

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018 AT 7:30 P.M.

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
May 24, 2018**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 8:10 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: Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Tim Holloway, Florence Muller, Gloria Rivera. Not Present: Absent – Chelsea Almanza, Gina Constanza, Joseph D'Angeli, Diane Mancini, Asai Maschang. Excused – Carolina Espin, Eric Koenig, Katelyn McGirk, Jin Ah Jong, Peggy Conversano, Daniele Fede, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Barbara Wilke. Ex Officio Members absent. Also present was Giselle Holloway from the Creative Team (now RP Art Association).

The approval of the April 26, 2018, minutes will wait until next meeting to check on a clarification.

Approval of bills: PO No. 33922 in the amount of \$49.99 was paid Re: supplies for picnic table/bench at McGowan Park.

Hearing of Citizens: None at this time.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Reports:

Financial: 2017 funds were encumbered under PO #32446 to Art Mora \$6,413.48 for sculpture for sculpture garden in McGowan Park. No word on the 2018 budget yet.

Sustainable Jersey: Mark Olson said that we have enough things marked completed to submit for Silver. It does not mean they are all actually completed. SJ will come back and ask where is the missing information and details and then the real work will begin. Mark thinks that once he submits the application, the GT would not be allowed to add any other tasks until it is open again in July. The GT can continue to work on activities but they must wait to be submitted. He must submit by June 5. Linda Quinn said the STC activities are shaping up really nice. She will give Mark as much as she has so he can submit it at this time. Afterwards, we can add or substitute things but there must be enough to push the button to submit the application.

Creative Team: The CT applied for and received a tax ID number and created a NJ non-profit corporation for supporting arts in RP and they are actively searching for someone who does 501c(3) forms. On June 30, the CT will be holding a dance class. There will be two sessions. There are seven students from the high school who will attract people for the class. It is their community service project and they are determined to fill the class and they have been fantastic for giving the CT ideas to help. They are doing the publicity for the event. They are meeting with the kids next week and will disburse the posters then. It is open to dancers 10 and over.

Community Garden: Janet Malool reported on the Community Garden. They have a few new gardeners and more signed up the past day or so. Planting has begun in both private and personal plots. Painting of the public beds continues at both locations. Water is on at Fellowship.

They have received a donation of two small sculptures donated to us by George Cooke. One is stone looking like a headstone with a cloth draped over it and the other is a totem pole made of wood. One was placed in the back area as part of the new section at McGowan, which will be a "Tranquility Garden". The name may change but for now, we are using tranquility to describe it. The roses were moved back by that area and eventually seating and other plants will complete it. The sculpture in the middle of McGowan is on our agenda as a separate discussion.

Rain Garden: Linda Quinn said the garden is doing good. It is starting to fill in but it will take a little time to get there.

Website: Harry Menta said he did some clean-up of the website. He put some photos on each section. Harry asked for photos to up-date the website whenever available. He updated the Community Garden because it had last year's page on it still. Harry asked for updates or if members noticed he missed something, to please let him know. He would like to make the page different every month. Katelyn and Carolina did a great job with photos that he made into a slideshow for Earth Day/Green Fair.

Bergen Hub: Mark Olson said he attended the meeting a couple of weeks ago and the main topic was electric vehicles and how to get charging stations for them. The GT has the Commissioners' approval. It takes about a year to get ordinances approved as well as changes needed in the lots.

Mark is now on the polystyrene sub-committee that is planning a two-prong approach to the polystyrene problem. The first is to ban it in county parks and encourage municipalities to ban it as well. After speaking with John Anlian, it sounds like RP is willing to do that too. That is banning it on county and village property, not anywhere in the Village at this point. The second part is a collection event, which will be held either on October 27 or September 22 or that week. They are looking at three drop-off sites – RP, Wyckoff and Oradell. If BCUA funds it, it will be county-wide. If the county does not fund it, it will only be around here including Bogota, Leonia and RP. We would need to get the information out about three months ahead of time so people could start saving. There is a specific list of what will be accepted (non-food styrene). The info needs to get out. The Hub needs to get its information gathered so the public can be notified. At the next meeting or through an email, details will be distributed on this.

Old Business:

New Village email address: greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org. This email should be used for all municipal business. The old email address gives an automatic reply advising of the new email address.

Financial: 2018 Budget – did not get any official word on it.

Sculpture: There are some proposed changes. Mark met with the artist and George Cooke. They have agreed to do the project together but want to change a few things. They are just moving the ball into the center and it will be made out of limestone instead of stainless steel.

The peak will be a little higher. They would like to change the stone from granite to limestone. It is difficult to carve in granite exactly right. Granite would be twice the cost of the budget. Sung Ho got an estimate from a company that would do it in granite and it was more than twice the budget. He also gave a few options after the GT talked about putting a bench around the sculpture. One option shows a bench but the difficulty with this is that 1) it is a little bit hard to do this because the walls aren't straight and the second is it is a huge piece of concrete that will be in the middle of the garden. The next picture is also 36" high like the others but with Mark putting some flowers around it. The idea is that we could maybe raise the dirt, plant the flowers to make it look better. They also sometimes serve as buffers to keep people away. The last page is the 36" pedestal making the sculpture 7' high. The top outside corners are slightly rounded so someone doesn't come up and get hurt on it. The last picture doesn't show the detail as much because in this model, he has extended the detail all around the sculpture. In the first model, the detail is on one side so we can see it. In real life, it will be 360 all around. The carvings will be the same, just a little further apart. It is hard to show a 3D carving in a one dimensional.

Janet was asking, because in her mind, you wanted to touch the design. This design seems more open and you can appreciate it a little further out. This platform is basically going to be round, like a tube. The design goes around the entire piece. The sun was supposed to be around but the proposed change is not a disc but it will be roundish, a little fatter in the middle. From the front and back, it would be round. The exact width will be determined when George carves it.

Giselle Holloway said she feels the sculpture is beautiful but she has some concerns she needs to express. Her first concern is that we are worried about whether this will fit the budget. Mark said there is no worry about that because we are only paying \$10,000.00. Giselle is concerned that the design that the community saw and the design that people gave input on is based on granite. She knows that was a key factor in the decision at the last meeting and at all the meetings it was granite and the ball was to be made of stainless steel.

She feels it is a different design that it is now made out of limestone. The ball is not made of stainless steel. It is a different color because limestone is gray. She said the CT spent a lot of time showing this to over 150 people and the ultimate design won't be that much different but it won't be anything that any of us have seen. She is just expressing that. It is tough because it is a very important decision and it is the first one we are doing. There are some concerns. Quite honestly, when the other artists put forth their design, it was within budget and they did not make or propose any vast changes to make it work. Mark said that was not entirely true. Serena proposed flat stock rather than round. In her kind of sculpture, that makes a very big difference.

Giselle said she is just concerned because it is a different material. It is now limestone and not a steel ball. It is a different color and it might be beautiful. She is not saying it won't be but it will look different than what people gave their opinion on. In her opinion, these are significant changes. Linda Quinn said the color is different.

A discussion was held on reasons why some of the other sculptures were eliminated and concerns of different people with each of the sculptures. Safety was a concern of some of the people. Giselle pointed out that everyone is new and there are things everyone has learned for the future in the process. Mark said Sung Ho was also concerned about if the sculpture would be able to be moved to another park in the future since that was the initial plan of the GT.

Giselle said she did admire that Serena told the GT about some changes that would be necessary to complete her design within the budget. She reached out to the GT before any voting took place. Mark did speak to her about how if Sung Ho was not able to do his sculpture within the budget, would she be able to do her design within the budget (as she was second choice). Serena said yes, she could and then she went on to tell Mark how the Green Team could raise some money so Sung Ho would be able to do his design, which was very nice of her.

Mark said that how the sculpture is mounted was not part of the proposal. It is entirely the decision of the GT. This will come as a square stone and it will be lifted off the truck and put under one of the trees and George will carve it there. When the growing season is over and some beds are cleared and the concrete is poured and seasoned, the DPW will come back and move it to the center of the garden. It should be a fall installation.

There are expectations and there is an unveiling and no one knows what this will look like so it could be problematic. That is one of Giselle's concerns. She is just worried that some people might comment that it is not the same design they voted on.

Mark said in his opinion, certain changes are expected but these are significant enough changes that he wanted to come back and discuss with the GT. Linda Quinn questioned why he would put granite when it cost so much to carve. Mark said Sung Ho did not know it would cost that much to carve. He is a painter. George Cooke is the sculptor and he suggested limestone. The GT appreciates that the CT is concerned that the design will not look exactly as they presented to the community for feedback. Mark pointed out that most of the community only looked at these designs briefly. The committee is the group that had the opportunity to look more closely at the designs.

Mark said it is great that the Commissioners support this and are supporting art in RP. The second good thing about this choice is that both the artist and sculptor have ties to RP. Sung Ho used to live in RP and George Cooke does live in RP. He is going to carve the sculpture in the park so people will get to be part of the process and see it progress, which is unique. This sculpture is also movable.

Each person attending the meeting was asked to voice their thoughts on whether to accept the sculpture with the changes. Most people, although with some reservation, felt the design was close enough to what was presented. It will be different from what was voted on at the initial meeting but they would still be satisfied. There are several reasons why the design needs some changes. The fact that George Cooke, a RP resident was doing the carving, made a difference to the acceptance of these changes. Sung Ho will make a clay model as guidance for George.

Janet Malool said she still has reservations about this sculpture inviting people into the community garden. She is concerned that some gardeners will complain. She also doesn't want to alienate any gardeners. Mark said gardeners have to remember that they are invited to garden at no cost and it is still a public park. She is also concerned that since the stone has changed, she is not sure what it will look like. She suggests that in the future, a sample should be asked for so people have a better idea of what it will look like. Mark pointed out that they did send for two samples of two colors to show the GT. The objective is to get more art in public places so all can see and enjoy it. Harry Menta said it is a community garden and we want to attract the community.

Mark pointed out that procedurally, what is on the table is if we should go to the other design or accept these changes. We are definitely making some allowances for the magnitude of the changes but there is one huge reason and that is because George is involved. That is the best thing about this to some people, that the sculptor is from RP. Mark reminded people that when the project was began, it was always the intention that if there is somebody from RP that submits, they would get preferential treatment. While George did not submit, he is helping on the project and he will actually be a big part of the face of it. Sung Ho lived in RP for awhile so George should get 1/2 or 1/3 preferential

treatment because although he did not put in for the project, he is now a big part of it. Mark said that when he spoke with some people, they are very interested in the fact that someone from town would be carving it. It has now become a collaboration. It is two people now. When the vote was taken, the GT's instructions were to contact Sung Ho and ask him to work out a deal with George Cooke first. They were able to make a deal but it included some changes. George will not do it in granite because it is far too hard.

The choices are, we could say it has to be in granite, in which case Sung Ho can't do it and we would then go with Serena. Or we could say, it will be done in a different material plus these other changes but it will be done by George, which is a big plus to have it done by somebody local. The whole purpose of this is to promote art in RP. There is a little bit of collaboration here. The DPW would haul the stone around, which is good. Gerard Garofalow will set the concrete for the stone because he knows what he is doing.

Janet Malool asked if we could mock up the base and then mock up how high it would be to get a better visual. Mark said this absolutely should be done. Janet Malool said it is hard to visualize it proportionally without seeing a mock-up. Mark said to do this he thinks a sub-committee of three people should be put together to keep the project moving at a faster pace. This group can handle additional changes that might be necessary. These small changes could be done quicker if a group can make these decisions. Mark thinks it should be three people from the CT, GT and/or Community Garden. Mark said as the chairman he has a choice. He would like Giselle and Janet on it and he will be the third person. This would be someone from each of the groups then. Small decisions could then be made without having to wait for a meeting each month.

Mark said looking a little down the road, to pick someone and then unpick them, is a little bit of a big deal than if we were just picking from scratch. He is not saying to pick something we don't like, this was wisely done to have a second choice in case the first choice did not work out. The process set up is a good one. People really appreciated being asked.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Janet Malool that we decline this design and go with the second choice. A short discussion was held on this motion. Roll call vote was taken.

Yes – Janet Malool

No – Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn

The motion to decline this design and go with the second choice was denied. The original choice of Aeon as the sculpture chosen for McGowan Park community garden will stand with the changes discussed at tonight's meeting.

Community Garden: The gardeners will march in the July 4th parade.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Harry Menta to buy a banner for the gardeners to march with in the parade. All were in favor of the motion.

Harry Menta suggested having a give-away for the gardeners to hand-out during the parade.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Linda Quinn to look into a give-away to be used at the July 4th parade. All were in favor of the motion.

Rain Garden: Looking good, coming in fine.

Website: Harry Menta would like one rep from each group to give him information to keep the website updated.

This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. Leslie said members need to feed Harry info. He can't do it all by himself.

Sustainable Jersey: Mark said right now there are 350 points that have to get in. If anyone has something to submit, it has to be done now. If you get it in, they will give you feedback. If you don't get them in for next round, if you fail for some reason, then it's third round. Janet is holding one task for next year because she inadvertently did it while working on another task. This will give 15 points for next year.

New Business: None at this time.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson adjourning the meeting at 10:00 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting will be June 28, 2018, beginning at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the EC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

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