

NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
May 25, 2017**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Carolina Espin, Katelynn McGirk, and Flo Muller. Not Present: Joseph D'Angeli (absent), James Donohue (excused), Guillermo Lopez-Acosta (excused), Janet Malool (excused), Menta (excused), and Gloria Rivera (excused). Steve Quinn was also present for the meeting.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Linda Quinn to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of bills: None at this time.

Hearing of Citizens: No one spoke.

Correspondence: None received at this time.

Reports:

Financial: The GT budget is \$29,000.00 for the year. So far, \$2,000.00 has been paid for two loads of fill that went into McGowan Park and Fellowship Park. Mark Olson will be submitting bills in the amount of \$4,013.78 for various garden supplies and another load of dirt for \$1,000.00. Bills for May came to \$825.85 for items for the Green Fair such as one push lawn mower, signs and miscellaneous supplies. Janet will submit for some printing she had made for Fellowship Park. There will also be a bill from the banner store for the rain garden and table signs. There should be about \$20,000.00 left in the budget. Over the summer, the GT will need to replace the fence at Fellowship but the GT does not know what it will be replaced with. There are some expenses that will crop up for things that need to be taken care of in the gardens.

Community Garden – Mark Olson, Janet Malool and James Donahue had a meeting with all the gardeners. It mainly had to do with some plants. Mark said he also received education on plants he wasn't as familiar with. One of the plants that can invade other gardens is the morning glory. It can be a problem if they go to seed. It was decided that morning glory would not be permitted and needed to be pulled out.

Sunflowers over six feet have to come out or be cut back.

Mint is another plant that can be a problem. This year mint will be grown in two containers with plastic edging. They will watch it this year. .

Three people are in the wrong bed at McGowan. James Manfredi will make laminated signs for each garden.

There are six new beds at the garden. Three beds are still empty. One plot at Fellowship Park is empty. The gardener has until May 30 to plant it or lose it.

Green Fair – The Fair was good because the GT was able to launch backyard compost and re-use program. Doris Perez won the composter and gave it back to the Community Garden, which was very kind of her.

Sustainable Jersey: It looks like the GT is going to submit for 200 points, which gives a nice buffer. Shade Tree info has been loaded. Joe Rella is working on the emergency management task. That task will be worth 15 points. Sustainable Jersey really wants to see that you are working toward something.

One of the tasks the GT wants to do is form a Creative Team. The other task, Green Business Recognition, really needs to be done because we need another priority item. The GT will also do a Green Business Recognition program. Mark reminded the members that as he has done with other committees within the GT, he will name himself a member and then gradually back-off each Committee when it is ready to work on its own.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano to establish a Creative Team for the Village.

A short discussion was held on the motion. The Green Team is hereby establishing a Creative Team. The Creative Team should have at least 5 members and will be responsible for a Creative Inventory, Utilizing Creative Assets and Creative Place making for the Village. It is not to be the originator or owner of creative assets only a facilitator, and promoter:

The Creative Team will be started and maintained by an Arts Committee of the Green Team. The Arts Committee shall consist of three Green Team Members. The purpose of the Arts Committee is to oversee but not govern the Creative Team for the Village.

Members of the Arts Committee are also members of the Creative Team but the Creative Team is meant to be an independent body.

The Arts Committee has responsibility to report to the Green Team on a regular basis.

Mark Olson explained that he took the language from Sustainable Jersey. The Creative Team needs to be an entity of the Village. It needs to report to someone. Initially, it will report to the Green Team. The Village can change the latter but this will at least start it.

To be posted on website:
Ridgefield Park has organized a creative team.

The purpose of the creative team is to inventory, utilize and highlight the creative assets of the Village. Creative assets are people like artists and musicians, places like parks and monuments and things such as art work. The Creative Team is comprised of artists, residents and business people.

The Creative Team's focus is to help residents and leaders build a more creative community and economy/business by understanding our cultural assets, building a plan for creative place making and promoting multiple types of support for the arts, in a positive and inclusive manner.

The Creative Team's guidance is to respect and include existing arts, creative capabilities and resources within the Village. The Creative Team is not meant to become the owner or originator of all creative activities within our Village. Rather it will assist, utilize and highlight them.

Mark named the following people to be the initial members of the Arts Committee: Carolina Espin, Janet Malool and Mark Olson. These people will make a report once a month to the Green Team.

Arts Committee – will be made up of 6-10 people. Sonny Yotka, Jules Rotella, Daniel Elster, Carolina Espin, Michael (art teacher), Donna Rose McEntee and (four other people she can contact).

Roll call: Peggy Conversano, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn – Yes, 0 – No.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano to create a Green Business Recognition Program for the Village.

Mark Olson explained that this is a must have priority item.

The purpose of the program is to recognize businesses that implement and encourage sustainable business practices. The program will also raise awareness in the Village of businesses who utilize sustainable practices and highlight their sustainable focus to community members who frequent them.

The program will be administered by a committee of the Green Team, which will have three members.

The program will adopt the requirements of the New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry. <http://registry.njsbdc.com> but will be free to set its own standards for recognition. It will also help those businesses who want to be on the New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry.

The Village of Ridgefield Park has created a Green Business Recognition Program. The program recognizes businesses that implement and encourage sustainable business practices.

The aim of this program is not only to recognize the business with significant practices but to also raise awareness in the Village of businesses who utilize sustainable practices and reinforce their sustainable focus to community members who frequents these businesses.

The Green Team will work with local business who wants to increase their sustainable practices and help them register with the New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry.

In order to be certified a business must accomplish three practices from the New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry <http://registry.njsbdc.com/resources>.

Any resident can nominate a business for recognition as a "Ridgefield Park Green Business". The link to download a nomination is on the left.

Any business in the Village may apply for recognition as a "Ridgefield Park Green Business". The link to download a nomination is on the left.

Email completed nominations/applications to RidgefieldParkGT@gmail.com or drop it off at the Clerk's office in the municipal building.

Mark Olson also distributed a sample Application/Nomination form. He further explained that this is 10 or 15 point option depending on how it is done. The 10 point option is to establish a program on its own criteria. If the GT adopts the NJSB, they must make five to qualify and then the business will be awarded recognition. Mark feels the GT should try as two levels.

If a business does three items from the list, they get the RP Green Business sticker. If they do five items, they will get the award and the other recognition.

Mark Olson added to the motion that the three person team will recommend to the GT who should be awarded the designation but the GT will vote on it.

Roll call: Peggy Conversano, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn – Yes, 0 – No.

For the Business Team, Mark Olson named Katelynn McGirk, Mark Olson and Carolina Espin.

Rain Garden – Mark Olson advised that he will form a three person committee and turn it over to the committee. The initial committee will be: Linda Quinn, Mark Olson and John Anlian.

Peggy Conversano asked if the Green Fair met the four requirements for greening a Green Fair. The answer is yes it did.

Mark Olson asked if anyone has looked at the website. The members need to be familiar with the website so they can start sending people there for information. There are many things on the website and it is constantly being improved and updated. The members need to train residents to visit the website. Leslie Olson said she will send in a picture of the new trash/recycling lids for people to see on the website.

Mark Olson advised that the Community Garden has built as many garden beds as they are going to do this year. Now it is time to discuss material for new beds and replacement of existing ones when they rot out. Right now they are made out of wood so the garden would become a reality this year. It is now time for someone to volunteer to research this. Mark added that the gardeners have really pitched in. He now needs someone to do some research so it gets better each year.

New Business – None at this time.

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 Leslie Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano adjourning the meeting at 7:37 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting will be June 22, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mark Olson and Leslie Olson advised that will be away and unable to attend that meeting. Peggy Conversano will run the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca