

**NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM  
DECEMBER 15, 2016**

Chairman Mark Olson 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 and Star Ledger on September 28, 2016, and was posted on the municipal bulletin board. Members present were: James Donohue, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson and Linda Quinn. Steve Quinn, Janet Malool and Commissioner Anlian were also present for the meeting.

The minutes of the November 17, 2016, meeting were not available to be approved at this meeting. They will be approved at the January meeting.

**Approval of bills:** There are no bills to be paid this month

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

**Correspondence:** ANJEC membership dues was sent in for the Environmental Commission. The Green Team was also signed up for membership as the second commission permitted. All members of the GT are now eligible to attend conferences at no cost. Mark said as part of membership the GT could request an ANJEC roadshow at the time and location of the Team's choosing. It is \$250 and the GT could invite anyone they wish. Some topics are: Effective Environmental Commissions; Open Space Stewardship; Infrastructures; Site Plan Review; Using Social Media as some examples given.

A motion was made by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta and seconded by Leslie Olson that the Green Team joins ANJEC as a second commission with the Environmental Commission, at a cost of \$150.00. All were in favor of this motion.

**Old Business:**

**Sustainable Jersey:** Mark said he printed out those same sheets again. Mark received no updates from anybody. What he wanted to do by the next meeting is he wants to try to get to Column L – Anticipated Completion Date – he wanted to try to get dates in all of them. He then wanted to go around to each person to see if they completed them, to see if they had any issues, to see if they needed any help. If we are getting close on those dates that will help us flush out the ones we don't want to do. If anyone is done, they can jump in and help someone else out. Steve asked if any were completed. The Environmental Action is complete. It was given to Leslie. She has to enter it into the system and mark it complete.

Once an action goes in, Leslie learned that, for example the drug prescription take back, the GT needs to have two of them, so as soon as Leslie uploads that, the clock starts on that particular item and then there is 18 months to finish that particular item or the GT must start again. This means that things shouldn't be put up too soon. Don't wait for everything until the end but don't have tasks entered too early so there is not enough time to complete the task. Leslie will wait to load some tasks until it is closer to completion.

Janet Malool said she feels like she is at a standstill because her feeling is that until there is a location to advertise and get people onboard, she cannot proceed. Commissioner Anlian said the next opportunity to advertise will be the March newsletter. Commissioner Anlian said he thinks the GT should consider putting something on the website. The Patriot no longer is being published and the newsletter is published quarterly but more and more people are looking at the website.

Janet said to put something down if there is no location or something a little more solid, is not going to go anywhere and if you have anybody interested and there is no location, they will have lost interest.

Commissioner Anlian said he thinks that Fellowship Park is just too shady. The garden would need a minimum of eight hours of sunshine. You can still grow things with four hours but eight hours is more favorable. Janet said she thought it was six hours. She also said the size is also up for debate at this time.

Janet said she thinks that there is the area adjacent to the tennis courts where there are no trees. This area will get sun in her opinion. Mark asked her if she had a second place if she didn't get this area. Jim Donohue said they were thinking about Frank White Park on Mt. Vernon Street but Janet thinks this is shadier. Janet thinks that Fellowship Park is central to the community and has much more sun. She is kind of on hold at this point until a location is selected.

Jim Donohue said assuming Fellowship Park got eight hours of sun, would they be able to plant a community garden in the park? Commissioner Anlian said the Board of Commissioners will discuss possible locations for the community garden sometime between Christmas and New Year or the first week of January. Mark said his own opinion is that the GT will not receive permission to use the park for the community garden because it is a park and its intended use is as a park and this is not a proven program. Janet said this is a catch 22 situation because you can't have a proven program until you have a location to start a program. All of the decent locations are parks. Commissioner Anlian said the bottom of Brinkerhoff Street is sunny. Janet said that area floods. Steve Quinn said what about the open area near the high school. Jim Donohue said part of the thinking was that it would be in a place where people could see it easily. No one will see Brinkerhoff. They want people to see it and get a feeling of Community similar to the Community Garden in Bogota.

Mark said with a lot of these items the GT will be faced with do we want to do a good job or just do enough to get the points and come back another day and make it better and better as we go along? Janet said from her perspective, we are already on a tight schedule if we want to get it up and running for this June. It is already a really tight schedule. The flip side is how do you get the points if you have nothing established? You would then be holding off until the following year. Mark said that unfortunately it will happen with some of these items. There are over 350 points available. If the GT got half of them to qualify, it would be good.

Janet asked Commissioner Anlian if they did a little sun analysis down there and there is a good 6-8 hours of sun, would they be able to use it or is it off the table? Commissioner Anlian said the Board of Commissioners would need to discuss this. He does not make the decision; it would come from the full Board of Commissioners. It is a park and there are not a lot of park spaces. A lot of the parks are athletic fields. Fellowship Park already has the tennis courts, which takes up most of the park. There is the playground and the rest is for just general park use. To put a community garden there will be that much less area for people to just use as a park. Janet said just in passing that area she doesn't really see that area being used. It is just there. That section to her is not inviting to her. It is just a little triangular piece involved. If the parks are off the table, Janet feels the GT needs to get creative. Commissioner Anlian said Secaucus finds ways to have rectangular raised bed community gardens.

Steve Quinn asked if the St. Francis lot was not an option. Janet said if you're talking sun, it doesn't get much sun either. Mark said that when he took the pictures the church was blocking the sun at the time. When he went home, he looked and realized he had the same situation in his backyard garden and they do alright. In the summer when the sun is more vertical, it will hit it differently. Commissioner Anlian distributed a picture of the Secaucus raised beds they use. There is a tiny little shed for tools and they have a water container. It is a nice set-up. Mark said another way to do this is to make a market, create demand. You go out and show people so they get on board and want to be a part. It means you do it the hard way. Janet said she thinks it is going to be hard enough to get people on board and if you don't have a central location and then have to fight for a decent piece of property that is not on someone else's property, it will be quite difficult. She can't think of any other place to have a garden. Her initial thoughts were to have one in every park at some point. Commissioner Anlian said to let the Board of Commissioners discuss this first. Janet said if it would be helpful, she would be willing to come to a meeting. Commissioner Anlian said it would be a caucus and if they felt they needed more input, he would let her know. That would probably be in January.

Jim Donohue said that the task they are involved in with the police will definitely have to wait until spring. It is the safe route to school task.

Mark Olson said he and Leslie will be meeting with a couple of people from Bogota's Green Team to talk about doing some things together, possibly the Green Fair and since the day for Earth Day will be set tonight by the Environmental Commission, they will tell them that day. They might have the Green Fair the same day as Earth Day, he does not know yet. They will have to speak to Bogota first to see what plans they might have. If they do tasks together with Bogota, both could get points. Commissioner Anlian said to check with the DPW first to make sure none of these events conflict with something the DPW might run such as shredding day.

**Website** – Leslie said she thinks the GT needs to come to some sort of consensus what we want to put up there. Mark asked if there was anyone who wanted to work on it. He said for him, the way all these tasks should go is that if anyone wants to work on something and nobody else is helping, they get to make all the decisions on that particular project unless they are doing something so out of bounds that no one would approve of it. The person should still check in with the Chairman. Leslie said she thinks that at minimum the mission statement should be put up. She also thinks the Green Team membership list should go up. Leslie said she would do it. The minutes of the meetings will also go on the website.

**New Business** - The meeting dates for 2017 were set for the fourth Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom on the third floor of the municipal building as follows:

JANUARY 26	JULY 27 (IF NECESSARY)
FEBRUARY 23	AUGUST 24 (IF NECESSARY)
MARCH 23	SEPTEMBER 28
APRIL 27	OCTOBER 26
MAY 25	NOVEMBER 16 (THIRD THURSDAY)
JUNE 22	DECEMBER 28 (IF NECESSARY)

There being no further business, a motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Jim Donohue, adjourning the meeting at 7:30 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca