**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**January 25, 2024**

Chair Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were: Leslie Olson, Veronica Leone, Janet Harris, Rita Raftery, Nicole Terrarosa. Absent: Gloria Rivera, Ex Officio Members. Excused: Tiffany Chen, Josephine Carangui, Harry Menta, Dan Raftery, Dennise Santana, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Joe Maggio.

The minutes of the November 26, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Dan Raftery and seconded by Harry Menta. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of bills:** none.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

**Correspondence****:**

* Email dated 11/30/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: Still room for 49 more families, flyer attached.
* Email dated 12/5/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: Pick up 91 lbs.
* Email dated 12/18/23 from Karen Marx, Leonia EC Re: Would like to discuss food waste program.
* Email dated 12/19/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: Pick up 130.90 lbs.
* Email dated 12/19/23 from PB Re: Application for 264 Main Street to convert to Family Laundry, Comments due 1/8/24.
* Email dated 12/20/24 from Mark Wellins, Hilton Garden Inn Re: Inquiring about place to compost food waste.
* Email dated 12/26/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: Pick up 56.50 pounds.
* Email dated 01/04/24 from Neighborhood Compost Re: metroSTOR galvanized, steel enclosures for organics.
* Email dated 01/09/24 from Neighborhood Compost Re: Pick up of 335.00 lbs.
* Email dated 01/09/24 from Neighborhood Compost Re: Pick up 60.00 lbs.
* Email dated 01/22/24 from PB Re: Residential Application – 383 Teaneck Road

**Reports:**

* **Sustainable Jersey Planning – Submitted 7/27 – Third Round submitted for 420 points.**
  + Application was approved for 31 actions in 12 categories for a total of 420 points.
* Actions that Expire in 2023: **Members to review and select one or two they can do or assist with.**
  + Create a Green Team – Leslie Olson
  + Community Education & Outreach - Update Welcome Guide with simple map – Rita will work on it too.
  + Emergency Communications & Planning – **Someone needs to review to find what updates are needed.**
  + Vulnerable Population Identification – **Someone needs to review to find what updates are needed.**
  + Energy Tracking and Management – Francine/Carol
  + Community Garden – Marian McKenna
  + Buy Fresh Buy Local – Nicole Terrarosa – Check the list and delete and update.
  + Environmental Commission – Barbara/Steve
  + Recycled Paper – Leslie Olson – might be retired so Leslie will look into it.
  + Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal – Leslie has support material and will give it to Rita.
  + Household Hazardous Waste – **Someone needs to review to find what updates are needed.** Need to advertise to community (might have been posted on social media already). Will ask Michelle for proof of posting.
* Possible New Additions?
  + Municipal Communications Strategy - **Someone needs to review to find what updates are needed.**
  + Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly
  + Public Electric Vehicle Charging Structure
  + Local Health Assessment & Action Plan – will file for the first round to get feedback.
  + Safe Routes to Schools – **does anyone want to look into this action?**
  + Lead Blood Screening – Barbara will look into this to see if it can be done now.
  + Best Practices Local Boards of Health – submission will depend on Commissioner Gerken and how far he wants to go with this.

**Old Business:**

* **Health Fair/Blood Drive** 
  + K of C reserved 10/12/24, waiting to hear back from St. Francis & AGE if the gym can be used
  + Holy Name Hospital asked for a date so they could put in their calendar.
  + Starting to gather vendors.
* **Welcome Guide –** a number of people have been asked to review for comments so it can be updated. Please continue to compile your comments. Dan Raftery checked the links to make sure they were all working.Page 11 – ambulance does not work, PD – not working, Parking – 404 error. Rita will work on the writing.
* **Newsletter:** Spring Newsletter – Starting thinking of ideas for spring newsletter
  + Article on bringing EPS to be densified.
  + SRP EOY Wrap up article – comments, should it be used in 1Q24newsletter as well?
  + 49 Spots still available for composting – remind people to remove tags from food before composting.

#### New Business:

**January -**

* Structured release of Health Survey**-**SRP, EC**,** Board of Rec**,**Municipal offices, DPW
  + Will email to employees.
  + Leslie will speak to Commissioner Gerken before releasing to the public.
  + Minimum of 130 responses needed for action.
  + See if the high school medical club wants to get involved.

**January - Civic Center - Strategies for winter sowing of native plant seeds**

* This was held on January 24, 2024, and given by Linda Quinn and Tammy Laverty. The program went very well. Linda and Tammy did a great job. There were 17 people there, who all seemed to enjoy the program.
* Thinking of maybe doing a session on vegetable gardening in the spring.

**March – 3/3/24 DPW – 10am - 2pm**

**EPS Recycling** - Open to all Bergen County towns. Hosted by Sustainable RP and Leonia Green Team. RP will need at least four volunteers on 3/3/24. 2 hr. shifts – Rita @ 10:00 a.m.; Veronica @ 2:00 p.m. – 2 or more needed.

Leslie explained that each town coordinates their drive. RP is not just the drop off point. The town must bring their volunteers and densify the Styrofoam that is collected. In February, Bogota high school is hosting an EPS recycling drive.

**Green Fair - Civic Center – 3/23/24**

* What members are available on March 23? What members are available to organize the event?
* Free indoor Green Fair. Leslie will invite 5 Green Teams (not including us)
* Theme: Spring Into Green Living. GT share their latest projects, most successful projects, or something else.
* On-site art project - 5-10 buckets filled with recycled items that need to be reused for youngsters.
* Possible Vendors - sustainable cosmetics, candles and soaps, Deirdre Jenkins @ dleinaturals@gmail.com Neighborhood Compost – Veronica will look into some vendors.
* Leslie Olson found a free QR code generator that SRP can use in the future. The codes do not expire.
* 4/25/24 Meeting – maybe ask Dry Goods Refillery to do a talk?
* Rita & Dan Raftery will be gone from May 14 – June 17 so they will not be able to pick up the plastic bags then.
* A resident emailed the Board of Recreation that he had some unclaimed bicycles that might need new tries or a little maintenance but could be fixed and he would like to donate them. Leslie will check with Cosmic Wheel to see if they have someone who might be interested in fixing them. SRP will ask Michelle to post on social media as well so the bicycles could be reused rather than put in a landfill.
* Leslie is looking for someone to donate and make two little libraries – one in front of the library when it is closed and another for McGowan Park. SRP will ask Michelle to post on social media.
* Elections to be held at the next meeting if there is a quorum.

**Dates to Keep in Mind:**

* Meeting dates for 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.in court room
  + JANUARY 25 MAY 23 SEPTEMBER 26
  + FEBRUARY 22 JUNE 27 OCTOBER 24
  + MARCH 28 JULY 25 NOVEMBER - WORK SESSION TBA
  + APRIL 25AUGUST 22 (IF NEEDED) DECEMBER – no meeting.
* **2/4/24** – Concert by Carolyn Enger (Musical Legacies) at 7:00 p.m. – Civic Center
* **2/4/24** – EPS Recycling @ DPW hosted by Bogota & Hackensack 10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Open to all Bergen County Towns.
* **2/17/24** – Gandharva Earl Sauls Jazz Trio Concert 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. @ Civic Center - $20 donation suggested.
* **2/18/24** – Brunch at Belskie Museum – Creative Bergen
* **2/24/24** – Jazz Workshop at Civic Center includes jazz training for kids (cost $100), potluck by parents ending with concert at 6:30 p.m. by the Jazz Trio
* **2/28/24** – **First Round SJ Submission Deadline**
* **3/3/24** – EPS Recycling at DPW 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (volunteers needed)
* **3/16/24** – RP Arts Association & Girl Scouts – Event to benefit Girl Scouts
* **3/23/24** – Indoor Green Fair @ Civic Center – Spring into Green Living – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**CANCELLED**
* **5/6/24** – Paper Shredding & Bulky Rigid Plastics Collection @ DPW
* **5/10/24 – Second Round SJ Submission Deadline**
* **7/31/24 – Third Round SJ Submission Deadline**
* **9/21/24** – Swap and Shop – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
* **10/5/24** – Street Fair
* **10/12/24** – Health Fair/Blood Drive – K of C – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Veronica Leone and seconded by Nicole Terrarosa to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 22, 2024, @ 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

cc: Commissioner Olson Barbara DeLuca

**Future Plans:**

* NJDMV Mobile Unit – maybe do this in 2024 and invite, Bogota & Little Ferry
* 4/24 – Invite Dry Goods Refillery to give a talk.
* Lantern Flies – popular topic raised by people on nature walks & social media – maybe a session on them with EC?
* No Mow May
* Mayor’s Monarch Pledge
* Possible gardening event on vegetables in spring