

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

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
June 28, 2018**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:41 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, Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Katelyn McGirk, Jin Ah Jong, Gina Constanza, Asai Maschang. Excused – Eric Koenig, Daniele Fede, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Barbara Wilke. Joe D’Angeli, Diane Mancini and Ex Officio Members absent.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Harry Menta approving the minutes of the April 26, 2018, meeting. All were in favor of this motion. A motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Leslie Olson approving the minutes of the May 24, 2018, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of bills: None at this time.

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. Still working on a preliminary budget as the County has not come back with the official budget. The budget right now is \$29,500 and about \$10,000 has been spent.

Sustainable Jersey: Mark Olson said the GT submitted with 360 points applied for. Last year, they came back with comments around August 1. Some points we will not get until the activity is actually done.

Creative Team: This Saturday is a dance event going on. Giselle Holloway and Janet Malool are running it. It is similar to Dance with a Star. The instructor is the winner of the European So You Think You Can Dance. They are getting a lot of last minute people coming in.

Community Garden: Janet Malool reported on the Community Garden. They are harvesting vegetables now. The lettuce is ready at McGowan Park. Janet gave it out to about 20 people at the concert. It was well received. They will set a time at Fellowship Park for picking. The gardeners decided on a t-shirt design. Several of the gardeners will march in July 4th parade. They got a banner they will use at different events.

Rain Garden: Linda Quinn said the garden is doing well. It could use some weeding. They will have a public day so people can learn which plants are weeds and which are plants.

Website: Harry Menta said if anyone has photos to send them and he will post them. He is trying to keep the sites fresh. Members should feel free to email any ideas or suggestions to him. It would be a good idea to take pictures of the sculpture as it progresses. There are links at the bottom that connect to the other sites.

The website is coming along. Members should send anything they want on. The Community Gardens should send some photos and any info they want posted.

Old Business:

Sustainable Jersey: It was suggested that maybe sometime in July or early August, the GT should have a strategy meeting to figure out how to do this. It will be harder than last year. Katelyn McGirk said she would like to share the ideas she got at the SJ summit.

Clothing Swap: The clothing swap to be run by Gina Constanza was originally scheduled for July. It has been decided to move it to September. Gina explained the way it works is you make a timeline for people to drop off gently used clothing. You drop off three items, you take three items.

This is done because you don't want textiles to end up in landfills. The purpose is to educate people about keeping textiles out of landfills. Gina has done fashion shows at these events. It helps to teach people that just a little thing can make a difference. She has jewelry designers attend as well. It is usually done outdoors and they will hold it at McGowan Park on Sunday, September 23. She has goodie bags for participants. Various activities take place during the day such as a fashion show. Her daughter's dance school would like to put on a little show.

The GT should start promoting the event as soon as possible. Katelyn McGirk and Janet Malool said they would like to help. The flyer should be done by the second week of July.

Financial: 2018 Budget – did not get any official word on it, still working with a preliminary budget.

Community Garden: Janet Malool, Barbara Wilke and Mark Olson made a rule change to allow people that don't live in the Village but work in the Village can now have a plot.

Rain Garden: Looking good, will be using seeds in it.

Bergen Hub: The proposed date set by the HUB for the Styrofoam recycling is September 22. One of the members doing a lot of the work wants to change that to do three weeks. Hugo Poli, the DPW Commissioner, wants only one day. RP is willing to host one day and is willing to process the grant money. Mark Olson spoke to Daniele Fede about doing it with just RP and Bogota in October. John Anlian is fine with that.

Katelyn McGirk said there is a So Not Plastic challenge for seven days in which you do not use certain things. She will put together an outline for next meeting.

Sustainable Jersey: The collection bins for recycling plastic bags are located at IGA/This N That Hardware/DPW and are going well. So far, the GT has collected 198 pounds but needs help collecting the bags. Whole Foods will take them. The GT needs 500 pounds to get a bench. It was suggested that maybe members can each take a week to do the picking up and dropping off. Mark and Leslie will be away July 4-13. Katelyn McGirk will take over then.

Newsletter: (Deadlines – August 17 & October 19) Anyone that wants to write an article should send it in. Janet Malool will have an article on the dance program as well as the community garden. At the July meeting, actual articles will be discussed.

New Business:

Sunny Shin wants to put up a mural. Janet Malool will send an email to Eric Koenig to see about having high school students do a mural. She said they're thinking about putting one at Fellowship Park.

On July 19th, Mark would like the GT to sponsor an arts district idea reception. It would be a small reception to discuss ideas. He would like to have the residents of the town take part in it. It is scheduled for July 19 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Members should bring everyone they can.

Mark would like the GT to pay for the reception. It is the initiative of the GT so asking the Creative Team to pay for it and run it is asking a lot from them.

A motion was made by Harry Menta and seconded by Janet Malool to allot up to \$350 for the arts district reception. All were in favor of the motion.

On August 6, Mark Olson will be making a presentation to the Planning Board about the arts district. Everyone is welcome to come. He will put together a little proposal and anyone who wants to help him with the proposal is welcome. The presentation is just to get them to understand it a little better. Ken Ochab, the Planner, will be helping him with it.

Asai Maschang would like to see a clean-up near the creek near the high school close to where the bike path ends. It would be a good thing to try to make the bike path longer. This would be a good thing to pay more attention to in the future. The county gave a lot of grants for these types of projects. Grants were awarded to extend bike paths.

There is a Sustainable Jersey action about counting bicycle use. If someone would like to take on this action, please email Mark Olson.

Mark talked to Cosmic Wheel and he suggested a bike rack for 5-6 bikes every few blocks along MainStreet and then one of the little bike racks on each block on Main Street. There are two different actions regarding bicycles. One is to do the audit; another to come up with the plan.

Janet Malool said she will put together a list of everything the GT is trying to accomplish.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Janet Malool adjourning the meeting at 8:55 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