

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004 AT 7:00 P.M.
(ONE WEEK EARLY DUE TO THANKSGIVING)**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OCTOBER 28, 2004**

Chairman Jim Ruff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., it having been duly noted that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was sent to The Record on the 29th day of December, 2003, and to the Star-Ledger on the 29th day of December, 2003. Members present were: Jim Ruff, Madelaine Cappucio, Barbara Frimmer, Dana Moaven and Maureen Nassan. Kathy Jacob was ill. Steve and Linda Quinn were absent. Bruce Herrick was also present.

The minutes of the September 23, 2004, meeting were approved.

Marcus Grasso (9 Gordon Street (201- 440-5147) was also present as a resident concerned about the Xanadu project and its impact on the environment. He wanted to know if the Village has taken a position on this project. Jim Ruff said that he new the Mayor was following this project and one of the biggest concerns was flooding on Bergen Turnpike. Mr. Grasso is extremely concerned about the air pollution and the increased traffic. As a county resident, he does not see the need for this Xanadu project at all. The Commission recommended that he talk to the Riverkeeper.

After much discussion, it was decided that Earth Day 2005 would be held on April 30 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This date works out best as it avoids major conflicts such as opening day of baseball, the art festival and the timing of high tide at 3:19 would work out best for the boats, which are the biggest attraction.

The budget for Earth Day in 2004 was \$1,200. This year the following funds are committed so far:

\$525 Risky Business Band (will play from 12-3)
\$316 Food
\$25 Prizes for the Games
\$150 Giveaways (last year was hats)
\$1,016 Total -- leaving balance of \$184

Possible other suggestions are Madelaine Cappucio talking to The Raptor Group (cost is approximately \$250 plus mileage) to get specific details. The Commission would like to know if the cost is \$250 for the show and then they stay around for a specified length of time. This would be a great attraction to Earth Day. Bruce Herrick will look into the cost of the Indian Show. Commissioner Anlian will have to decide if the budget for 2005 will be increased as it is the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day and he would like a bigger celebration.

Bruce Herrick will bring games he is making for a school carnival. He would make birdhouses but the cost (approximately \$10 per house) will most likely not fit into the budget. Maureen Nassan will put something in the newsletter asking for donations of wood and nails to see if this project can be added to Earth Day.

Bruce also suggested that the Quinns find out about the Order of the Arrow Indian Dance Team through the scouts. Dana Moaven said that she has been at other celebrations and the Bergen County Police Department has been present with an officer and his horse. This would be a good attraction if available. A letter will be sent to the Bergen County Police to get details on this.

Some suggestions for Earth Day are: a battery contest within the schools, participation contests, using tree stumps for activities with the students (Bruce will handle this).

Letters will be sent to the Hackensack Riverkeeper and the Hackensack Meadowlands Commission advising of the date and requesting boats. A letter will be sent to all the schools advising of the date and asking for participation (content of letter will stress that this date is best for boats due to tides and attempts to avoid major conflicts within the Village), DPW, Village Gardeners, Girl and Boy Scouts and the Wanda Canoe Club. Maureen Nassan will advise the Shade Tree Commission of this date. Letters will be sent at appropriate times as details become available.

Maureen Nassan will contact Grant School about handling the food and will contact Risky Business. She will also have signs made up for the schools and stores. Dana Moaven's daughter will make signs directing people to the park. Dana will also contact the Environmental Center to see what programs they offer and if any would be helpful to the Commission on Earth Day.

Bruce Herrick is also interested in building an osprey nest at the DPW park. He would also like to make a sign similar to the one he made for the Wanda Canoe Club. He thinks it would be a good idea to use this sign in the July 4th parade.

A discussion was held on the next possible grant. Maureen Nassan will contact ANJEC to see if they have any suggestions on what would be an acceptable grant. It was suggested that the schools be contacted and given more specific information to see if they have any suggestions for a grant.

One suggestion was to make an environmental calendar and distribute it to the Village. Each month could have different environmental facts listed. Next month, a decision will need to be made on the grant so that the papers can be sent in before the December deadline.

The Commission will also need to submit a proposed budget for 2005 by December 1. The following is the proposed budget that was submitted for 2004.

NJDEP Grant Match	2,500.00
Earth Day	1,200.00
**Interpretive Signs (Waiting for info from Maureen)	3,000.00
Printing, Copying, Postage	150.00
ANJEC Membership	250.00
Conferences, Seminars	200.00
**Riverfront Park Improvements (Park Budget?)	15,000.00
Hackensack Riverkeeper Canoe Rentals	200.00
Payroll	650.00
Books, periodicals, etc.	500.00
TOTAL	23,650.00

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2004 (one week early due to Thanksgiving).

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Anlian