

NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
August 24, 2017**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:01 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: Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn and Janet Malool, Katelyn McGirk. Gloria Rivera arrived after roll call. Not Present: Excused – Peggy Conversano, Joseph D'Angeli, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Harry Menta. Absent – James Donohue, Carolina Espin and Flo Muller. Ex Officio Members absent. Katelyn McGirk and Asai Maschang is present as a guest.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Mark Olson to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of bills: None at this time.

Hearing of Citizens: None present at this time.

Correspondence:

Reports:

Financial: The GT started this month with \$19,061.19. left. There are some bills for the signs at McGowan and Fellowship for about \$305.00. There are about \$50-\$100 in miscellaneous bills that Mark has to submit.

Creative Team: The Creative Team met twice. They are going to be working towards a couple of things that they have set for themselves. One is a gala event that will be art related. They want to do a winter concert series, which will be two classical music concerts – one with three musicians and one with five musicians. They plan to do this at the Presbyterian Church. They are also working on projects for the Community Gardens. One is to put art in the gardens and a fence alternative for Fellowship. To fund the gala event, they are holding a series of dinners (about every 6 weeks apart). The participants bring food themselves and then throw money in the basket as a donation at the end of the event. The hope is to get some money for the event because if there was a charge, it would be too expensive for people to attend. The next dinner is September 16 at Art Mora.

At this time, Gloria Rivera arrived.

Community Garden: Janet Malool said they decided to dedicate 2018 to completing designing McGowan. They hope to have areas for wild flowers. While they are dedicating 2018 to completing McGowan, it will give them time to work on Fellowship where they can integrate the garden into the overall park and work on whatever design they come up with. After much consideration, they decided to have the fence removed and not replaced. It will give them time to see whether it will work in a high traffic location. 2019 will be the year they implement whatever design they come up with. This will allow them to alternate manpower in each garden instead of trying to do two major projects at the same time.

They are in the process of adding the last ring of plots at McGowan. Fellowship will also see the addition of a few plots. Besides expanding the concept of communal plots of herbs, they will also include vegetables. Both locations will have communal plots where those passing by will have the opportunity to pick herbs and vegetables to bring home. They will also be offering help to St. Francis with the understanding that members of the parish food pantry will be the primary caretakers.

On Saturday, August 12, the gardeners made homemade tomato sauce at Fellowship at the demonstration. It started around 9:30 a.m. in the morning and ended around 6:30 p.m. They have found

the 18 hours of communal work is not working as well as expected so they are now placing the gardeners on committees. They are hoping to have one or two people on each committee to oversee each group. The maintenance is for the individual locations. The other groups are for both locations. There is a member at McGowan who has complained about an issue she perceives as a problem. She also believes her cucumbers have been eaten and her cucumbers stolen. In correspondence with her, she has been asked if she would like to address the Board and she has declined the offer. It is appearing that she does not wish to stay with the group for next year. They have asked her for her final decision by October 1.

The Creative Team will be coming up with ideas to help integrate sculptures at McGowan and fencing alternatives at Fellowship.

Rain Garden: Linda Quinn said that about two weeks ago she went with Commissioner Anlian to Metropolitan Farm in Closter. They had a 40% off sale on all their native wildflowers. They got a lot of things, which they planted. This is an ideal time to plant. Linda said she needs to cut them back a little bit. They will be good for next year. She is getting a lot of seeds for next year for the rain garden. Next year it will look even better as it fills in. Mark said it went from bare spots to plants everywhere.

Old Business:

Sustainable Jersey: Mark said the GT is about as close as it can get to being approved without actually being approved. The GT has 140 points. There are 205 that have been updated to be submitted and reviewed. One of those is a green business recognition program, part of which the GT is using the program run by the DEP, which is good for 15 points. There are two businesses that have been accepted. The requirement is for two. The DEP and Sustainable Jersey say we will be approved for this but the GT has not received approval yet. In the next cycle, it should hopefully be approved.

To celebrate the upcoming approval, Mark and Leslie brought boxed water, which they got while on vacation in Kalamazoo. They went to the plant and were given a case of water. Costco has boxed water. Macy's also has it. It is shipped flat. They don't have their own well. They use municipal water. They pack it in the box after filtering it. It comes with or without a plastic cap. This is something the GT can strive for when it tries to get a silver certification.

