

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020 AT 7:30 P.M.
OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
September 24, 2020**

Vice -Chairman Guillermo Lopez-Acosta called the meeting to order at 7:59 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: Robert Gonzalez, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Dennise Santana. Absent: Janet Harris. Asai Maschang, Flo Muller, Jin Ah Jong, Diane Mancini and Ex Officio Members. Excused: Eric Koenig, Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Daniele Fede, Gloria Rivera.

The minutes of the August 27, 2020, meeting could not be approved as there was no quorum.

Payment of bills:

- PO 41766 – \$436.00 – This & That Hardware – Bedding Flats
- PO 42164 – \$178.01 – Behnke's Paramus Building Supply – Wood/screws
- PO 42165 – \$281.81 – This & That Hardware – Screws, Paint, Brushes, Tape
- PO 42422 – \$ 33.98 – Globes & Trash Bags for Girl Scouts
- PO 42623 – \$ 56.96 – Robert Gonzalez – Locks for community garden
- PO 42782 – \$ 249.25 – This & that Hardware – Lock, Mural Supplies
- PO 42782 – \$306.50 – Behnke's Paramus Building Supply – Mural Supplies

Hearing of Citizens: Veronica Leone was present as a guest.

Correspondence:

- Memo from ZB dated 9/3/20 Re: Application for 5 Winant Avenue, Atlantis Management Group for Use Variance to enlarge the existing Service Station to include a new retail convenience store Case #1563
- Email from Hannah Ferrer dated 9/19/20 Re: Recycling Bins in Park (Janet responded)
- Email dated 9/22/20 from Veronica Leone Re: Environmental Commissions, Green Teams & Holding Big Oil Accountable, Tuesday, September 29 from 12:00-12:30pm

Reports:

Financial: Nothing new to report. Bills paid were discussed above.

Recycling – Plastic Bags & EPS – Nothing to report this month.

Bergen Hub: The Bergen Hub is busy making plans for next year.

Public Arts Master Plan: The Planning Board is still working on this.

Old Business:

Upcoming events:

Earth Day/Green Fair – the EC is checking to see if May 1 works for the Hackensack Riverkeeper and the Hudson River Fisherman's Association. Hopefully, the covid situation will be improved by then so the event can be held.

Summer Arts Fest – Tentatively, it is scheduled to be held on June 12, 2021.

Sustainable Jersey: submitted with 390 points, actions still need to be worked on, feedback in mid-October

- Continue to work on actions that minimal work was done in order to get points for these actions
- Continue to work on unapproved actions starting in January so we are no longer rushing to get it done
- These actions were marked planned and need to be worked on:
 - Community Forestry Management Plan and NJUCF Accreditation – 20 points
 - [Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Ordinance](#) – 10 points
 - Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution – 5 points
 - [Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance](#) – 15 points

- Household Hazardous Waste – 15 points
- Waste Audit of Municipal Buildings or Schools – 10 points
- These actions were marked as must revise and need to be worked on:
 - Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – 15 points
- These actions were marked as not approved and need to be worked on:
 - Safe Routes to School – 10 points
 - Tree Protection Ordinance – 10 points

There are several actions that although marked “completed” will need additional work done in order to be approved. Comments should come in mid-October and then members can work on those actions to properly complete them.

New Business:

Dennise Santana suggested the GT use Google docs to work on SJ actions so it is easier to have 2 or 3 people coordinating efforts. Dennise will explain to members in October.

Newsletter – the deadline is October 14 with distribution around November 23, 2020. The newsletter will probably be mailed to all residents. The BOC is hoping to keep the newsletter to four pages and request that only the most important information be included and try to use links when possible to keep the newsletter shorter.

In March of this year, NJ Transit advised the Village that it was in the early stages of investigating the acquisition of the 56-acre property known as the “Skymark” Redevelopment Area. The Village has been actively trying to redevelop this property for decades. NJ Transit plans to take this property and build a 500-bus garage and maintenance facility on this site for its fleet of loud, aging diesel buses.

The BOC is sending out a letter to all residents explaining the situation and asking them to write, call and email our State representatives and NJ Transit to tell them to move the site or make it right. The BOC doesn’t want to see this go to eminent domain where the Village gets nothing. A large amount of this money (\$6 million annually) was going to help with the CSO situation.

Veronica Leone was present. She is a trained Climate Reality Leader, and as such is expected to present to various audiences. Over the summer she gave a presentation that covered climate concerns and solutions to the GT and EC. She was asked if she would like to become an associate member on the GT and she accepted.

A motion was made by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta and seconded by Bobby Gonzalez adjourning the meeting at 8:40. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the EC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca