

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020 AT 7:30 P.M.
OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
January 23, 2020**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 8:15 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 Harris, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Janet Malool, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Daniele Fede. Excused – Asai Maschang, Gloria Rivera. Absent: Harry Menta, Flo Muller, Jin Ah Jong, Diane Mancini and Ex Officio Members absent.

The minutes of the November 21, 2019, meeting were approved on a motion made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of bills:

- PO 40084 - \$ 807.96 – Trex Company – Plastic Bag Baler Project
- PO 40244 - \$ 27.27 – This & That Hardware – Padlock & Leaf Bags
- PO 40245 - \$ 51.10 – Behnke's Paramus Building Supply – Landscape Ties
- PO 40246 - \$ 715.69 – Mark Olson – Reimbursement – Miscellaneous expenses (SJ Luncheon, tolls, gas, spray gun, trailer rentals)
- PO 40349 - \$ 136.28 – Mark Olson – 12/9 CSO Trip to Philadelphia, miles & tolls
- PO 40350 \$4,500.00 – Northern NJ Community Foundation Arts/Bergen – Public Art Master Plan & 2020 Retainer
- PO 40487 - \$ 15.75 – This & That Hardware – Bags

Mark Olson made a motion, which was seconded by Janet Malool, to approve the payment of the above bills. All were in favor of the motion.

Hearing of Citizens: Nicole Kachadorian was present as a guest. She said that her daughter maintains the little library in Fellowship Park. She still will maintain the library. She would like community service hours in the future. Daniele Fede has a woman who has some books she can donate to the little library.

Correspondence: Appointments and Oath of Office

Reports:

Financial: The GT budget will be put in for next year. It is about the same as last year. A copy was distributed to everyone. There is one new expense for a proposed Farmer's Market; the details of which need to be worked out. It will also net some fees because vendors will pay a fee to participate so it will generate some income.

Sustainable Jersey: The Village qualified for bronze recertification with 315 points, which is pretty incredible. The goal of silver is 350, and we earned well over bronze.

Community Garden: Janet Malool said the first meeting of the year will be Monday. Some changes to the oversight committee will be discussed later.

Public Arts Master Plan: It is being worked on. Will probably get it sometime in March. The Village's Master Plan is being redone and it won't be done before March. Once the report comes in, we can submit it to SustainableJersey.

Recycling – Plastic Bags & EPS: A plastic bag baler is being purchased in February and will probably be here in March. RP, Bogota and Englewood contributed and will be allowed to bring their plastic bags there. Others will have to pay \$2,000.00. Hopefully, we will be able to parlay this into a Styrofoam densifier in the future, which is about \$50,000.00. The last Styrofoam collection Mark and Leslie filled a 26 ft. U-Haul, plus what couldn't fit in.

Bergen Hub: The group is getting more organized. Meetings are better. They meet every two months. The Styrofoam project has been a big success. Every new town that comes to the meeting is impressed.

Public Arts Master Plan: It is moving along at great speed. The group met last night. There will be some zoning changes. A cultural district will be declared downtown. The next PAC meeting is February 26. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn more details.

Old Business:

2020 Budget: The budget was given to all present.

Sustainable Jersey: The Village qualified with 315 points. 75 points expired. Need another priority item for Silver Certification. Most of the points that expire we should be able to get back. Items such as Environmental Commission, Green Team, etc., are done annually. There are some points in the queue that we will get points for almost assuredly are: Public Arts Master Plan (at least 20 points), hopefully put in electric vehicle charging stations and that would be worth 30 points. We can be there but need one more priority item, which would be Energy tracking and audit. Someone who is good with a spreadsheet needs to do it. Mark and Leslie are not doing it. Janet also should not be doing it so it means another member must volunteer to do it. Mark said he will help, but he is not going to do it.

2020 Plan Discussion: Mark distributed a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" That is why the GT is here. Members need to start getting more involved and take more responsibilities.

Janet Malool said she will get the dates of PTA meetings in the schools. She would like to speak to the groups and make time to be ambassadors so the town knows what the group does - explain the RP Arts Association, community garden, etc. Mark said there are no age restrictions on who wants to join so if a girl scout or high school member wants to join, they can. The high school GT is a separate activity because there aren't joint meetings.

It would be a good idea to ask the high school Green Team if they would be able to do this one project. Mark Olson will reach out to Michael Savino and Eric Koenig. There are more than enough points to get to 350 but we just need to do that other priority item.

Public Arts Selection Committee: Two members need to be reappointed to a three-year-term. Mark Olson nominated, and Janet Malool seconded, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta to serve on the Public Arts Selection Committee as Green Team representative for a three-year-term ending 2022. All were in favor of the motion.

Mark Olson nominated, and Leslie Olson seconded, Father Larry, to serve on the Public Arts Selection Committee as Community Leader representative for a three-year-term ending 2022. All were in favor of the motion.

New Business:

- Elections to be held in January
- Street Fair to be held on September 19, 2020
- Health Fair to be held on October 20, 2020
- Mural Fest by Arts Association
- Art Crawl to be held on May 2, 2020 – Leslie Olson & Sunny Shin are working on this.
- Art Festival to be held on June 20, 2020
- Joe Kenney Concert at Civic Center on February 15, 2020 to benefit the Arts Association

Adopt-A-Garden/Park: Or an island or a planter. Janet Malool would like to get a couple of interested people to see what could happen. Mark Olson reminded members that the GT's primary function is to get certification. It does not necessarily want to do all of these projects. It can get people to do the projects. It can help get the projects started and then spin them off to other people to continue doing.

Community Garden: An amendment needs to be made to the Community Garden Oversight Committee (CGOC). It is requested to make the following amendment to the current wording as distributed to all members.

Each term shall be for 3 years starting with the above rotation. The gardeners will vote for a member who will take Barbara's place starting 2020.

Gardener's shall have the option to vote to keep Jodi for the remaining 2 years of the newly created 3-yr term. If the majority of voters chose to replace her it will be the person with the second highest number of votes.

A motion was made by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta and seconded by Mark Olson, to approve the CGOC change. All were in favor of the motion.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairperson:

A motion was made by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta and seconded by Leslie Olson nominating Janet Malool for Chairperson.

A motion was made by Janet Malool and seconded by Mark Olson nominating Guillermo Lopez-Acosta for Vice-Chairman.

As there were no other nominations made, the Secretary cast one vote for Janet Malool for Chairperson, and one vote for Guillermo Lopez-Acosta as Vice-Chairman.

Mark Olson said he would still be the GT representative at the Hub meetings.

A motion was made by Janet Malool and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta adjourning the meeting at 9:28 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the EC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca