

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AT 7:30 P.M. OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
OCTOBER 24, 2019**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:53 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: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson. Excused – Jin Ah Jong, Eric Koenig, Asai Maschang, Daniele Fede, Tim Holloway, Gloria Rivera, Barbara Wilke. Absent: Florence Muller, Chelsea Almanza, Gina Constanza, Peggy Conversano, Carolina Espin, Janet Harris, Diane Mancini and Ex Officio Members absent.

The minutes of the August 22 and September 26, 2019, meetings were approved on a motion made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of bills:

- PO 39564 - \$5,600.00 – Northern NJ Community Foundation – Public Arts Master Plan (Mark will be presenting to Planning Board at next meeting.)
- PO 39609 - \$170.30 – A.W. Meyer – Urethane for murals
- PO 39610 - \$392.19 – Mark Olson – Display Grids
- PO 39611 - \$209.19 – Giselle Holloway – Food for sculpture reception at McGowan Park

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Correspondence:

- Letter dated 9/20/19 from NJCCC and NJ Food Council Re: single use bags and reusable bags

Reports:

Financial: The GT received a printout for all four accounts it manages. RP is the financial agent for the county's \$6,177 BCUA Recycling Enhancement Grant. There is \$1,197 left in the grant. The grant is officially over November 1.

Sustainable Jersey: The application is currently under review. Right now, the GT has 220 points out of 10 categories and 21 actions. One mandatory and one priority action have been approved so far. 2 priority and 160 points have to be revised in 9 categories out of 13 actions. Not approved were 20 points. It is unlikely the GT will get silver certification this round. The GT has to be ready with the updates when the application is unlocked.

Community Garden: Janet Malool reported that this is the last month they will meet. There is a work session this weekend. If the weather holds up, they will also have one in November. This was a very good year for the gardens. Some new things were planted such as asparagus and rhubarb. There was a lot of learning that went well. Gardeners were anxious to help out.

Rain Garden: Mark spoke to Steve Quinn. They are happy to take over the responsibilities for the rain garden. Tammy Lavery said it is no burden at all.

RP Arts Association: The sculpture ceremony went well with a nice crowd. Janet sent an article to the Gazette and Daily Voice. The Main Street project is working well. There are a few more spots to be completed. Getting good feedback from people passing by. This is a project that should be done again, maybe using recycled paint the next time.

Public Arts Master Plan: The Public Arts Champions (PAC) should start with this. They should decide what projects should be next. The Arts Association should convene PAC.

Recycling – Plastic Bags & EPS: Janet Harris is collecting a lot of plastic. Bogota and Englewood are going to partner with RP to buy a baler for plastic bags. RP will give \$2,000, Englewood \$2,000 and Bogota \$3,000. When Englewood hits 40,000 pounds, they will have enough money to pay for the guy doing all the work.

Everyone wants to make this happen. The county is extremely interested in this project. There is \$1,200 left in the BCUA grant and the GT will pay \$800 from its budget for this. The purpose is to try to have other towns give \$2,000 as well. This will be housed in Englewood to handle it for the county. They want to do it. Mark will be making his first collection of EPS tomorrow for the three towns – Englewood, Leonia and RP.

The Freeholders have passed an Ordinance that has banned the use of polystyrene (food contact Styrofoam) by the County and its agents, authorized vendors and future County contract holders, on County premises/facilities and in all county sponsored events. A copy of the ordinance will be sent to all members and attached to the minutes. The freeholders would like it sent to all municipalities and adopt something similar as well. After this is up and running, they will probably work on plastic bags next.

Bergen Hub: The next meeting will be on November 25 in the Ridgefield Park court room. Mark has invited Bogota to the meeting. All members should try to attend the meeting as well.

Old Business:

Recycling Center: It is important that members go down at least one Saturday a month. If the EC and GT can show interest, the message will go to the public better. It is important to talk to the public about reuse and recycling. November 15 is National Recycling Day. On November 15 and 16, members are needed to go to the recycling center from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (even if only for an hour) to help educate the public on recycling. Leslie Olson will send out a list. Harry suggested that there be some educational materials available so members can properly advise visitors.

Sculpture: The question is what do we plant around the bottom of the sculpture? Mark showed a picture of a pink muhly to put around the base of the sculpture. It would be planted in the Spring. Tammy thought it would draw your eye to the sculpture rather than being distracting.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Harry Menta to buy that plant for the sculpture. Tammy thought it was appropriate for the base. All were in favor of the motion.

Clarify length of committee appointments: Last August, we began talking about lengths of office and there needs to be a change in how the GT does appointments.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Janet Malool, for the ordinary committees set up that we first look to have nominations to come from the floor but if that fails, the Chair appoints someone so there is someone in the meantime. A discussion was then held on this topic. This is really for temporary committees.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Janet Malool, that all ordinary committees that are formed except for those formed by special resolution to do so, such as Public Art Committee, those committee assignments are for one year, January-December; the preferred method is by nomination. If that method fails, the Chair is authorized to appoint someone. Term will go in effect no longer than the end of that calendar year. All were in favor of the motion.

Community Garden: A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Harry Menta to change the terms for the Garden Oversight Committee as follows:

- 1) Terms to be for 3 years on staggered basis.
- 2) Gardeners' choice. Term to start 1/1/2020 until 12/21/2022
- 3) Barbara Wilke to serve until 12/31/2021
- 4) Janet Malool to serve until 12/31/2020
- 5) No member of the Garden Oversight Committee can serve more than 8 years consecutively. They cannot be appointed to a subsequent term if that appointment would result in them serving more than 8 years.
- 6) To be eligible to return to the Garden Oversight Committee after serving the maximum someone would need to be off the committee for at least 1 year (365 days).
- 7) All Garden Oversight Committee members must be members of the community garden.
- 8) There must be at least one member of the Garden Oversight Committee from each of the garden locations; Fellowship & McGowan.

After a brief explanation and discussion of the motion, a vote was taken. All were in favor of the motion.

The next topic that will need a motion is to accept portions of the five-year-plan but members need to visit the area in McGowan Park before the next meeting to become familiar with what will be discussed.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Harry Menta to pay for some new soil (probably 5 bags this fall and then some in the spring) used when plots were reset after the sculpture was placed. After that, the Garden Oversight Committee can give a recommendation on the soil. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Janet Malool to allow the Garden Oversight Committee to allow out-of-town gardeners, if there is room and there is no one from town on a waiting list and at the discretion of the Garden Oversight Committee. A short discussion was held. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Harry Menta to ask the Ridgefield Park Arts Association, with advice from the Garden Oversight Committee, to decide the location of minor works of art in the garden(s). All were in favor of the motion.

December 28 – EPS Collection @ Hackensack Yacht Club 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Volunteers are needed for this collection. Members don't need to stay the entire time. The alternate date is December 29.

Bergen County XPS Ban: On 10/2/19, the County of Bergen Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted an Ordinance Establishing a Ban on the Use of Polystyrene by the County and its agents, authorized vendors, current and future County contract holders, and on County Premises/Facilities and in all County sponsored events. A copy is attached to the minutes. Plastic bags will be next.

They want each town to introduce the ordinance in their town and take it to the Board of Commissioners to push the agenda.

The GT will be purchasing reusable bags with the BYOB logo to use with the EC to distribute when people sign a pledge to use reusable bags in place of single use bags. The GT will buy 1,000 so there will be plenty on hand for events. The EC will be purchasing more reusable straws to hand out at events.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta to purchase 1,000 reusable bags. All were in favor of the motion.

Newsletter (next deadline February 14): Leslie Olson will write up something about the new county ordinance banning the use of polystyrene anywhere the county has jurisdiction.

The deadline for the Gazette newspaper, is the fifth of the month before you want it published. Harry Menta was asked if he would like to be the lead person for the Village newsletter and guide the GT. The GT should be proactive about the articles so they are always ready.

Little Library: Janet Malool said it was installed in Fellowship Park. This would be something good to publicize. Janet said she would try to get some information for Harry on this.

New Business:

Janet Malool would like to start a new program where people would Adopt a Park or Adopt a Planter. She will look into this. She would like to get volunteer groups to adopt a park or a section of a park. On Main Street, many businesses could adopt a planter. Maybe it could be that it grows to where residents adopt a street. It might be that people would want to plant whatever in the planter in front of their store. Members thought it was a good idea.

Mark Olson said the murals are out being coated with anti-graffiti coating. They will probably be installed in a week or two. He will ask the Arts Association to hold a dedication in the fall.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson adjourning the meeting at 9:40 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019 (third Thursday due to holiday) at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the EC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca