**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**September 28, 2023**

Chair Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:03 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: Veronica Leone, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Dan Raftery. Absent: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Daniele Fede, Gloria Rivera. Ex Officio Members. Excused: Tiffany Chen, Josephine Carangui, Dennise Santana, Janet Harris, Nicole Terrarosa, Rita Raftery, Joe Maggio.

The minutes of the August 24, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Leslie Olson and seconded by Veronica Leone. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of bills:** None.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

**Correspondence****:**

* Email dated 9/12/23 from Steven Rinaldi, DEP Re: The Village of Ridgefield Park is one of two nominees.

selected to receive a 2023 DEP Recycling award in the Government category! (Do not make public until 10/25)

* Email dated 9/22/23 from Sustainable Jersey Re: Application approved for 420 pts. – Silver Certification
* Email dated 9/22/23 from Chief Rella Re: Health Fair – Sgt. Milo will handle parking.

**Reports:**

* **Financial –** nothing to report.
* **Recycling –** The ribbon cutting for the EPS densifier was held on 9/27. It will be a shared service. The DPW will be handling it. Other towns will learn to work the machine as well. There will be a shared services agreement with the other towns.
	+ The plastic bag baler is in Englewood. Trex has gotten involved now. Trex buys baled plastic. SRP will need numbers from the DPW on amounts collected. If communities sign off for it, they can still get a bench from Trex. The town would need to go online to keep track of what they recycle.
* **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.
	+ Discussion was held on what expires in 2024. Assignments will be given out at a future meeting.
* **Health and Wellness – Barbara DeLuca and Leslie Olson**
	+ - Health Assessment Questionnaire ready. We need to get 500 points to be gold.
			* Phase 1 – Village Employees
			* Phase 2 – Make the questionnaire live – Leslie will check with Commissioner Gerken to get permission to release the questionnaire live.

**Old Business:**

* **Swap & Shop – review**
	+ moved indoors due to rain.
	+ liked having goods and clothing separated.
	+ volunteers (Key Club) were great.
	+ Brewster Park is still first choice.
* **Maywood’s Green Fair is 10/14/23. Commissioner Olson will man the SRP table.**

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* **Health Fair/Blood Drive – date is 10/14/23.**
	+ Academy of Greatness & Excellence gave permission to use their gym as a second location.
	+ Finalizing with vendors – approximately 90 will be at the two locations.
	+ Hackensack Meridian has confirmed nine tables, including Air Express – Lung Health Van
	+ Bobby Lee measured the rooms & will send over the floor plans – also providing skirted tables, trash cans
	+ Will collect non-perishable donations for Food Pantry.
	+ The County Health Officer will handle flu immunizations and tick-borne illnesses.
	+ Advertising for blood drive now – 38 out of 40 spots are filled.
	+ K of C will inform us what time on Friday we can set up. (Will let members know)
	+ Members are needed at 8:00 a.m. on 10/14.
	+ Need a key person at each location.
	+ Barbara DeLuca will purchase healthy snacks for the locations.
	+ Will send flyer to the apartments and include composting info.
	+ Key Club said they can provide volunteers.
		- Need someone to handle check-in at blood drive.
		- Need someone to check-in donors at blood drive and welcome visitors and hand out vendor list.
* **Newsletters:** Winter Newsletter – think about suggestions for the next newsletter

#### New Business:

* **Residential Food Waste Composting Kickoff and Orientation**
	+ Sunday, October 1 11am to 1pm VFW parking lot area 109 Bergen Turnpike
	+ Home food waste can be brought that day in up to a 5-gallon pail.
	+ If you are unable to attend the orientation, please send an email to sustainablerp@ridgefieldpark.org.
	+ Leslie will put a general Q&A sheet together for the event date.
	+ So far 28 residential addresses will be participating.
	+ Will send info to apartment buildings to post in their mailrooms.
	+ Leslie informed Mr. Savino about the ribbon cutting & food waste. He will share with their EC.
	+ Tenafly is also signing on with Neighborhood Compost. Allendale will be the next to sign up.
* **Welcome Guide –** SRP needs to check on it and make sure it is up to date.
	+ Dan and Rita will click on all the links and QR codes to see if they are working.
	+ Commissioner Gerken needs to get the town an account to set up QR codes.
* **Future Plans:**
	+ A Green Fair will be held in the civic center during the winter. SRP will invite other towns to participate.
	+ How does your garden grow? This will be a joint outreach project with the EC and SRP held in the winter.
	+ National Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge – native plants are available, and you just have to pay for postage, but they can only go to one place such as a community garden or religious property. Leslie will work on where to put the 190 plants. You can apply for more than one location, but all 190 plants must be used in that location.
	+ Oct/Nov/Dec – Leslie will check on MEL.
	+ 10/7/23 is the Street Fair. SRP volunteers needed to man the table. Veronica will take the afternoon shift until the end of the day. Need people to staff the table for set-up and throughout the day. Members should send in when they can work the table. Harry advised he is unavailable.
	+ 10/21/23 – Hard Plastic Recycling (need a flyer for this) and Paper Shredding at DPW. Need SRP members to help out this day.
	+ 2024 – NJDMV Mobile unit – maybe do this and invite Bogota & Little Ferry

A motion was made by Veronica Leone and seconded by Dan Raftery to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 26, 2023, @ 7:00 P.M**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

cc: Commissioner Olson Barbara DeLuca

**Dates to Keep in Mind:**

* **09/30/23 – Busking on Grove Street 12:00 p.m.**
* **10/01/23 – Residential Food Waste Compositing Kickoff and Orientation 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
* **10/07/23 – Street Fair Jazz Festival**
* **10/14/23 – Health Fair 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. @ K of C & AGE Gym/Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
* **10/21/23 – Rigid Plastics Recycling, Paper Shredding**