**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, February 9, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**January 18, 2023**

Chair Leslie 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 Veronica Leone, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Nicole Terrarosa, Daniele Fede, Daniel Raftery, Rita Raftery. Absent: Christopher Gibbons, Diane Mancini, Gloria Rivera, Berlinda Rodriguez, Dyan Thiemann, Ex Officio Members. Excused: Dennise Santana, Janet Harris.

The minutes of the October 27, 2022, meeting were approved on a motion by Rita Raftery and seconded by Veronica Leone. All were in favor of the motion. November and December were work sessions.

**Payment of bills:**

PO#51024 - $71.46 – North Jersey Media Group – Meeting Date Change, Name Change Ordinance

PO#51749 - $42.55 – North Jersey Media Group – Notice of 2023 Meeting Dates

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

**Correspondence****:**

* Email dated 11/10/22 From Paul Valentinetti Re: Hard Plastic Drop-Off
* Email dated 11/16/22 from Environmental Commission Re: Invitation to RPNA first meeting on 11/29 @ 7:00 p.m.
* Email dated 11/23/22 from Commissioner Olson Re: Sustainable Jersey Luncheon Photo and Silver Certification
* Email dated 12/5/22 from Yvette Viasus, Community Solar Engagement Manager Re: Clean Energy Program, Community Solar Presentation
* Email dated 12/21/22 from Michael Savino Re: Introduction to Environmental Club Advisor Helena Petersen

**Reports:**

**Financial:** Nothing new to report.

**Plastic Bags & EPS Recycling:** nothing new to report, going well. DPW handles it. They take them to Englewood when they are ready. Dan Raftery advised Veronica Leone that if she is ever unavailable to pick up from the Marlboro house, he would be happy to pick up. Daniel Fede said she was going to try to do a Facebook live with Bogota to educate residents better.

**Old Business:**

* **Newsletters:** Spring Newsletter – suggestions for next newsletter?
* Health Fair/Blood Drive – date for 2023 is 10/14/23. Vitalant was contacted but no response yet. If they don’t respond, will approach Red Cross about doing a blood drive at the health fair. Initial invitations went out to everyone.
  + Rita suggested trying to have a chiropractor. SRP will reach out to one.

#### Recycle Coach – DPW wants to partner with us on community outreach. SRP had several productive talks with them. We will be applying for [Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance](https://www.sustainablejersey.com/certification/municipal-dashboard/manage-application/?tx_sjcert_application%5BactionSubmission%5D=13284&tx_sjcert_application%5Bapplication%5D=289&tx_sjcert_application%5Baction%5D=editActionSubmission&tx_sjcert_application%5Bcontroller%5D=Application&cHash=c2ea44fa66a8c4e7dc9ad1ab8b314c92) for 15 points. We have never tried for this one before. Veronica will take the lead on this action.

* Kim Stuart, Customer Success Manager, 1-855-343-3363 X 121, [kstuart@recyclecoach.com](javascript:void(0);)
* November 12 – Hard Plastic Recycling and Breakfast Cereal Collection – review.
  + Good day. Got a lot of stuff that day. Filled a 40-yard container. Got damaged toys, bins, trash cans, buckets, lawn furniture, hanging baskets.
  + Possibly do this twice a year
* Paper shredding – done on 4/22/23.

**New Business:**

* Change of name to Sustainable Ridgefield Park is official. Ordinance No. 2022-09 was adopted on 11/10/22.
* **Sustainable Jersey Planning**
* **Environmental – Veronica Leone**
  + Veronica will take lead on Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance Action for 2023 certification with the DPW. L. Olson can assist. Rich Flynn would like to meet Veronica. Rita said she was willing to help out as well.
  + Chapter 214, Article IV, “Recycling” <https://ecode360.com/13319945> Municipal Recycling Ordinance
  + There is a published calendar in several different places. The DPW left room for SRP in the last section to add info as well. SRP will work on education about recycled items and educating the public on what can be recycled.
* **Arts and Culture – Nicole Terrarosa**
  + Nicole will take lead on updating and transferring Creative Asset Inventory list, (which is in spreadsheet format) to the format that is used by communities who are part of Creative Bergen. Creative Bergen is working to help communities capture their assets to be made available to members and which will help with important activities for art and artists in the Bergen County area. This is a data entry project. Additions from George Cooke, Artist Laureate must be added, plus other items identified by Karen Purpura of the RPAA. It also must be posted on the Green Team webpage. Leslie will be revising the information she needs. Leslie wants SRP to work with the same form that Creative Bergen is using. The information is coming.
* **Health and Wellness – Barbara DeLuca and Leslie Olson**
  + Health Assessment Questionnaire ready. We need to get 500 points to be gold.
  + Leslie putting a proposal together to submit to Commissioner Gerken regarding distribution to the general population so that we can get at least 130 responses, which is 1% of 13,000.
  + Distribution suggestions:
    - online, Instagram, have each SRP member get 10 responses,
    - ask the BOC to have village employees respond
    - leave paper copies at Marlboro, Ryan Lombardi, library, Clerk's Office, civic center with a box to drop off responses
    - distribute electronically through the schools
    - ask school PTA groups to get some members to respond
    - give to FD, Rescue Squad & Ambulance
    - give to some organizations - Women's Club, Rotary, Elks, K of C, churches etc. to get responses
    - offer incentives (chance to win a gift card) or municipal swag bag to residents to complete form
    - have QR code available at public events, hanging in stores to link people directly to survey
    - Princeton (a gold town) suggests not having timeframe to submit your survey too long
* Welcome Packet – the strategic plan needs to be done in order to submit this action.
* Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – funding is approved, ordinance passed, action is under construction.
* Janet Malool is looking into Expanded Supplemental Food Programs 10 points and Promoting Safe Food Donation for Food Security 10 points.
  + - Community Garden is looking into adding pop-up stands when there is surplus, sort of like a lending library but it is food donations. Also looing into a summer food service, possibly on municipal property, or at rec program, etc. Maybe they will try it this year and if it works, put it together for 2024 as an action. Rita said she would help out with this. Janet will ask Sustainable Jersey if the pop-up could be a project.

#### SRP pitched to the DPW that they build a little library for each of the schools. They liked the idea.

#### 2023 Certification Application Cycle Timeline Released:

**FIRST ROUND SECOND ROUND THIRD ROUND**

Submission Deadline February 26 May 12 July 27

Return Date  Early April Mid-June Mid-Sept.

**2023 MEETING DATES @ 7:00 P.M. in courtroom of municipal building**

**January 18                   May 11                        September 28**

**February 9                   June 22                       October 26**

**March 23                      July 13                        November (WORK SESSION IF NEEDED)**

**April 27                        August 24                    December (WORK SESSION IF NEEDED)**

* **4/22/23 – Paper Shredding and Hard Plastics Recycling 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
  + Do we want to do second chance toys on the same day?
* **9/23/23 – Swap & Shop**
* **MEVO** [**https://www.mevo.org/**](https://www.mevo.org/) **-** Leslie is trying to coordinate as a possible Field trip in April/May 2023
  + Include Environmental Commission, Community Garden, etc.
* Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair were held.

A motion was made by Nicole Terrarosa and seconded by Janet Malool, nominating Leslie Olson for Chairperson. All were in favor of the nomination.

A motion was made by Nicole Terrarosa and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, nominating Veronica Leone as Vice-Chair. All were in favor of the motion.

A suggestion was made that maybe SRP could have an info night at the civic center on educating people on recycling. Further discussion will be held at a future meeting. Maybe the DPW could give a section to SRP for recycling.

A motion was made by Janet Malool and seconded by Dan Raftery to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Mark Olson