

NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
July 27, 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, Harry Menta and Carolina Espin. Not Present: Excused – Joseph D'Angeli, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Gloria Rivera, Linda Quinn, Janet Malool, Katelyn McGirk and Gloria Rivera. Absent – James Donohue and Flo Muller. Jin Ah Jong was also present for the meeting.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of bills: None at this time.

Hearing of Citizens: Asai MasChang was present and would like to assist the GT. She is interested in running the composting program at McGowan Park and also has a degree in environmental science.

Correspondence: 1) 2017 Nomination Packet for NJDEP Recycling Awards
2) application from Dan Loughnane for McGowan Park Community Garden

Reports:

Financial: The GT started the year with \$29,000.00 and right now has \$19,061.19 left. There are some bills for the signs at McGowan that don't appear to be on the print-out. Mark Olson gave a report on various expenses he has incurred for the Community Gardens. In the future, the GT must decide who has authority to spend money in between meetings. The GT needs to formalize who can spend money and how much to be more efficient in between meetings.

Community Garden: Mark Olson said the community gardens are running fine. There have been minimal issues. The fence at Fellowship Park looks like it will stay for now and be replaced in the fall. The Creative Team is working on different plans for replacing it. John Anlian wants them to look at no fence alternatives. He thinks that maybe the space should be defined without a fence.

There will be a canning demo at Fellowship Park on August 12. Anybody who wants to show up to understand the process should come at 10:00 a.m. If someone wants to be a participant in the canning process, they should come at 9:00 a.m. Tomatoes will likely be used for the demonstration. There wasn't a big turnout at the McGowan Park meeting. Mark is thinking of changing the way meetings are held. He thinks the turnout would be better if both gardens were combined into one meeting.

There are a couple of plots at Fellowship Park that need maintenance. Mark will give those gardeners a call. Their plots are starting to overflow and get unruly. If the gardeners do not cut the overgrown plants, someone will cut it for them and they will not be given a plot next year.

There is not enough work getting done. The work needs to be split up better. There will be a potluck on August 16 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at McGowan Park. Mark will bring a grill and table. It is on a concert night. Everyone should think about coming.

Permanent water will probably not be in until next spring. The Creative Team is still working on what will be there.

Creative Team: The Creative Team had a meeting on July 26. There will be an event on Saturday. It is going to be a get-together. There will be food and guests at the Gallery. Cost will be \$20 as a suggested

donation and with those funds The Creative Team is hoping to make something with that. They are hoping they will have ideas to present on August 16 at McGowan potluck dinner. They are discussing no fence idea and maybe two other designs. The dinner is 6:00 p.m. They are focusing on four things at this time: 1) fence 2) statues at McGowan Park 3) Gala event – to be held once a year to get enough money together to make the tickets accessible for everybody 4) create indoor concert series in the winter. As far as the rain garden, Linda Quinn planted a bunch of big blue stem. It needs watering once in awhile. It is a native prairie grass. The rain garden is filling in.

Old Business:

Community Garden: Peggy Conversano said the butterfly garden was full of butterflies and bees. She did not want to randomly pull weeds out in case they weren't weeds. Mark told Peggy that since she was the only volunteer, it was up to her. It looks good. Next year there will be changes when the third ring is added. Mark Olson commented that people are forgetting that in the long run there should be no grass that needs to be mowed. Mark said the gardeners need to remember that care of the entire garden is part of their commitment to their individual plot. It would be nice to have some inviting places where visitors can come and sit down for a bit.

Website: Peggy Conversano said she has access to the FaceBook page now. Peggy told Jin Ah Jong to speak to Joe D'Angeli about getting access to the FaceBook page. The GT needs to put more time into it – both the Village website and the FaceBook page.

Sustainable Jersey: Leslie Olson has heard back on the certification. They want 130 of the 215 submitted points to be revised. Most is very minor. It ranges from adding a date the rain garden was finished (it is a work in progress) to back up information on certain projects or putting information into a different spot on the certification.

The GT would like to recognize Prudent Publishing for the Green Business Recognition Program. The GT needs two businesses to qualify for this task. Michelle DeLuca works for Prudent Publishing and will be asked who is the proper contact to speak to nominate them for the NJ Sustainable Registry. This is a statewide recognition, which carries more weight. This is the biggest holdup on the application – needing one more business. It is the second priority item. The drug take back was the priority item.

To qualify for the Bronze level, the GT needs 150 points. To qualify for the Silver level, 350 points are needed. Mark Olson would like members to think about moving up to the Silver level in the next few years. The GT would need to spread out the work to achieve this and inch its way up to the Silver level.

New Business:

Newsletter: August 11 is the deadline for the next newsletter. Leslie Olson thinks it should have two or three more articles from the Green Team in the next issue. 1) Call attention to recycling bins on Main Street. People don't understand their importance and how trash in the wrong bin contaminates the recyclables and turns all into trash on Main Street. It is not sorted if contaminated. 2) Leave the Leaves. Butterflies leave their larvae in the leaves. The members all said they never received a Village newsletter this issue.

Mark Olson had two points he wanted to mention. First, he would like to find a way to have a short, concise report given by members. He feels that reports should take no longer than five minutes to keep the meeting moving and allow the Environmental Commission to start its meeting on time. In the future, he proposes to do a quick report (under five minutes) and under old business, everything that a report was done on, the GT can come back to discuss if there are more questions on any topic. The GT needs to have concise reports so the Environmental Commission's meeting can start on time. In the future, anything that a report was given on will be listed under old business in case there are any comments to be made.

Second, Mark feels there has been much talk about getting a bat house for Guillermo for his church but no progress. Mark would like to buy and install a bat house for the church.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano that a three-chamber bat house costing no more than \$75.00 be purchased for the Presbyterian Church. All were in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano adjourning the meeting at 7:55 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting will be August 24, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca