

NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
FEBRUARY 23, 2017**

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 published in The Record and sent to the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were: Joseph D'Angeli, James Donohue, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Gloria Rivera, Linda Quinn and Harry Menta. Not Present: Peggy Conversano (excused), Kimberley Calabrese, Florence Muller. Steve Quinn, Janet Malool and Hernan Osorio were also present for the meeting.

Mark Olson said he has not heard from Kimberley Calabrese in four meetings. He is not sure what the rule is but if somebody has not come in four meetings, has not bothered to tell the Chairman or Secretary they are not coming, they are not interested and they should be replaced. Four months is a long time to not attend and not contact the Commission that they are not coming. Mark said he will try to get in touch with Kimberley to see if she has any interest in being on the Commission any longer. If he does not hear back from her, he will replace her.

Mark wanted all members to know that if they do not contact either himself or the Secretary, they will be marked absent. They cannot tell another member. They must contact the Chairman or the Secretary to advise they cannot attend a meeting or they will be marked absent. The GT will adopt a rule that if a member is absent (with no notification to the Chairman or Secretary) from three meetings, they will be replaced. This will be brought up and voted on under new business.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Gloria Rivera to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of bills: Funds will be encumbered for the Green Fair for 2017 once an account number has been assigned to the Green Team. Mark Olson will work off the funds encumbered in 2016 by the Environmental Commission, which must be submitted by March 31, 2017, in order to be paid.

Hearing of Citizens: None present other than Hernan Osorio, who is helping out with the website.

Correspondence: None received at this time. There was an email from ANJEC regarding a workshop on Complying with New Jersey Stormwater Regulations to be held on Monday, March 6, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Phillipsburg Library, 200 Broubalow Way, Phillipsburg.

Old Business:

Sustainable Jersey – There are some things to discuss under the actions to be done. The first will be the Community Garden. Needed to be done tonight: a) Motion to create b) adoption of Master Plan c) Schedule work meeting.

The information on the community garden needs to be sent out regarding Fellowship Park. The community garden will work as if the GT has two sites, McGowan Park and Fellowship Park. The information for McGowan Park was already sent by email so a vote could be taken at tonight's meeting. The GT will be responsible for this task. It is a multi-year commitment for the GT. There may be differences of opinions on the community gardens.

Mark Olson would also like to make a procedural rule. He would like to amend Robert's Rules of Order to allow unlimited debate/discussion on motions. This is unlimited speaking and length of speech. This extends to guests of the board working on projects with the Green Team. The GT upon motion with second can decide to limit overall debate on a motion or a single individual if in the opinion of the Board

that individual is impeding the debate/discussion. The current procedure only allows a person to speak twice and sets a limit of ten minutes.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Joe D'Angeli to amend Robert's Rules of Order to allow unlimited debate/discussion on motions; this is unlimited speaking and length of speech; this extends to guests of the board working on projects with the Green Team; the GT upon motion with second can decide to limit overall debate on a motion or a single individual if in the opinion of the Board that individual is impeding the debate/discussion. All were in favor of this motion.

The GT also needs to create some type of procedural structure to mandate or coordinate the community garden.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Gloria Rivera to make a motion to create procedural structure for the community garden as follows:

1. Create community gardens to educate residents of the Village on the value of gardening
Initially 2 locations. Fellowship Park & McGowan Park
2. A "Master Plan" for the Community Garden will be determined by the Green Team.
3. Gardens will be governed by a Community Garden Board of 3 people. Members of the Community Garden Board must be a member of the Ridgefield Park Green Team or Ridgefield Park Garden Club.
4. Members of the Community Garden Board shall be appointed by a vote of the Green Team at the end of the first Green Team meeting of the year after the yearly vote for Green Team officers is held. Members of the Community Garden Board will serve 1 year or until the first Green Team meeting of the year, whichever is less. The initial appointments will be held after this motion is approved by the Green Team. In the event of a resignation of a member of the Community Garden Board replacement will be selected at the next Green Team meeting.
5. Decisions of the Community Garden Board can be appealed to the Green Team. This means either the gardener or dissenting member of the Community Garden Board.

Notice must be given to all garden participants and the Green Team 15 days prior to the Green Team meeting where the matter will be heard.

6. Garden plots will be assigned by the Community Garden Board to residents, groups or businesses Ridgefield Park in good standing. Plots will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. Plots can be kept from year to year as long as the gardener is in good standing.
7. "Good Standing" shall be determined by the Community Garden Board.
8. Gardeners may not grow plants which interfere with the ability of neighboring gardeners to grow plants. The Community Garden Board will determine what is meant by interfere.
9. Produce cannot be sold. In the case of a gardener including produce as an element in a dish it will not be considered as being sold. This provision is meant to allow restaurants to include produce from the community garden in an item on their menu. It is also meant to allow gardeners to include produce from the garden in items sold for charitable purposes.
10. There shall be a requirement for all gardeners to participate in common work. Common work shall be organizational, maintenance or construction. It may include things like maintaining planters put in place by the Village on Main Street and other areas. This requirement will be set by the Green Team under advisement from the Community Garden Board and administered by the Community Garden Board. The common work requirement shall initially be set at 18 hours.

A short discussion was held on the community garden. The initial Community Garden Board would consist of three people who must be a member of the GT; either regular, ex officio or associate. A couple of the rules would be that someone can protest a decision but must give everyone notice – all garden participants and the GT. This motion is only a starting point. The three person committee will work on it. This is more the rules about how the garden will work. Janet Malool questioned if the 18 hour requirement needed to be more specific – per season, per year. Mark Olson said everything is subject to change and could be changed the next meeting if needed. This is just a starting point. The three people Board will need to do work outside the meeting to work on specific details. Rules will need to be formed as needed.

Roll call was taken on the vote of this motion to create procedural structure of the community garden: Joseph D'Angeli, James Donohue, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Gloria Rivera, Linda Quinn – Yes.
0 – No votes.

Mark Olson would like to start the first three person team with Mark Olson, James Donohue and Janet Malool. There is a little bit of a dilemma. Janet Malool is not a member right now. He will submit her name to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to be appointed as an associate member. He would like to start the committee with only two people right now and invite Janet to the meetings until she becomes a member.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Joseph D'Angeli nominating Mark Olson and James Donohue as two of the three members of the Community Garden Board. All were in favor of this motion.

Mark Olson distributed a proposed RP Community Garden Application for everyone to review. People who participate would have to sign something. An announcement will go out in the Village newsletter. Janet Malool said some of them have a hold harmless clause. He also distributed a plan for McGowan Park. He would like to adopt this as the Master Plan for the garden. His intention is not to have it be inflexible and permanent. It should be something that the GT is continually amending. His hope is this amending process would begin immediately. To do this he will setup a working session for those interested. He would like this working session to be within a week of the next meeting. This Master Plan will allow the GT to start ordering plants and advise Alan O'Grady that the garden has been approved and is ready to begin.

Mark Olson made a motion seconded by James Donohue to adopt this plan as a starting plan, as a master plan for the McGowan Park site. Discussion was then held on motion.

The thought with the garden is that people would apply for the vegetable plots. Mark wanted it to be its own sort of park within McGowan Park and be inviting. There will be benches. Mark previously distributed these by email. They are relatively easy to make and hard to steal. The fruit trees and grapes around the outside are things that would be maintained by this 18 hour commitment. How to divide up the fruit is something that will need to be figured out. It will basically be that people walking through the park could pick an apple and eat it. They won't need a ladder to pick any fruit.

Mark said Secaucus had a little sign "if you didn't grow it, don't take it." His intention is he would like to see three or four fruit trees placed together and then pruned to about eight feet. They won't produce a lot of fruit but having three or four different varieties together, they will pollinate better. It will be different varieties that mature at different times.

The rain garden is actually an area where rain pools. If it is dug out a little deeper and plants are added, it will be a rain garden. The GT will get 10 points for the rain garden, 10 points for the community garden and 10 points for community outreach by having someone come in and talk at the garden.

Everyone who signs up for a plot will get a hoe and will be shown how to use them. It is probably all they will need to work their garden. Once there is a core group of gardeners, they will meet to discuss the gardens and tips they might have. People who are not familiar with gardening will be given tips such as

how to save seeds for instance will be one of the lessons for volunteers. People need to learn not to water their gardens too much. It is one of the biggest problems with a garden. That will be a big educational tip for the gardeners.

The GT can earn 10 points for minimizing water use. If they really teach people not to overwater, the GT can get these 10 points. Rain gardens are only meant to have rain in them for a day or two. The likelihood of someone falling in one foot of water and drowning is minimal. There will not be a fence around this but there will be plants so people can't walk through it. It is impossible to protect against everything.

Bat houses are another project the GT needs to get working on. Compost house, bees will all be part of the McGowan site. There are other types of bees than honeybees. Maybe the GT doesn't want to have honeybees at this location. There are mason bees, which are a solitary bee and kind of take care of themselves and don't bite much. The GT plans on making two bat houses. One will be put in McGowan Park and one at the high school. They will be 2 ft. sq. x 3 ft. high with landing strips all around. If anyone wants to help with this project, they are welcome. Mark Olson and Joe D'Angeli will work on that. They want to get the bat houses up so they get weathered.

Other types of flowering trees and shrubs will be included in the garden. Some will just look nice throughout the fall. This is just the preliminary plan and can be amended as needed. This plan calls for a pergola with maybe wisteria on top. There was a suggestion that a picnic be held once a year with the gardeners. This year only the inner circle will be done probably and next year the outer circle unless a large amount of people sign up for a plot.

The Village does not want to charge for this. The GT will probably be a little tougher than other towns as to complying with rules (keep weeds down, don't interfere with neighbors, etc.). The penalty is your plot will be taken back. Janet Malool thought people could do this in pairs so that the plot is always taken care of. Mark Olson said he thinks the scouts might want to do a plot. Residents, groups or businesses can do a plot. Fruit trees and grapes that don't come in stores are planned for the plot. Different apples that don't come in the stores will be another variety. All will mature at different times. The idea was to have different things that you don't buy at the grocery store and that ripen at different times. The fruit trees will be limited to the McGowan Park site at this time. Fellowship Park will be just the plots. Anyone who wants to help build a round picnic table should talk to Mark.

Roll call was taken on the vote of this motion to adopt this plan:

Joseph D'Angeli, James Donohue, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Gloria Rivera, Linda Quinn – Yes.

0 – No votes.

Mark Olson, James Donohue and Janet Malool will get together for a working meeting. The plan for Fellowship Park will have to be voted on at the next meeting as it is not complete yet. Janet Malool asked who would be making the raised beds. Mark Olson said he is good at building. If anyone wants to help him, they are invited. Mark will meet with Jim Donohue and the shop teacher to see what they can build. Jim thinks they can build the raised beds, benches, round picnic table for the center and Mark is hoping maybe precut the pergola. The GT also might be able to get some help from students toward their community service requirement.

Actions being worked on: Need to pick up the pace of the various actions. Right now, the GT feels safe that 35 points will be accepted. There are more actions uploaded but Leslie Olson expects them to come back and say they need more information. The GT needs to get 115 points in three months. The completed tasks that look like they will be accepted are: Prescription Drug & Safety & Disposal, GT Resolution, and Environmental Commission. Community Forestry Plan and Tree Cover Goal is awaiting 2016 approval status. Linda Quinn said it takes a couple of weeks to get the letter back. Tree cover goal will also definitely be done in time. April 8 is the next paper shredding.

At the next meeting, Leslie will go person by person to see what everyone has. Everyone needs to be ready next month.

Mark, Leslie and Peggy Conversano met with Bogota last night. They are happy to be partnered with RP for a Green Fair. They had more vendors than RP has right now. People sold things at their Green Fair. They might have a bus to haul people over. Maybe the GT can get points for that.

Next meeting, the GT will decide on shirts, hats and/or pins. A quick discussion suggested that shirts saying Green Team/Environmental Commission might work out best.

Website – Hernan Osorio and Mark Olson have IDs so they can add things to the website. They are able to access the Environmental Commission, the community calendar and the Green Team. Emails were set up for: RPCCommunityGarden@gmail.com; RidgefieldParkEC@gmail.com and RidgefieldParkGT@gmail.com.

As part of the Community Education & Outreach action for our Sustainable New Jersey application, the GT is hosting a Storm Water Management presentation/meeting on March 30th in the courtroom of the municipal building at 7:00 p.m. ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) will have several people to present and field questions. NJ DEP is also planning to have representatives to present and field questions. ANJEC and NJ DEP will have personnel with wide ranging knowledge at the meeting and be able to help us start the process of educating the community on how we can better manage storm water runoff. Invited to the meeting are: Mayor & Board of Commissioners, members of the Environmental Commission, members of the Planning Board, members of the Zoning Board, Alan O'Grady, DPW, Supt. and Mike Landolfi, Building Dept.

New Business –

Attendance – The GT will adopt a rule similar to other Village commissions that if a person is absent from three meetings without first having notified the Chairman or Secretary, they can be replaced. The member must notify either the Chairman or Secretary directly in order for an absence to be considered excused.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta that the Green Team adopt a rule similar to other Village commissions that members will be marked “present, excused or absent” from a meeting; three absences and the member can be replaced; members will be considered excused only if they first notify the Chairman or Secretary of their absence. All were in favor of this motion.

Mark Olson will contact Kimberly Calabrese to find out her intentions as far as the GT. Harry Menta will become an alternate if Kim is not continuing in that position.

Working Session – Mark Olson would like to have a working session at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting for anyone interested.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson, adjourning the meeting at 8:22 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca