

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018 AT 7:30 P.M.

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
March 22, 2018**

Vice-Chair Janet Malool called the meeting to order at 7:32 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: Eric Koenig (arrived after roll call), Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Tim Holloway, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Asai Maschang, Barbara Wilke. Not Present: Absent - Chelsea Almanza, Gina Constanza, Diane Mancini, Joseph D'Angeli, Florence Muller. Excused – Carolina Espin, Jin Ah Jong, Katelyn McGirk, Peggy Conversano, Daniele Fede, Gloria Rivera. Ex Officio Members absent.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Mark Olson approving the minutes of the February 22, 2018, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of bills: Some bills will be coming in for some signs that Janet Malool had made for the garden.

Hearing of Citizens: None at this time.

Correspondence: 1) request for student research on community gardens, student pursuing degree at Montclair University in Sustainability Sciences; would like to meet with the community gardeners. Mark Olson will meet with him.

Reports:

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

Sustainable Jersey:

Bergen Hub Meeting: The Bergen Hub of Sustainable Jersey met in RP three weeks ago. This was the first regular meeting of 12 Green Teams. A couple of things discussed were interesting. There are 12 different opinions. Some groups want to ban everything like Styrofoam etc. This kind of efforts take decades. There is another factor that would rather recycle.

Leslie and Mark Olson went to Sussex to see a Styrofoam recycling machine. They sell it to a manufacturer of molding. They also met with BCUA about that two weeks ago. The BCUA will look into it. They may have some money to either pay for it or help pay for it. More info will be coming. The next meeting is April 11 in Oradell.

RP was the only one who was focused on art. Wyckoff was doing an art crawl. The GTs are looking to see if they can find a third municipality so there could be one in the middle to participate.

The Hub also talked about having possible work sessions so you can sit with another group that has done the action or is trying to do the action.

Creative Team: On March 24 at 6:00 p.m., the Creative Team, will be hosting a design preview and reception at the Civic Center for the artists that have submitted ideas for the sculptures for McGowan Park. They will ask people who come to submit a survey for people's thoughts. The CT will also try to take the ideas on the road in order to get a wide selection of opinions for the sculpture. They are thinking of taking it to the Civic Center for the seniors using that building. They might take it to the Rotary, K of C, Women's Clubs, etc. They also hope to be able to put a display up in the library. They will code the bottom to see which group it is being given from. Ultimately, the decision will be the GT's. Mark is hoping that GT members will get to where they are on display so members are familiar with it before they vote. Three of the artists will be there on Saturday.

The CT is also planning a concert, Springtime in Paris, on April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church at 227 Euclid Avenue. The concert will include a harp, bassoon and flute. They will begin advertising it soon.

Community Garden: Barbara Wilke reported on the Community Garden. All 21 Fellowship plots are taken. There are still 23 plots available at McGowan. The Community Garden is growing. New members have been added. They are waiting on the 2018 budget before moving forward with large projects. Planting schedules for the public vegetable, herb

and flower beds are being established as well as a maintenance schedule. These will allow gardeners the opportunity to participate while fulfilling their required volunteer time of 24 hours.

Unfortunately, the snow cancelled the March 7 meeting and they are looking to reschedule it in April.

Abdiel Jimenez Sosa, a student of Montclair University and a Ridgefield Park resident, emailed the Community Garden asking permission to study the town's urban green initiative and community garden as part of his capstone project. Abdiel is pursuing a degree in Sustainable Science. A meeting will be scheduled to learn more.

The gardener, whose application was denied by the Green Team, appealed the decision to the Commissioners. An update and discussion will be held as a separate discussion.

Rain Garden: Nothing happening right now but we may have to replace a few plants.

Old Business:

Budget: Haven't heard anything yet.

Community Garden: Renee Bolduc, the gardener who appealed the denial of her application, met with Commissioner Anlian, Mark Olson, Barbara Wilke and Janet Malool. The meeting resulted in a need for a revote of the application. Commissioner Anlian asked the GT to reconsider the ruling to allow her back for the year with garden rules in place and specific rules that he put in place. A letter will be sent to her advising her of the following:

- 1 - You will not be allowed to participate on the Community Garden Facebook page.
- 2 - You will keep emails to the Garden Oversight Committee to a minimum.
- 3 - You shall not make, nor post, any negative comments to fellow gardeners and keep criticisms and complaints to yourself.
- 4 - Should you attend garden meetings, you will be limited to 5 minutes of speaking time.
- 5 - You may bring up suggestions you feel necessary. If it is determined your idea is not to be done immediately or at all, you need to stop arguing. No arguing will be tolerated.
- 6 - These rules may be amended at any time.

At any time, should you violate any of these rules or the general garden rules, the Garden Oversight Committee shall request Commissioner Anlian terminate your participation immediately.

A motion was made by Janet Malool and seconded by Mark Olson, to accept the application of Renee Bolduc for 2018 providing she follow the garden rules in place as well as specific rules put in place by John Anlian; it is also understood that if she breaks the garden rules or Commissioner Anlian's rules; she will be terminated.

Roll call vote was taken: Yes: Eric Koenig, Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn. No: Leslie Olson.

The motion was passed by a vote of 5-1.

Renee's plot was given away when she left the garden. She will have her plot reassigned. It is very possible that she will be moving out of town she advised Janet.

Sustainable Jersey: The GT needs a lead person for every action that the GT is planning to do. There are some that are marked out. If a member sees a different action they would prefer to work on, that is fine too.

Eric Koenig introduced Lorissa Flores, a ninth-grade student at the high school that will be working on the RPJ/SHS Green Team. Mark Olson explained a little about the GT to her. Eric Koenig said the school GT will try to meet every two weeks on Fridays. Janet Malool said she would like to work with them but Fridays will be hard for her for the next few weeks.

Mark explained that some of the actions are priority actions that the GT really needs to concentrate on. The GT needs to find one more for Silver. Actions that have been taken so far are:

Category	Action	Lead	Points
Community Partnership & Outreach	Energy Education and Outreach	Eric Koenig	10
Health & Wellness	Safe Routes to School	Eric Koenig	10
Innovation & Demonstration Projects	Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly	Leslie Olson	15

Innovation & Demonstration Projects	Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Leslie Olson	15
Natural Resources	Tree Hazard Inventory	Linda Quinn	10
Natural Resources	Tree Maintenance Programs	Linda Quinn	10
Natural Resources	I-Tree Assessment of Municipal Trees	Linda Quinn? Will try	10
Natural Resources	Open Space Plan	Linda Quinn	10
Operations & Maintenance	Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Ordinance	Eric Koenig	5
Operations & Maintenance	Green Cleaning Products	Leslie Olson	10
Public Information & Engagement	Municipal Communications Strategy	Janet Malool	10
Waste Management	Recycling and Waste Reduction Education & Compliance	Leslie Olson, Barbara Wilke, Eric Koenig	15
Waste Management	Non-Mandated Materials Recycling	Eric Koenig	15
Waste Management	Reusable Bag Education Program	Eric Koenig	15
POINTS ASSIGNED SO FAR			160

Operations & Maintenance	Driving Training	Ask Donna from DPW	10
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All members are asked to review the list of actions and advise what action they want to be the lead on. Mark said that we must get the info into SJ by May 1 but have until November to do the action. If a member doesn't want to take the lead, they can partner with another member to do the action. Somebody must sit down and write something and then the second go around is July.

Creative Team: A reception will be held on March 24 at the Civic Center at 6:00 p.m. Seven ideas for the sculpture will be on display. Three artists will be available to answer questions. Members should make a point to attend or try to see the ideas at some point since you will be voting on this. The CT may rename itself the Ridgefield Park Art Society after the original art society active in RP quite some time ago. Janet Malool explained that they started with 30 artists and 5 put together seven ideas for the sculpture.

Mark Olson said the GT should give some money to the CT to host the event. The GT must pay each of the 5 finalists \$200. Mark suggested that the GT give \$500 to the CT to host this event.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta to pay or advance the Creative Team up to \$500.00 to go towards the expenses they have incurred to gather opinions from the public. All were in favor of the motion.

There is a concert coming up on April 14 at the First Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. Posters will go out soon.

Rain Garden: Still good except for the geese.

Sweatshirts: An order form will be emailed to members to place their orders so the clothing is available for May 5.

July 4th: Need to decide by April meeting if anyone wants to participate in July 4th parade.

Website: Harry Menta and Guillermo Lopez-Acosta will work on the website. They will meet with Mark Olson shortly to get going on the website. Members should submit any news they want on the website.

Earth Day/Green Fair: It is scheduled for May 5. Bogota is looking into seeing if we can use their senior transportation vehicle as a shuttle. We would then need to work out a shuttle location and pick-up times. If this doesn't work out, we might be able to use one of the school buses but will probably have to pay for the driver and gas. The Police Dept. will be asked to send out a Nixle message encouraging carpooling, walking or biking due to limited parking. A message will also be on the Community Message Board. All of the vendors have been pretty much confirmed but we have not heard back from Bogota yet on who they have coming. Carolina and Katelyn said they could be the photographers for these events.

New Business:

Eric Koenig advised that the RPJ/SHS officially has a student Green Team now. They will meet on Friday afternoons. Harry Menta said he is off every other Friday and would like to come to a meeting if he got the schedule. Janet Malool will also try to attend once she is done with tutoring.

Asai Maschang suggested that honeybees be put in McGowan Park. She could take care of the hive. Mark said she would need to meet with the Garden Oversight Committee to discuss the project.

Tim Holloway will continue his rock sifting project next month.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Janet Malool and seconded by Leslie Olson adjourning the meeting at 10:06 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting will be April 26, 2018, beginning at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the EC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca