

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 AT 7:30 P.M.
OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE EC MEETING**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
MARCH 28, 2019**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:50 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 published in The Record and sent to the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were: Eric Koenig, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Janet Malool, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Janet Harris, Tim Holloway, Florence Muller. Excused – Katelyn McGirk, Jin Ah Jong, Daniele Fede, Asai Maschang, Gloria Rivera, Barbara Wilke. Absent: Carolina Espin, Harry Menta, Chelsea Almanza, Gina Constanza, Peggy Conversano, Janet Harris, Florence Muller and Ex Officio Members absent. John Tymon and Tammy Laverty were present as guests.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta approving the minutes of the February 28, 2019, meeting. All were in favor of this motion.

Approval of bills:

- PO #37141 - \$80.00 – Office Works, Inc. – banner for Materials Reuse Program

Hearing of Citizens: Chloe Umana, Alyssa Wu, Ashley Yepes, Sebastian Barrera, Olivia Locarno, Bree Cooney and Derek Rodriguez, students from Mr. Savino's Grade 7 Honors Civics class, were present as guests. Throughout the meeting, Mark Olson, took time to explain things to the students.

Correspondence:

- Letter from BCUA dated 3/5/19 awarding the 2019 Recycling Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$3,000 – **The GT will be ordering a container.**
- Email dated 3/7/19 from Civics Teacher, Michael Savino, Re: Green School/School District and Municipality Initiatives - Mark **Olson will be going down to the school next week to speak to the class. They asked about the energy action that is being worked on for SJ.**
- Memo from Zoning Board dated 3/7/19 Re: Case #1542 – 185 Industrial Avenue – application to increase number of business from five to 11 – **Case was already heard.**
- Memo dated 3/8/19 from Zoning Board Re: Case #1520 – 9-13 Lincoln Avenue – discuss changes to building material – **Has no real concerns as far as the GT.**
- Invitation to public meeting creating a Master Plan for Public Art – **Need people to come to at least three of the meetings. Members should remember you only get a chance every 10 years to discuss this.**
- Email dated 3/27/19 from Civics Teacher Michael Savino, Re: Student Letter
- Letter dated 3/25/19 from Period 4 Honors Civics 7 Re: Sustainable Jersey

Reports: Budget has not been approved yet.

Community Garden: Janet Malool reported on the status of the Community Garden. She said they had the first meeting on Monday night. There was a large turnout and a few new faces at the meeting. They gave out the calendar for meetings and revisited a set of rules. They tweaked the work sessions. There are 5 or 6 scheduled between now and April. The first set of meetings will be on Saturday and Sunday to start cleaning up the gardens from the winter. The new sign is in. They have started to take manure orders. Eric Koenig asked if the GT was still interested in the students doing a garden shed. He will speak to Mr. Tadros about it.

Rain Garden: Tammy Laverty will take over responsibilities for the rain garden.

Public Arts Projects – Mark gave some examples of public art such as the sculpture currently being worked on; the mural to be painted in Vogt Park by a member of the Art Honor Society at the high school. Mark explained to the students that the GT's plan is to do one with the school every year.

RP Arts Association: As with the other reports, Mark Olson took time to explain what the public arts master plan was and said that on June 15 there will be a Summer Arts Festival on Grove Street between Main Street and Lincoln Avenue. There will be some bands from the high school performing and art will also be on display. The event will run from 6-9 p.m.

Bergen Hub: Mark explained that there are about 20 municipalities that meet every two months to discuss common things. This year was Styrofoam and the plan was to 1) recycle it and 2) to ban it from county parks. Mark asked the students if they would like to help hand out Styrofoam-free awards to businesses. There are about 10 other towns that do this as well. Mark will talk to the students and Mr. Savino about this when he comes to their class next week.

Public Arts Master Plan: Mark explained what a Public Arts Master Plan was and that a series of meetings would be taking place to discuss it with the public. The first meeting was scheduled at the library at 3:30 p.m. this Sunday and Mark encouraged the students to attend and bring their parents. He said the GT wanted to hear everyone's opinion from as young as 3 years old to older adults.

Recycling – Plastic Bags: Janet Harris gave the report on this. She said that as of February, the GT just qualified for another bench. It was explained to the students that the GT can get one bench every six months if they meet the weight qualifications for recycled bags. Janet picks up the bags and bring them to Target.

Old Business:

EPS recycling/BCUA Grant: The GT will be getting a container. Eric Koenig explained to the students that the high school can be a collection place and then drop off to the container when it arrives in about five weeks. Mark said that probably at next meeting, the GT will talk about how everyone is needed to work on this. Members will need to be there for the first few weekends it is there. Details will be worked on at the next few meetings.

New Business:

Janet Malool mentioned that she attended a webinar on growing your team and keeping people involved. Members might want to view it as well. It is available for members to read and they might find it useful. She suggested members check out the webinars as some appear to be very useful. There's one scheduled for May 29 on Creative Placemaking.

Janet Harris said that when she went to the preschool they asked for a little presentation for the students. They also asked if there was anything they could help with that they could recycle. Mark Olson and Steve Quinn were willing to do a presentation. Maybe they would like a container to recycle crayons when the supplies come in.

Janet said that she got in the cigarette butt container. She returned some because they had to be bolted to buildings. She is going to ask IGA if they would be interested in a cigarette butt container.

Eric Koenig said that, although it is not public knowledge yet, he has asked the Supt. to bring before the Board, to see if they could have bike riding as a school gym class.

Tim Holloway will be starting up the food pantry project next week. The group sifts the dirt so it can be used to grow for the food pantry. He invited the students to join in this volunteer activity.

Sustainable Jersey Work Session:

Mark had a short discussion on SJ with the students and answered questions they had. He told them to look the spreadsheet he sent over and have questions ready for when he comes to their class next week. He told the students the GT would love to have them join in and work on actions as well.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Eric Koenig to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the EC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca