supporter	16	\$10	\$160	14%
Rent Contributor	14	\$25	\$350	30%
Infrastructure Upgrader	5	\$50	\$250	21%
Future Planner	2	\$100	\$200	17%
Coworker	2	\$100	\$200	17%
Total			\$1,160 net	

Combined Funding Platforms

tier	#	\$	\$ total/month	% total
Vision Supporter	26	\$10	\$260	11%
Rent Contributor	28	\$25	\$700	31%
Infrastructure Upgrader	8	\$50	\$400	18%
Future Planner	4	\$100	\$400	18%
Coworker	5	\$100	\$500	22%
Total			\$2,260 net	

Socials & Communication Channels Growth (or lack thereof, aside from Instagram)

IG	bluesky	RC community announcements	RC spokescouncil announcements	RC spokescouncil chat	list-info
1134	14	181	121	27	9

Need to directly message in order to grow these connections.

[RC-socials-channels-analytics-october.jpeg](#)

Other Thoughts

- Need for dedicated "comms" group to handle
 - Collection and confirmation of events from disparate groups and individuals
 - Very regular social posting: week schedule, day-of stories/posts
 - Using submitted posters, bespoke graphics work, or using existing tools (with feedback/improvement cycle)
 - IG, bluesky, withfriends, nonsense, cal.red, etc.
 - Social question/comment/message followup
 - More standardized copy for various calls to action re: in-space signage, membership calls, socials, lists, etc.
- Need for additional person(s) to help with
 - DevOps / infrastructure management and research
 - Hosting
 - SSO
 - Integrations

- Analytics/reporting

2025-12-11 Spokescouncil Meeting Update

Current focus is finalizing the infrastructure that will help:

- visibilize and distribute admin labor
- ease onboarding into admin roles / tasks
- make Tech / Comms role sustainable
- support WGs in the same way

Tasks Completed

- Deployed beta version of our new digital infrastructure
 - **open call for user testers from admin committees (and WGs too).**
- calendar on <https://ridgewoodcommons.nyc/> now generated from google sheet.

Tasks in Progress

- <https://coopcloud.tech/> adopting their tools and building a relationship with their community
 - a community of values-aligned open-source developers and tech-cooperatives
 - our technical labor becomes a contribution to a free and open-source commons
 - in early talks of planning a workshop using Ridgewood Commons as a case study
 - "come see what we did, learn how we did it, and learn how to *help us* do it"
- Working w sunday dinner increase onboarding opportunities with dinner announcements configuration
- Initial conversations with working groups about public-facing onboarding materials

Future Tasks

- Somebody has to send out a newsletter (124 pending subscribers).

- Have a meeting
- Onboard new members to admin committee
- Clarify purpose of the inter-working-group chats: "how do I make an internal announcement?"
- Set up distributed encrypted backups with other community spaces around the country

Task Pitches

- help write an inaugural newsletter?
- user testing on our infrastructure
- figure out an organized way to handle IG DMs
- research <https://garagehq.deuxfleurs.fr/>

Pain Point

- Our charter is far broader than our capacity allows
- No-one is doing the important work of improving our internal communication

Other