There is a luncheon scheduled in mid-November. If everything goes on schedule, the GT will get its certification that day. Anybody else that wants to go should try to go.

Financial: There is probably about \$18,000.00 left and the GT will need to talk about what to do. Sunny Mora from the Creative Team was supposed to attend tonight's meeting to discuss these plans.

Creative Team: The group has been discussing putting a plan together to put art in McGowan Park. The plan seems to put a statue or piece of art every year and then accumulate and maybe try to have an art park in the Village when it is all accumulated. It is really unknown what the GT will get. Sunny will put out a call for the artists to submit a proposal and guidelines on what the GT might want and then we will have to wait to see what proposals come in. There is no way to know if there will be a lot of interest or no interest. Anybody from RP that submits will get a leg up in the process.

Janet Malool said that her husband was telling her that the Chairperson of the Art Dept. at the high school is retiring. She is a sculptor on her own, maybe she might be interested in doing something. Sunny thinks that about \$10,000.00 would be needed to do something in a large size. The piece of art needed would have to be bigger than the tank. Sunny advises telling the artist that the price is \$10,000.00 to build it but the GT really wants the artwork to be donated. Most likely it would be donated by the artist because it would cost \$10,000 to move it there. According to Sunny, this is common practice.

Janet said that if the art is going to be changed yearly, she wonders if this will work. She wonders if that means the GT must budget \$10,000.00 yearly for the artwork. As long as there is enough money to do the other projects, then it should be OK. Mark said he asked some other residents their feeling on the

cost of adding artwork to the park and they felt that compared the cost of a garbage truck, it was not excessive.

Mark said the plan would be to put one large piece of artwork each year, at least that is what they are talking about right now. Janet thinks there needs to be some smaller pieces as well. Mark agreed with this. Janet said there's a park in Leonia or Palisades Park that is just pieces of art. Mark said that initially he thought it would be one large piece in the middle and then smaller pieces around the main piece. There was another suggestion that maybe the artwork could be rotated with other parks so that there could be a variety. Leonia has two dozen artworks in their art park.

Mark asked Sunny about renting pieces and she said that just transporting and installing them would cost more. The question is does the GT want to allocate \$10,000 from what is left in the budget for this project? Mark said what he had put in the budget was \$10,000 for any group doing something significant as far as storm water runoff. As a group, it has not been worked on yet and will not be able to be completely done in this calendar year. It would be several months away but it is also not necessary to make a decision tonight.

The format would be that however many artists the Creative Team gets, the Creative Team would pick 3-5 and then presents them to the GT with their recommendation and the GT decides who to use. Janet asked if there would be a sketch or small model of what they are going to do. Is the decision based just on reputation or will there be something for the GT to look at? This might bring something the GT did not want. Maybe a small-scale model or sketch should be necessary. Steve Quinn asked if there was a "green or environmental" theme or if it just had to be art? An art professor told Mark the more developed or defined the art is, the less spray paint you will get on it. Something very abstract, will be interpreted with spray paint on it. You will see very few statues with spray paint on them but you will find it on abstract things. Janet said there needs to be some type of clause in any contract with the artist that any damage to the artwork that this committee or the Village is not liable for. Mark said he is sure the contract will need to go through the Village attorney.

Leslie said that as the group becomes a more mature organization, there are grants that can be applied for so that \$10,000 of the budget would not be necessary each year. Janet asked if the Creative Team can start looking for grants this year. Leslie said most definitely the Creative Team can start looking for grants immediately. Mark also pointed out that the fact the GT was given a \$29,000 budget this year, doesn't mean it will get it next year. The GT should also not request frivolous items. The GT should decide this is what it wants to do and this is what it wants to budget for. If an artist is paid \$10,000 to do artwork, someone will need to make a base for this artwork. Mark said he was looking on the Village website and there is nothing related to art other than the summer concerts. Nothing on the public organizations at all.

Community Gardens: Mark said they will be sending out an email to all the gardeners to have them notify the GT by October 1 if they plan on coming back next year. Janet said they also need to put the application back up on the website. Mark said the application is already up on the website because some things can be planted in the fall.

Website: Mark asked if anyone has looked at the website. If members have not looked at the website, they should ask themselves if this is really the organization they want to be involved with. The website is where the GT puts out all their communication to the world. Mark would like all members to think about that.

New Business: Mark said he quickly added up the points and we have about 140 points. Does the GT want to do Silver Certification? The next 15 points will come from the business registry, which both the DEP and Sustainable Jersey said we will be approved for. There are another 50 or so they will review that we should be fine for. It should be about 175 points. Bronze is 150 points. Silver is 350 points. The GT would need between 150-175 points. This would be worth investigating if the GT wanted to do it. It would be three times the amount of points the GT needs. Some of the items are relatively easy. 30 points for the electric vehicles that we just couldn't get this last time. We have an ordinance to make the

Village friendly for electric vehicles, we just couldn't get what we needed through the bureaucracy of the Village if that's what you would call it. This time the GT just chose to use its time on other things to get certified.

Janet Malool asked what extreme temperatures event plan task was. Janet said right now she is on the CERT Team, which seems to be dormant right now outside of being traffic control for the parades. One of the things she is thinking about is they actually have a tentative plan in place if there is flooding to have a shelter in place. This seems to fall into place for both groups. Mark said the decision does not have to be made tonight but if the GT wants to do this, it would be a positive thing for the Village and show people we are not just bad financial news from the schools. It would help put us on the map.

Mark would like everyone to look at the list and pick three things we should investigate. He is not saying the team must do them but in the end, he would like everyone to have one primary and one secondary item that we want to work on such as electric vehicle and make that your primary. Everyone can work on this and come back next month with information on the item they chose. Mark said he is expecting everyone to do research on their item and decide if you want to be the lead on it so the GT can decide what they want to do to get the documentation and get the points for it. It seems like the team is almost half-way there for many of the tasks.

Leslie explained that if everyone goes on the Sustainable Jersey site, there is a document list that you can scroll down and it tells you specifically what you need to do for each task. You can also go to other towns and see what they have done for some guidance. It is very helpful. Each member should research what it is you must do to get points and if it is something you want to work on, try to organize it. It might be something you can work on with Bogota and they'll get 10 points as well.

The GT is trying to get businesses to get certified as a sustainable business. The problem is that the businesses are not replying to contact from the GT. The businesses are not aware who the GT or EC is yet. Steve Quinn said that the EC has discussed this and Harry Menta is working on something that can be handed out to the businesses. Leslie said it would be a good idea to work with Harry on a brochure to leave with the business to get familiar with the process. Katelyn McGirk sent the first email to Consolidated Packing and they responded immediately, which is rare.

The schools don't really recycle. That is something that needs to be changed. The businesses don't really recycle either. Does the GT want to buy recycling containers for the businesses to promote recycling?

Mark said the final thing he wanted to bring up one more new thing. Maybe next year, we should think about flipping the EC and GT meetings. The EC has been very patient for a year with the GT meeting running over. This way next year, the EC can run over and the GT can be patient waiting for the meeting to start. Members seemed to like this suggestion.

Mark said he is happy that Gloria Rivera would like to take starting a Farmers' Market as one of her Sustainable Jersey projects. Research needs to be done but it is a very good idea. The GT just needs to find a place. Maybe all the towns could get together and hold a farmers' market in Overpeck Park for instance. Gloria Rivera will look into this.

John Anlian arrived at this time. Mark explained to him that the GT is very close to being approved for certification. The application is still in the certification process but there are still another 50 or so points in review. If the GT decides to go for Silver, which is about 150 more points, Mark did a quick list of things the GT could probably do or at least investigate and it is three times more points than the GT needs. Some of the tasks are not that hard and can be done by the GT but there wasn't enough time to do it this year. Everyone is going to investigate some of these and talk about it next month. Everyone will pick a primary and secondary project to work on next year. It is entirely possible to go for the Silver next provided everyone works on a different project.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson adjourning the meeting at 7:53 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting will be September 28, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca