**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, March 23, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**February 9, 2023**

Chair Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:10 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. Absent: Christopher Gibbons, Diane Mancini, Gloria Rivera, Berlinda Rodriguez, Dyan Thiemann, Ex Officio Members. Excused: Dennise Santana, Janet Harris, Daniel Raftery, Rita Raftery.

The minutes of the January 18, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Veronica Leone and seconded by Guillermo Lopez Acosta. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of bills:** None.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

**Correspondence****:**

* Email dated 1/14/23 from Sara Graves Re: Health Fair – RP Teacher’s Union – will have bags & raffle again.
* Email dated 1/17/23 from Principal Melissa Cavins Re: Health Fair – will have volunteer students available.
* Email dated 1/17/23 from Barbara Chabner Re: Health Fair – Brain Injury Alliance unavailable this year.
* Email dated 1/17/23 from Melanie Hazim Re: Health Fair – Consumer Affairs Outreach is available.
* Email dated 1/17/23 from Gricel Delpino Re: Health Fair – HMHN Mammography not available.
* Email dated 2/6/23 from Pepita Bellisima Re: Extra Bin for Plastic Bags at Marlboro House

**Reports:**

* **Sustainable Jersey Planning – Submission Deadline 2/26 – First Round**
* **Environmental – Veronica Leone**

1. Need a member to take lead on Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance Action for 2023 certification with the DPW. L. Olson can assist.
2. Chapter 214, Article IV, “Recycling” <https://ecode360.com/13319945> Municipal Recycling Ordinance
3. Kim Stuart, Customer Success Manager, 1-855-343-3363 X 121, [kstuart@recyclecoach.com](javascript:void(0);)

SRP did get to speak with Kim. She set up accounts so that we can see it. There are 5 extra points for using an app. Might need DPW to document compliance stickers. DPW is carefully and cautiously using them.

* **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. Nicole said she is about half-way through it. There are some things that need to be added, for example, the civic organizations.
* **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.
* **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 looking 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.
* Leslie said that many of the projects needed to be added to SJ will be done net week so they can be added to the application in time for the February 26 deadline.

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

* Plastic Bag Drop off locations flyer is outdated and needs to be changed so we may want to do it in conjunction with Recycling Education and Compliance and link on Sustainable RP, DPW and EC.
* Leslie told members to mark everything “completed” when you are done so it will be reviewed.

**Old Business:**

* **Newsletters:** Spring Newsletter – Suggestions: Grass Cut It & