

**NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.
MASTER GARDENER TO SPEAK ON APRIL 27, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
MARCH 23, 2017**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:05 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: Peggy Conversano, Joseph D'Angeli, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn and Harry Menta. Not Present: James Donohue (excused), Gloria Rivera (excused), Florence Muller (absent). Steve Quinn, Janet Malool, Hernan Osorio and Robyn Lowenthal were also present for the meeting.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by James D'Angeli to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of bills: Funds were encumbered in 2016 by the Environmental Commission, to get the Green Team going. The money has all been spent.

Hearing of Citizens: Hernan Osorio, who is helping out with the website, was present.

Correspondence: None received at this time.

Old Business:

Community Garden – Robyn Lowenthal, a Master Gardener from Teaneck, was present to discuss the Community Garden with the members. Mark Olson advised that almost all the plants are here. The bees came in today.

Gardeners should be aware that you might not get the biggest tomato the first year. Each gardener will be given one bag of compost. DPW is very particular about dirt being brought in. Robyn said one of her concerns is water. Janet Malool said she wanted to run a water line within each bed. Drip irrigation is the best thing but usually not done in most community gardens. Teaneck uses their own hoses. Janet said that if this works, next year the DPW will trench in water.

Robyn said she had another concern about security. McGowan Park is open and Fellowship Park has a fence. Mark said that Secaucus is open. Secaucus had a little sign reading "if you didn't grow it, don't pick it." Secaucus said it works. Teaneck has a fence but no lock. RP would like to go by the honor system the first year. One thought was to make one plot that people could just pick, maybe put a plot outside the garden. Teaneck has a sign by their garden.

Robyn said her friend, Pat Fromm, is also a master gardener who will assist at her talk. The April 27 meeting date will need to be changed. Robyn is really excited about working with the Green Team. Robyn and Pat Fromm will come talk to the GT/EC at 7:00 p.m. on April 27, 2017.

Robyn gave some examples that Teaneck includes in their guidelines. One rule is that whatever is in the plot must not block the sun from another plot longer than one hour per day. Buildings are not allowed in the plot. At the end of the year, they will get everyone together to see what worked out and what did not work.

The GT must now adopt a master plan for the Fellowship Park Community Garden. Fellowship will have a fence around it. The documents were sent to all members via email for review prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Guillermo Acosta-Lopez to accept the Master Plan previously distributed to each member.

Mark Olson explained that this is just a starting point. Mark thinks the beds should be the same square footage. A short discussion was held on this Master Plan for Fellowship Park.

Roll call was taken on the vote of this motion to adopt a Master Plan for the community garden located at Fellowship Park.

Peggy Conversano, Joseph D'Angeli, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Harry Menta – Yes votes.

0 – No votes.

Mark Olson tried to have the work session last week but the weather stopped it. He may need to do it during the week because the trees need to be planted. Mark said he's kind of in limbo as to what the high school will build. First nine plots are down there. EC may need to build the rest.

Mark will speak to the Women's Club next week. Janet Malool spoke to Lincoln School PTA last night. There are two people that want to share a plot and they chose McGowan Park. The other person chose Fellowship Park. One of the administrators said they would like to have one plot for their autistic class that is in session during the summer. They feel this is a good segue for when the students go to the high school and there is already a garden there. Janet suggested that the teacher should come to both sites and see which is best for the children. A few other people said they were interested but did not immediately submit their application. Notices are in the stores and on the message board. Flyers went out in the schools. Some signs are down by the stores near Grant and on Teaneck Road. There are also signs in the smaller stores in the town.

Commissioner Anlian said Mike Mitchell wants to get involved and teach people about rose bushes. He will also donate some for the gardens. Mark said he would like the gardens to be as organic as possible. Mark has a sign that can be used for McGowan Park for the time being.

Sustainable Jersey – Mark said that if you take what has been done and what will be done shortly, we are very close – 140 points right now. We need about another 40 points to be kind of safe. Certification is possible for this year but the GT must really step up efforts.

May 11 is the next deadline for the next newsletter, which is scheduled for distribution around June 19. Steve Quinn and Leslie Olson will work on something to be included in the newsletter.

As part of the Community Education & Outreach action for the Sustainable New Jersey application, the GT is hosting a Storm Water Management presentation/meeting on March 30th in the courtroom of the municipal building at 7:00 p.m. ANJEC and NJ DEP are also planning to have representatives to present and field questions. ANJEC and NJ DEP will have personnel with wide ranging knowledge at the meeting and be able to help us start the process of educating the community on how we can better manage storm water runoff. Members were asked to encourage others to attend the meeting.

A short discussion was held on purchasing new shirts and hats for the GT. It was decided that since some members belong to both the EC and the GT that shirts will be ordered to read: Environmental Commission (on top) and Green Team (on bottom) if you belong to both Commissions or just the Commission the member belongs to.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano to purchase shirts and/or hats for members. All were in favor of this motion.

Website – Hernan Osorio was present to see if anyone had anything they wanted him to add to the website. Hernan and Mark have uploaded information to the website. They requested that members check it out and send any comments to them. Emails were set up for: RPCCommunityGarden@gmail.com; RidgefieldParkEC@gmail.com and RidgefieldParkGT@gmail.com.

New Business – Kimberly Calabrese has resigned from the GT. Harry Menta will assume her position as alternate #2. Janet Malool will be appointed as an associate.

Mark announced there will be a ribbon cutting at the community garden at McGowan Park on April 22. There will be no planting until the garden is officially open.

Working Session – Mark Olson reminded members he holds a working session at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting for anyone interested.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano, adjourning the meeting at 8:12 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting will be moved to **Wednesday, April 19, 2017**, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mark Olson will hold a working session at 6:00 p.m. prior to the meeting for anyone needing more time to discuss their task. The EC meeting will also be moved to that night. Master Gardener Robyn Lowenthal will speak to the GT on April 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca