

NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
September 28, 2017**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:01 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: Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Janet Malool and Asai Maschang. Peggy Conversano entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Harry Menta entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Not Present: Excused – Gloria Rivera, Linda Quinn, Carolina Espin (will be late), Joseph D'Angeli (leave of absence), Guillermo Lopez-Acosta. Absent – James Donohue, Katelyn McGirk and Flo Muller. Ex Officio Members absent. Sunny Shin from Art Mora Art Gallery is present as a guest. Jin Ah Jong arrived at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Anlian arrived at 7:42 p.m.

At this point in the meeting, there was not a quorum present to vote on the minutes. A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson to change the order of the meeting and vote on the minutes later. All were in favor of this motion.

Approval of bills: There is only one bill for dirt that is included in the financial report. It is for dirt at McGowan Park that has already been spread. Mark will sign that voucher next week.

Hearing of Citizens: None present at this time.

Correspondence: Mark Olson has a series of emails from one of the gardeners who wrote to him to say there is a major ecological disaster with the fence and she wanted it to be treated as an official complaint. Mark told her he would and he will enter all of these emails as correspondence having been received by the Green Team. It is quite voluminous but it will all be included in the file if anyone wants to review it. This correspondence will be discussed under the Community Garden. To say it was premature to send the emails, is probably an understatement. It is a long way from being an ecological disaster.

Reports:

Financial: The GT started the year with \$29,000.00. The first item listed is for beds that were built in the spring for \$4,000, next is for two loads of dirt to fill the beds, \$825 is Earth Day/Green Fair expenses, three more loads of dirt, there were materials needed for the temporary water for the garden and signs for Earth Day/Green Fair. These expenses have all been paid. Things the GT knows they will have to pay for in the future are \$2,500.00 worth of expenses, which is mostly wood for Fellowship and McGowan Park and a few odds and ends and things. There is one load of soil, which is the bill that is waiting to be paid. Those bills have already happened and bills are all on the way. Things the GT expects to happen are probably two more loads of soil at McGowan to finish leveling and fill the beds. The wood at McGowan right now is for the gardeners' beds, not the public beds. There is about \$1,200 more that needs to be spent for the public beds. There will be some type of Halloween event at McGowan that will probably take a little money. There are \$400-\$500 needed to finish compost tumblers for McGowan. There is one possible expense that might be added to the budget. It is a November 14 luncheon that all members are invited to attend. It starts at 11:30 a.m. in Atlantic City.

Creative Team: The Creative Team had its second dinner to fundraise for the gala event. It will be holding a concert on October 21 at the Presbyterian Church. Three musicians will be playing and the cost is \$20. Flyers are out. Mark has tickets.

Community Garden: Janet Malool said the temporary fence was removed from Fellowship Park. There are 11 planting beds surrounding the gardens. They will be the public plots. There is roping and a trellis to look like a more natural boundary. The intent of those is to have room to grow herbs and vegetables for the public to take with the intention that if there are vegetables that the public can take, they will leave everybody else's alone. Time will tell if that works. In the interim, it finishes the look off nicely.

At McGowan, they are in the process of putting the third row of beds in. Once that is complete, they will also put in an outer row of the same beds with trellis attached to create a natural barrier around it. It is the same intention as done at Fellowship Park. This will bring it up to 56 planting beds. There are another 28 beds for the public to pick from. Both locations have experienced theft of vegetables, especially the perimeter beds at Fellowship and McGowan. Janet said she was at Fellowship yesterday and needed a little help straightening out the beds. She asked two teenagers for some help. She started talking with him and said they told her there was an older lady there with a plastic shopping bag and she was filling it up. A few days later the boys were there again and saw this woman with her bag and they confronted her. She stopped and left. Another woman told Janet that she saw a gentleman picking from someone who knew whose beds they were, they stopped this man. Janet thought it was nice that the public is protective of the plots.

Janet said they have broken up into committees. There are two leaders in each committee to oversee the members in their committee. There are currently two separate committees for maintenance at each location, herbs and vegetables, gardens and grasses, food pantry. The food pantry beds will be on the grounds of St. Francis for next year. There is now a communication director for the community gardens. He is overseeing the Facebook page for the community gardens and emailing information to the gardeners. They hosted a breakfast at McGowan last Saturday. The turnout was great because the weather was great.

Rain Garden: No report other than the geese love the rain garden since it is full of natural plants.

Old Business:

Community Gardens: This report will go first since Sunny Mora is here to discuss a project the GT would like to start in the community gardens. The GT would like to put a sculpture in the middle of the community garden of all the beds in a circle.

Sunny said she would like to discuss the idea and what is needed. She said the first thing needed is a curator. The GT needs to come up with a concept or idea of what they want and then they can put out a call to artists for what is needed. She can spread the word and then artists apply for the artwork. There are all kinds of grants for the artists.

The GT then selects the artist and chooses the artwork. You would then have to give them a set time, usually 2-3 months, and then install the artwork. The GT, of course, needs to pay all the fees. Finally, there is an opening event. Sunny's three ideas are a famous scene from a movie or musical and then the GT could have a movie night for instance. Idea no. 2 is a famous painting made from the sculpture so people see it is the painting from the sculpture. Idea no. 3 is nature and make a sculpture reflect nature. Sunny asked an artist what the cost was to do this and install it. He said \$12,000.00. So that's the first thing that needs to be done.

Mark thought maybe have a public meeting to discuss it. Peggy asked if some of the artists could show some of their work. Mark said it doesn't work like that. Sunny puts the word out and then interested artists get back to her. The artist submits a proposal for the GT to look them over.

The GT first needs a consensus of what idea they want the artist to present. The question is how to get consensus from the majority of the citizens and everyone has a fair chance to speak. Peggy said the GT can get input from everybody but in the end the Creative Team will help organize the artists and whittle it down and then come up with their recommendation for the Green Team. The Green Team will then have the final decision of what will be put in the garden. The public can voice their opinion on the theme or concept. The final decision will be made at a public meeting so people can voice their opinion at a meeting. Peggy said people can voice their opinion at a meeting or on the Facebook page where the GT could take an informal poll. Peggy said another thought might be to have a box in the Clerk's Office or the library so people can put their opinion.

Sunny said she thinks it would be good to put a sculpture in the park because Hackensack is getting famous for their painting program so RP could get famous for starting a sculpture park. In only ten years, Ridgefield Park could have a sculpture park and get famous and bring people into the town for the sculpture park. People would then stop at local restaurants and stores in town. It would give visiting artists a place to display their work as well.

Sunny said to be realistic since this is a new project operating on a small budget, she recommends starting small. She said once a project like this is started, the GT could start trading artwork with other towns. Sunny said she has found three artist's studios nearby. It is would very possible to share artwork with other studios. Teaneck has a lot of art studios. There would also be grant money available for these types of projects. As far as Sustainable Jersey, the GT got 10 points for starting a Creative Team and could get up to 50 points for putting the Creative Team to use.

At this point in the meeting, 7:30 p.m., Jin Ah Jong arrived.

Mark said there is enough money left in the budget to start this project. Mark is not sure of the process and how payment would work for this year. Janet said that maybe before a date is set the CT should elaborate on this first before setting a meeting date. Janet said if it is put out to the general public now, the general public might not understand it. Mark said that maybe the general public might come up with an idea that is great that no one thought of.

Another idea might be to say when do we want the sculpture to be put in the garden and then work backwards. The GT thought maybe spring would be a good date to hope for, such as May 1 would be the opening day. If May 1 is the target day, the artists need to start in January so the GT must pick an artist by January 15. It will either be the end of December or January. Sunny said three months is enough time for an artist to complete a project. Sunny said the artists should be given at least one month to come up with their ideas. She would need to contact the artists in November. She should tell them they need to submit their ideas by November 30 (when the GT would meet) and the artist would be selected in December. Sunny would need feedback on what the project will be by early November. She will know the categories through the Creative Team. The only thing different would be if someone in the audience came up with a great idea that was added to the ideas of the CT. This meeting would probably be held on November 15.

As this point in the meeting, 7:40 p.m., Harry Menta arrived. There was now a quorum available.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Harry Menta to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2017, meeting.

At this point in the meeting, 7:42 p.m., Commissioner John Anlian arrived.

Commissioner Anlian asked how people would learn of the meeting. The website is really the only thing available right now. The GT could send out notice of the meeting on the various Facebook sites and organizations within the Village. John Anlian said anytime something is put out there should be a blurb on it directing people back to the Village website.

At this point, Mark called a recess of up to 30 minutes to review the garden rules. This will give the Environmental Commission time to hold their meeting and then the GT can come back to finish their meeting.

After a short recess, the meeting began again

Community Gardens: Mark explained that he has a series of emails from one of the gardeners who wrote to him to say there is a major ecological disaster with the fence and she wanted it to be treated as an official complaint. Mark told her he would and he will enter all of these emails as correspondence having been received by the Green Team. Her complaint is that the fence was taken down and there were plants on the fence. This gardener will not accept any response given to her.

The GT went into an Executive Session to discuss personnel at this time.

After the Executive Session ended, the GT went on to discuss the list of rules that Mark had handed out. It is basically from everything that has gone on this summer. Even though they have said that the three people who run the garden will basically set the rules with oversight from the GT, Mark thought it would be good to have the GT weigh in and affirm the rules.

Peggy asked if on the bottom under good standing, if it was found that good standing was maintaining your plot and doing your work commitment with no other issues. Do you want to add something in there and abide by all the rules of the garden and basically be a positive force? This is the golden rule. Good standing is achieved by properly maintaining your plot, completing your work commitment and abiding by the rules of the garden.

Peggy said the last sentence says the GT may deny at their discretion. That is the bottom line right there. The sentence before that where it says the committee may waive the work requirement, by that it is meant that if someone has some special event going on in their life where it wouldn't be fair, then it is waived. It could be a sickness or you asked someone to take care of your plot while you were away and they didn't. You would get a first warning and a set time limit, say 7 days, to correct a problem.

A Facebook page is made available to the gardeners and it is meant for social use to share photos and gardening advice in a positive manner. It shall not be used as a forum for garden rules and policy. It also must be decided if the Facebook page should be made public. In the future when a grant may be available, you don't want them to say your group has too many problems. Janet said that maybe this page should be shut down and a new one opened. One community took before and after pictures and created a slideshow showing the evolution. The GT must find the right way to work this. A great deal of the people are having a great time and the GT needs to preserve that great time.

Janet was thinking under the Golden Rule and the hours and plots. Maybe there is a way to put in something about having a positive attitude. The GT doesn't want to dictate that you must come in with a smile on your face but on the other hand to put in someone who continually questions even if given the same answer by many people, there is no one who would say that is being a good neighbor.

There should be something to do when a vegetable falls on the ground, how should it be handled. The maintenance committee could pick it and put it in the basket for the general public or give it to the food pantry. Some people say why let it go to waste if it is not picked. You don't know the reason why the food is not picked. Maybe the person is growing it for seeds. Some plots are people that have lost interest because it is work and they didn't like it. Mark is hopeful some of those things will work themselves out. Some of what people think is stolen is taken by woodchucks and squirrels.

Again, people need to remember we are using public property. How much can you seal it off? There are toddlers walking around and they are fascinated by the garden and short enough to go in. The moms are trying to stop them but they get in.

Harry said it would make a good article to do a wrap up of the gardens with some photos. There are 75 gardeners, 74 were happy. Food was donated to the food pantry. It would make a nice little story. This year with the food pantry, we started with a few plots. Next year, we will move all of the food pantry plots to St. Francis. It will produce a lot more than one plot at each park. The public plots are unique to us. Rutgers doesn't know anyone else having public plots. It is significant. The GT will have 50 beds for the public next summer between Fellowship and McGowan, which is a huge undertaking. The plots are being built now. This year there were three beds. One at Fellowship and two at McGowan. They were herb beds. Next week, Mark is going to Rutgers Extension to try to get them to let our public beds be one of the projects they let Master Gardeners work on. If we could get that, then the Master Gardeners could use that as one of the projects they can work on. That would be great for the GT.

Mark will make these adjustments to the rules and send it around.

Barbara Wilke has agreed to take Jim Donohue's place on the garden oversight committee. He has not shown up since May and has not taken any of Mark's phone calls over the last three months. Janet said she spoke to him and asked him what his intentions were. He said he's only a representative of the schools and must ask Mr. Koenig what he wanted to do. One of the rules of running the garden is you must be a member of the Green Team. Mark put in a request for Barbara Wilke to be added. Mark is going to propose that there is a one-person exemption to the rule that until she is formally appointed as a member of the Green Team that she be allowed to act as a member since it is in process.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson that Barbara Wilke be allowed to act as an Associate member of the Green Team while she awaits her formal appointment as a member. She will be taking the place of James Donohue on the garden oversight committee. All were in favor of this motion.

Mark said if the GT is going to go for Silver certification that everyone needs to take two tasks. One task is the primary task and the other task, you can work on while waiting for something to happen with your primary task. If each person takes two tasks and one is easy for us and might be hard for someone else, then getting the Silver will not be a heavy lift. By the next meeting, Mark would like everybody to identify two and if you happen to pick three and need some help, we can get someone to help you. Mark passed out copies to everyone.

Mark asked Jin Ah Jong if she wanted to be an Associate with the GT, he would happily appoint her. The reason there is two groups is the Environmental Commission is about the environment. The Green Team is about sustainability. Jin Ah Jong said she wants to be a member of the Green Team but will be traveling next month and unable to attend either meeting.

Website: Jin Ah Jong said she would like to be more involved in the Facebook page. She said it is a very good outlet. Peggy will contact Joe to get Jin Ah access to the sites. Jin Ah was told to post and answer things on a timely basis. She did not need to run everything through the GT first.

Creative Team: Harry Menta said that if Mark sent him the info, he would write something up on the upcoming concert. The CT needs to sell 100 tickets to break even.

New Business: None at this time.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Peggy Conversano and seconded by Mark Olson adjourning the meeting at 10:10 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting will be October 26, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca