

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018 AT 7:30 P.M.

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
January 25, 2018**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 8:00 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: Carolina Espin, Eric Koenig, Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Katelyn McGirk, Jin Ah Jong, Chelsea Almanza, Gina Constanza, Peggy Conversano, Danielle Fede, Tim Holloway, Christopher Hurtado, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Diane Mancini, Asai Maschang, Florence Muller, Barbara Wilke. Not Present: Excused – Gloria Rivera, Joseph D'Angeli (leave of absence). Ex Officio Members absent.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta approving the minutes of the November 30, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of bills: None at this time.

Hearing of Citizens: Renee Bolduc was present and will speak during the Community Garden under Old Business.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Reports:

Financial: 2017 funds were encumbered under PO #32446 Art Mora \$6,413.48 for sculpture for sculpture garden in McGowan Park

Creative Team: The Creative Team has scheduled another concert for April 14 at the Presbyterian Church. The CT had ten artists send in their portfolio and five were selected to come back with their ideas and send in their proposal. The CT learned afterwards that it is customary to pay the artists a couple hundred dollars for their time to send in the proposal. The CT would like to allocate \$1,000.00 of the GT budget to pay each artist \$200. They originally had been told \$300 per artist but settled on \$200.00. This does not obligate the CT to use any of these artists if they choose to go in a different manner.

Community Garden: Janet Malool reported on the Community Garden. January started the second year of the Community Garden. Applications are now being accepted for the plots. Calendars of meetings are being created. The committee leaders will meet with Mark Olson, Barbara Wilke and Janet on the last Monday of each month and they meet with all gardeners on the first Wednesday of every other month, basically 6 months (Jan/March/May/July/Sept/Nov). Some adjustments will be made to the calendars due to holidays. They have received applications for the new season and will continue to advertise at various sites including Facebook and the Mom's Group.

Mark Olson said that when he was at the HUB meeting last night, there were other municipalities that did gardens but Passaic was very unique. Their sole purpose of the Community Garden was to raise vegetables for the Passaic Food Pantry. They did about 1,200 lbs. per year. RP is the only community garden that is free. RP is very lucky to have the backing of the Commissioners. It is not without work because everyone has to contribute by working but the GT is very fortunate to have full support from the Board of Commissioners.

Rain Garden: Nothing new to report at this time.

Old Business:

Renee Bolduc, a former Community Garden member, was present to discuss the Community Garden. Mark Olson asked her if she wanted her discussion held in an Executive Session or if she wanted it public. Mark explained to her that in an Executive Session the minutes are not posted they are kept separate. The public portion of the meeting has minutes that are made public and posted. She said she wanted her discussion to be public.

Mark explained that Renee was a gardener at McGowan Park who decided to leave and now wants to come back. The Garden Oversight Committee is referring her application back to the GT for decision on whether or not to accept her application to return as a gardener. Their reason for doing that is that they felt in some instances, Renee was engaged in

behavior that was inappropriate by commenting on Facebook as well as other things. Mark asked Renee if she would like to speak first and she did.

Renee said she lives at Landmark East, which does not have any outdoor space. She and her daughter have very much has enjoyed the garden. She did say she was going to leave the garden, just as she did Facebook. She did not appreciate the way she was being treated.

Renee said that by herself she did about 45 wheelbarrow loads of dirt. She helped to construct. What is not being said is how many work sessions that nobody showed up to. Renee and her daughter learned a lot about growing things and vegetables. In fact, she has vegetables growing in the ground right now. She posted things on Facebook along with calls to action, updates, needs for assistance. She felt she contributed every which way but there are times throughout the year that miscommunication was sort of reflected back at her and that she was making trouble for someone else.

Renee felt there were no meetings in the month of July and August, the prime season for growing. There might have been committees but committees did not start until the end of August. It was made known to her that she had to join a committee.

She said one of the things that bothered her was there was a plot that Mark took over. She emailed him five different times that this particular plot needs maintenance and never knew it was under his purview. The most hurtful part was growing cucumbers and going to pick them and they are not there. The main point of dissension was the fence.

Despite various reports of people walking into the garden and taking whatever they want and being caught single-handed, nothing was done so Renee went and bought stakes and rope and put up them. What really bothered her is there was no validation for her concerns. She felt she was treated like an unruly student. The rules do not make sense. There is one in particular that deals with an appeal.

Appeals of decisions:

Appeals of decisions by the garden oversight subcommittee may be appealed to the full Green Team. Such appeals can be done upon 15 days' notice to the Green Team and notification of all gardeners by the gardener appealing.

Facebook page:

A Facebook page is currently made available to the gardeners. It is meant for social use to share photos and gardening stories in a positive manner. It shall not be used as a forum for debate about garden rules or policies.

Renee feels that the gardeners don't understand about Facebook. We should just put pictures and be nice. Not everyone reads things. I was just trying to say that I'd be here on certain days to work. It is a little insulting to receive this letter that it is recommended that her application be denied. She said she was asking to stay. She feels her garden is still growing. It is not fair and it is just because her personality is not as strong as others and she can stand up to the Committee. She was delighted when Janet asked her to be a fourth person in the group.

Mark Olson thanked Renee for speaking acknowledging that it is not easy to get up in front of a group of people and state your opinion. He thanked her for doing it. He has done it a couple of times and it can be a nerve-racking experience even if you are on the Board. Mark said what he would like to do is find a way to resolve it and Renee stays as a gardener.

After getting the first letter saying her application was being referred to the GT for a decision, Renee called Janet who said there was a second letter that she could stay until February. Renee said she never got the second letter. Renee feels that Mark has done things inappropriate as well. He was doing construction, he didn't wait and just left. Mark attempted to explain that he was trying to get her to understand that she was one of 70 gardeners. Her comments should count more than 1/70th because she was hardworking but they should not count more than all 70 gardeners. That is where they are coming to their difference of opinion.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss whether Renee is willing to change her behaviors that have been pointed out to her that are unacceptable. Janet said that Renee's comment about being a fourth is misconstrued. It is not in Janet's power to invite a fourth person to head the garden. Janet's intention was that when Renee was pointing out comments was not to be part of the governing part but sit down with the three co-chairs as a fourth person and say these are the

things that I am noticing and maybe then the three of them could say OK, she has a point on some things. Mark said he thinks what she meant is like an associate on this group. They get their voices heard but they don't get to vote.

Renee said she sent him plot maintenance emails over and over again. Mark said he was trying to get her to understand that anyone can come up with what's wrong. What we are trying to get you to do is be part of the solution. Renee doesn't understand how she did anything wrong. She fixed the compost. She helped when nobody else was there during construction. She wasn't invited to any meetings. He didn't elect to put her on anything. Mark said that was not true. She was put on a Board and she refused to be a part of it. Mark said a lot of what Renee said was untrue or misrepresented but he did not choose to interrupt or challenge her.

Mark asked Renee if it was her position that she has not done anything wrong? Renee replied that her position is that she is frustrated. She feels Mark has misinterpreted her tone which is easy to do in a text. She is not trying to compare. She loves the gardening but if the problem is Facebook then you don't know how to use Facebook. Renee feels she doesn't get enough credit for all she does.

Mark said there is no question she is a good gardener. Right now, she is the only one who has things growing there. In the future, they will probably not allow people to turn their plot into a greenhouse not that what Renee did was wrong but looking ahead, they don't want 50 greenhouses at the garden. Next year there will be 75-100 gardeners. It is a large organization. Being such a large organization, it doesn't turn on a dime and Mark thinks she is having trouble with that. It doesn't move fast enough for Renee. Renee feels she follows the rules but Mark keeps changing them. Mark Olson said she doesn't not follow all the rules. Mark pointed out to Renee was that one of the rules is that they were going to change rules.

At this time, Mark Olson asked if anyone else had any questions? Renee interrupted and said this is the problem. He is the Chairman and she has the right to speak. Mark told her she does have the right to speak and has been monopolizing the speaking time.

Janet Malool said one of the points that she thinks Renee is missing is the fact that Renee chose to not garden anymore. Renee said she did not. She just asked if there was a way she didn't have to deal with Mark. Janet said that they met and she made the assumption that they no longer wanted her to garden. Renee said she was told she filibusters and manipulates conversations. Renee said she does that because she feels like she is never heard. Janet said that after Renee left the three of them actually brainstormed how they could work with her. Renee doesn't realize how open the issue is.

Janet said one of the things that she found is that Renee comes up with a lot of good ideas but she wants them implemented immediately and she wants to do things right away. Janet gets that because when you're on time crunch, that's the way a lot of things work but certain things don't work out that way. Renee asked for examples. Mark said she was asking them to justify themselves to her. The purpose of the meeting is for her to justify why she should continue as a gardener. Renee wants examples of what she has done wrong.

Mark asked if anyone else had any questions. Asai Maschang said the first thing we need to think about is that this is the first year the community garden is starting and we have to start understanding that eventually all of our concerns will be addressed in regards to the fence. Right now, some of the gardeners came up with the solution of doing the outer perimeter fence. In Fellowship it seems to be working because the temporary fence has been taken off. It is not 100% but it does seem to help a great deal. We also have to remember that it is a community garden and we want people to walk through it so I understand the not wanting to put a fence and barrier around it. Regardless of the fence, we have to understand that it is the first year and as the years go on we will be developing it and we are going to be working together to make it better. Renee said she has heard that particular statement over and over again by Mark and Asai said she has also repeated it to her several times as well.

Asai said she doesn't think this whole conversation has been very clear. The application has been put through and it was referred to the GT. Renee stepped down and then put her application back in. It is not that anybody told her no specifically. Mark explained they were having meetings with her and after one fairly long meeting, Renee decided to leave. Renee then reapplied.

After she reapplied, she engaged in a lot of behavior on Facebook that they were told was inappropriate. Janet said after sending Renee one email that she told her was private between the four of them was shocked to see Renee posted it on

Facebook. Renee said she posted it because she doesn't have a list of all gardeners and was supposed to appeal the decision. Mark said he never got notice that Renee was appealing and he has sent her the process several times. Renee said she did not know the process.

Mark said that if a gardener wants to appeal a decision by the overseers of the committee, it must be appealed to the GT. Mark said the matter needs to be adjourned until next month and Renee needs to notify all the gardeners that she is objecting. Renee said she already did that months ago on Facebook. Renee said that's how she used Facebook. Asai said she doesn't feel like Facebook is in a formal manner.

Guillermo Lopez-Acosta asked if there was a different way to go about this such as with a moderator? He is Pastor of a church and Mark asked if he would be willing to moderate the problem. Guillermo said he would. Everyone would have time to talk and Renee's constant interrupting makes it very difficult. He is just an observer here. He could do it in a different way. She did her part. She put in her appeal but going back and forth is not going to get anywhere. Everyone would be here all night. Guillermo said he would conduct it the way he does in his church but if the conversation is constantly interrupted, it is very difficult to come to a resolution.

Mark said it could be that she would have had a much different experience had she met up with the gardeners a couple of years from now when they are further along at being organized. The first year can be very difficult and it is not for everybody. Things change. Renee said she gave a lot of ideas to help them get organized. Mark said yes but you were also insistent that absolutely everything you came up with had to be implemented immediately. Renee felt that wasn't true. Renee said in July and August there were no meetings and then you turn it around into you wanted it done right away. Renee said the problem is now. It is growing right now. Is there someone else you could refer me to? Mark said he doesn't feel we are making enough progress to take up the amount of everyone's time we have. Asai said that we haven't had a chance to vote on this, can we? Mark said she is objecting to the process. Asai asked if she is objecting to the application being referred to the Board? She doesn't think it is clear what she is objecting to.

Guillermo suggested mediation and Renee so far has not been agreeable to this. Mark said that so far, we have asked you to stop certain behaviors and you have said no and you have not stopped these behaviors.

Danielle Fede said on her side job she is a court-appointed mediator. She is an attorney by trade. She is watching this and this is not an adequate dispute resolution. Her suggestion is she has listened to both sides and each party put together a little writing stating specific instances where things should be done quicker, why you want to rejoin the garden, etc. She can read them and talk to each one of you and tell you what she thinks should be done and then the GT can vote on it.

Guillermo said the final decision is the GT needs to decide if her application will be denied. Mark said anybody can put forward a motion and he is obliged as the chairman to ask for a second, ask for discussion and then decision one way or the other. He was hoping to clarify this so this would not happen again next month. Mark said that Danielle offered to be a mediator and Renee said let's just get this over with.

The garden committee met and they decided not to approve the application and transfer the approval decision to the GT. The GT holds the responsibility to remove a gardener. Danielle said so at this moment the gardener has nothing to appeal. Mark said yes, that is correct. Danielle responded that the gardener does not need to tell the other gardeners about the appeal because there is nothing to appeal right now. Mark it's not that there is nothing to appeal, it's technically she is not a gardener right now. Renee said she thinks she is. Asai asked what she is appealing because the GT has not made a decision. Mark said she disagrees with the decision of Barbara, Janet and himself to refer her application to the GT with the recommendation that it be denied. Renee is not appealing that. She just wants the GT to vote on whether she can stay or not. She will appeal if the decision if it is no.

To clarify for everyone, the garden committee has transferred the application of the gardener to the GT for a decision. There is no pending appeal until the GT makes a decision. There is no need to notify the other gardeners at this point. Mark said technically she is not currently a gardener. The topic is still here. The garden committee has transferred this application to the GT for a decision. If the GT wants to act tonight, it can. Janet said her thought is this, if the gardeners allow her to come back this year and sit down with somebody who maybe can actually act as a mediator come up with a way of behaving or communicate that both sides agree to and if she finds that during the year she cannot agree to it, then it would be like a probation period. Janet said her thought is like this. Some of the issues were joining a committee and at one point, Renee said she preferred working alone. Janet said it's a community garden. Janet is fine with her picking an

existing committee. Janet said that she personally is willing to give her leeway in finding what she can do and work with. Mark clarified that when Janet says “we” she means Barbara and Mark as well. The three of them have already discussed this already.

Janet said in some ways Renee was an asset and in some ways, it didn't work. In as many as she has people in her corner that support her, they also have people that have found her very negative for the group itself.

Renee said she is very detail oriented. Renee is black and white and Mark is grey. Renee said she has asked them to start a kids group. Their reply was oh, it's not appropriate; we can't do that. Mark said we didn't feel it was not appropriate. We said it's a long process and we have to get the village attorney in it. Renee said she tried to address various ways she could work independently and mesh in a productive fashion. She doesn't like to waste time. Mark pointed out that it was 8:57 pm. and at 9:00 p.m. he was going to suspend this until next month.

Carolina Espin says that a lot of criticism, a lot of putting people down, a lot of work needs to be done, no one is doing it, is posted on Facebook by Renee instead of teamworking it and working together. It's I want to do this myself. Peggy Conversano pointed out to Renee that every time someone talks her hand goes up and she dismisses and/or interrupts them. Please let others finish what they are trying to say. From what Carolina has observed, if you want to talk about behavior, from what she has observed, it is very negative and the negative is very prevalent. It affects a lot of the gardeners and it affects just the way they act with each other because they want to be a community. They want to work together and be friendly and don't put people down and just criticize. Carolina has seen a lot of this behavior.

It was now 9:00 p.m. and Mark suspended this matter until next meeting. Renee said she was not going to come and to please feel free to make a decision without her. She is sorry that everyone feels she wasted their time. This is the only forum she has. She has taken time out of her life and day. She is frustrated and she criticizes on Facebook and yes, she dominates because old people don't seem to like Facebook but Facebook shouldn't decide her capabilities. That is all it comes down to.

Sustainable Jersey: Committee:

Creative Team – The CT selected five artists to submit a proposal from the two portfolios they reviewed. The CT learned afterwards that it is customary to pay the artists a couple hundred dollars for their time to send in the proposal. The CT would like to allocate \$1,000.00 of the GT budget to pay each artist \$200. They originally had been told \$300 per artist but settled on \$200.00. These five proposals would be presented to the GT. This does not obligate the CT to use any of these artists if they choose to go in a different manner. They would try to have a public meeting on this as well. Mark said it is his personal feeling that it is worth the \$1,000.00 to find out if any of these five people will work out. They must each present at least one proposal but can present as many as they want.

The message to tell these people is we retain the right to not go with any of you – meaning we would either not do the project or go with a different approach. One approach would be to decide to go buy something that is already made; to decide that George Cook, who is on the Creative Arts Team did not put in a proposal. He is a stone sculpture who lives in town and does very nice work, some of which he is donating to the CT. We might decide we just want to go with him. The GT can decide whatever it is we want to do and that's what these five are being told. Mark thinks it worth it to see if this is going to be the right thing to do.

At this point, Gina Constanza had to leave but Mark Olson thanked her for coming to her first meeting and introduced her. She owns Gina the Baker and has been added to the NJ Sustainable Business Registry. She is also the first business to be a member of the GT.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson to allocate \$1,000.00 to pay these five individuals. A short discussion was held to clear up some questions. Eric Koenig asked if the GT gave some parameters or was it completely open-ended? Mark explained that the way this works is that the GT formed the CT under Sustainable Jersey. It is a separate body not answerable to the Village or the GT. There are three members of the GT that are on the CT but the CT is meant to aid art in the Village not to be the decider of anything. The GT asked them to help us find a sculpture but left it completely open what that would be. This is the new territory for the GT. They don't know if they will like anything any of the five propose or if they might want to go a different way.

Janet Malool said her only thought was they were going according to what one person said is customary. In retrospect, maybe in the future, the GT would like to look into other ways to handle projects. Other members said to think of it like sort of a contractor that you need to pay for their service. Eric Koenig said he knows it is not uncommon in other instances to pay a fee to someone making a model for a proposal.

Janet explained there were two public meetings to get ideas from the public and there was not much turn out. Mark said members need to remember that the GT asked the CT to bring some ideas. This is how they chose to do it. We need to stay out of telling them how to do it as much as they need to stay out of making the decisions. Right now, there are people on the CT that think they should make the decision because they are doing the work to putting it together. They are having to understand that they are just putting it together and the GT will make the decision. The people who pay for it, the residents, through the GT, are deciding which one or none.

Sometimes these events happen between meetings and these five people were already told to do their proposals. Members have to remember we want to hit the June installation date. The GT does have considerable latitude with spending it's budget but Commissioner Anlian is always aware of what is going on. Nothing is ever a surprise. The GT never does anything that he is not aware of.

This was part of the learning curve of a new committee. Sunny was not aware that none of the members knew it was customary to pay a fee for the proposal. In the future, there will be a process in place so that there are no surprise expenses. In the summer, Mark was given the authority to make any necessary expenses for the garden in between meetings. This is something going in the garden. Sometimes the bill doesn't come in until after the meeting but the expense had to be made before the meeting. The timeframe will not always allow a full meeting vote and if you are empowering someone to take charge of something, you need to trust that they will not make any unnecessary expenses as well. This can be further discussed at another meeting that when these things come up, how does the GT want it handled. At this point the discussion ended and a vote was taken. All were in favor of the motion.

2018 budget – The budget will be submitted to John Anlian within a couple of days.

Sustainable New Jersey – Mark attended a HUB meeting last night. The first meeting of it will be in RP next month. We need to decide on a date. Being the first host, Mark talked to them today, the GT will put on a five-minute presentation of what the GT is doing and planning to do. He would then like to let the Mayor speak for five minutes or less so the whole thing takes ten minutes. He is going to start on time and not wait for stragglers to come in. It will start with a slideshow and then the Mayor or one of the other Commissioners to start speaking.

The HUB will have two people from every GT that wants to participate. Mark is one and he needs someone else that wants to be on the Bergen County Sustainable Jersey HUB. Mark did volunteer to be Co-Chairman if they want him. It is very much a different group than us. Some of the members want to work on county-wide projects, which there are a couple we could do. Mark personally thinks that the HUB should concentrate on working together like we're doing with Bogota to help each other get certified. In our case, we're going to Silver. Maybe we could help Little Ferry get involved. We would like to try to help the schools start a program too. There are a lot of things but the HUB should put most of its energy on smaller things. Right now, Bergen County only has two Silver Certified communities. We are among the lowest in the state when you look at towns our size. We are one of the most affluent in the state, we should be the highest. Just because we are more affluent doesn't mean we're going to do better but we theoretically have more resources. We should flip those numbers and have one of the highest percentage of silver certifications, not one of the lowest.

Mark thinks it will meet once a month. Mark said they want to do Co-Chairs so it doesn't always fall to one person. Members can think about it. Mark said he thinks they want to meet once a month. Danielle Fede said she thought that was tough to do with all the other meetings people need to attend. Mark thinks it should be quarterly or every other month. He was intending to bring that up. Last night, the discussion was mostly if there was enough interest to form a HUB. The decision was to have a HUB and then how often to meet and what to put the focus on. Meetings will be rotated. Any GT that wants to host a meeting can. They will not be held at one facility.

Mark said he met with the Commissioners and gave a synopsis of what the GT had been doing for 2017 and what it will be doing for 2018 and that we are going to try to go for Silver Certification. The plan as we have it right now focuses on three areas, 1) arts 2) electric vehicles 3) Shade Tree Commission related topics. Mark told the Commissioners that he would like to ask them to pass some zoning changes to create an ordinance to create an art district downtown. There

was no real objection to that. He told them that he would probably potentially ask them for (and all of these things get us points toward Sustainable Jersey) to have an ordinance when there was new construction or renovation of industrial and commercial space, that 1% of what the cost of that was would be allocated toward public art in the Village.

At first there was a lot of silence until the until the Board attorney said it was a good idea. That is where it is at now. A lot of companies do it, they tend to do it themselves to put art in the workplace. The State does it on state projects. The thought was to try to use a big portion of that in the new development itself. This may eliminate the need for them to try to do it themselves but obviously there will be other projects going on like the concerts. That money would help to offset the losses because those kinds of projects are always in the negative, hopefully not by much, but they will always be negative.

Mark personally feels that having this kind of thing where you reserve a percentage for the arts is the biggest thing we can do to kind of change RP to the way he thinks everyone would like to see it in our lifetime. Nothing else will make as big an impact in our lifetime as long as the money did not get wasted. The Village would create some kind of oversight body like is done with the library for that money. It is kind of the same scenario. The library board is very good stewards of that money.

Mark asked if there were any thoughts because he would like to send a letter to the Board of Commissioners from the GT asking if they could do this. It is an uphill battle for sure. Art adds far more to the community than can be generated just from the simple economic transaction and the town needs to somehow fund that. At least a movement for this is that it would be kept tightly focused on art. Mark is not sure how the Commissioners would move on it. It is a big thing to discuss.

Mark said he would like to add what is standard for the State of NJ and what businesses do for themselves, which is 1%. Their responsibility is to do what is appropriate for the Village. This is limited to commercial. Residential would be excluded. The way you would have to write the ordinance is that everything would be structured except one and two-family houses. It would be apartment buildings, storage facilities, etc., would all fall under this. Mark said he has talked to some business people and they are in favor of it; one even said it's the only way you'll get it done. He also had no plans to renovate so it might be easy for him to say that. Renovations are included because sometimes renovations are quite extensive and the entire building is gutted and renovated.

This is one of the recommendations for getting points under Sustainable Jersey. Sustainable Jersey is meant to start conversations. If we don't ask, we'll get no before we even start. The members agreed to write the letter. There is nothing to lose. He thinks that maybe they just never thought about it before.

If this development ever takes place, it will have a big impact on this town. Everything will be affected. The emergency services will be affected. The schools will be affected. To have something different and special on this side of town will be a good thing. In the current plans, there are no plans to put any public art. Wouldn't it be great to have a facility in town for sale that could be renovated into a community theater? Right now, there are acting classes taking place in town and there is no place for it. If this development comes in, there will be more residents. What will be done with them? The population will definitely increase in RP and it will make a big change. They will need a place too. Since everyone was in agreement, Mark will write the letter.

Mark wants to bring this up at the first HUB meeting that RP is thinking of having an arts tax and try to get other communities to help out how they do it. Mark didn't get a sense last night that any other town was thinking of doing this. That is what makes RP special. The GT are more leaders than we realize. We have great funding for the Community Garden. We have good backing from the Commissioners on all we are doing and a lot of the other municipalities don't have any of that. For those that don't know, when we got our Bronze Certification we had the most points of anyone who got theirs from the State this year. We had 225 points, 150 are required and 350 are required for Silver. We are closer to Silver today than we were to anything one year ago today. There is plenty of work to do on it. Mark will get into that next meeting.

Rain Garden – Nothing new to report at this time.

Sweatshirts – We talked about getting sweatshirts that say GT or EC or both, depending on what you are on, with the Sustainable Jersey logo on it. The EC wanted to go ahead and do this. Mark thinks it a good idea as well since it won't add too many sweatshirts. There's not that many extras because a lot of people are on the EC.

July 4th Float – tabled until next meeting.

Website – We need to make it meaningful. Will discuss at next meeting.

Earth Day/Green Fair – It is scheduled for May 5. Mark Olson said a lot of the groups were surprised that RP and Bogota share members and do activities together. None of the groups thought about sharing members. It is early to discuss the Green Fair. Invitations have gone out for many of the people that participate at Earth Day already.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairperson:

A motion was made by Carolina Espin and seconded by Harry Menta nominating Mark Olson for Chairman. All were in favor of this motion.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Carolina Espin nominating Janet Malool for Vice-Chairperson. All were in favor of this motion.

New Business:

Janet Malool asked if it was possible to come to some sort of resolution with the Renee Bolduc situation. A motion was made by Carolina Espin and seconded by Harry Menta to approve or deny the application of Renee Bolduc. Further discussion was held on this matter and Carolina withdrew her motion.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Carolina Espin that the GT decline the application and allow Renee Bolduc to reapply in 2019. Roll call vote was taken. Yes vote: Carolina Espin, Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn. Abstain: Eric Koenig. The motion was approved. A letter will be sent to Renee Bolduc informing her of the decision with a copy going to Commissioner Anlian.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Janet Malool and seconded by Harry Menta adjourning the meeting at 10:45 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting will be February 22, 2018, beginning at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the EC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca