

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 21, 2005**

Maureen Nassan called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 31st day of December, 2004, and to the Star-Ledger on the 31st day of December, 2004. Members present were: Madelaine Cappucio, Barbara Frimmer, Dana Moaven and Maureen Nassan. Linda Quinn, Kathy Jacob, Jim Ruff and Steve Quinn could not make the meeting.

The minutes of the June 23, 2005, meeting were approved. There were no meetings in July and August.

The Clerk's Office gave an account detail to the Commission. The annual encumbered amount for this Commission is \$6,000.00 and \$5,539.96 has been used to date leaving a balance for the year of \$118.26.

Maureen Nassan said that she visited Riverfront Park and it is a disgrace. There is no maintenance in this park and the plantings look terrible. Second Nature has sent in a quote for the next proposed phase of planting for the fall in the amount of \$2,400.00. The Commission had a discussion on whether or not it is wise to do another planting in the park since it has no financial resources or staff to maintain this park. There is also no money left in the budget to pay for this next planting. The Commission also wonders whether is it realistic to ask the DPW to do the maintenance on this park. A letter will be sent to Commissioners Anlian and Boyd to ask for their guidance regarding this park and how they want to proceed with any future plans. The Commission is concerned that over half the budget is used on a park that is not maintained.

A Village employee also brought it to the attention of a Commission member after a meeting that the municipal building does not recycle. This will be brought to the attention of Commissioner Anlian so that this can be corrected.

A letter will be sent to Acting Governor Codey regarding the proposed elimination of small grants for environmental commissions.

Maureen Nassan brought the first two months of the calendar for members to look at and offer suggestions. Dana Moaven thinks that the calendar should pertain more to Ridgefield Park and wonders if it should contain information about mountains, bears, etc. She would prefer information more relevant to the Village. Dana also asked if a forward would be included. Jim Ruff will be asked to write the forward as the Chairman of the Commission. The back of the

calendar will state that the project was due in part by a grant from the DEP and also thank contributors such as the Hackensack Riverkeeper, the library, etc.

The Commission needs to decide what should be on the front cover. It will state that it is the Commission's calendar on the front as well as photographs. It was suggested that maybe a picture of the four seasons in Ridgefield Park should be on the front of the calendar.

Maureen is looking for pictures of Ridgefield Park in the various seasons. Members should email Maureen or get them to her so that she can scan them into the calendar. A memo will be sent to all members asking them to send any pictures as soon as possible.

A letter was sent in August to Anders & McMeel to ask for permission to quote various information from the book 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth. No reply has been received to date.

A discussion was held on how to distribute the calendars, as only a limited supply will be available. It is too costly to print one for each household so one suggestion was to place them in the clerk's office in small quantities and notify residents via the newsletter that they can pick up their copy and that only a limited supply will be available. The Board of Commissioners and each school will be given a copy.

Maureen will look for quotations on printing of the calendars to see who will give the lowest price. She will try the two local printers, Thomsen Litho Inc. (201) 489-1133 and Advertisers Services Group, Inc. (201) 440-5577 to get a price from them.

Earth Day for next year is scheduled for April 29, 2006. Jim Ruff said that he found a good tide predictor at:

<http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/tideshow.cgi?site=Hackensack%2C+Hackensack+River%2C+New+Jersey&units=f>. For Hackensack River at Hackensack, he got the following:

April 22, 2006, high tide is at 5:27 am,
 Low tide is at 12:43 pm,
 High tide again at 6:18pm.

April 29, 2006, high tide is at high noon,
 Low tide is at 6:18pm

April 29 is definitely the best day, tidewise. Tide will be outgoing after noon, but dock will be usable until around three o'clock. High tide makes the river and the park much more appealing.

Letters will be sent to all parties advising them of the date and asking them to once again participate. Letters will be sent to the following inviting participation in Earth Day: St. Francis School, Wanda Canoe Club, Shade Tree Commission, Mosquito Control Division, Office of Emergency Management, NJ Meadowlands Commission, Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cosmic Wheel, Board of Health, Ambulance Corps., Dr. Richardson, DPW and the Hackensack, Riverkeeper.

A letter will also be sent to Matt McArow of GJEM Insurance requesting the insurance certificate to hang the banner on Main Street the week of April 24.

Each school will also be asked to provide ten signs announcing Earth Day that will be hung in various locations around the Village. A suggestion was made to have students decorate brown bags from IGA announcing Earth Day that IGA could distribute that week with the groceries to remind people of the activities. Barbara Frimmer will contact Jim Pascale from IGA to see if he would be interested in providing the bags to be used before Dr. Richardson is asked if the schools would like to participate. Enrollment in the schools is as follows: Roosevelt and Lincoln – 375, Grant 225, St. Francis 300.

The schools will also be informed that the battery-recycling contest will once again be held at the Earth Day Celebration. Schools will be informed that unless each packet of batteries is clearly labeled by class, it will not be included in the contest. Last year 195 pounds of batteries were recycled. Maureen would like to display the projects and posters from the students on Main Street if possible.

As a reminder to members, the next deadline for the Village Newsletter will be October 24, 2005.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca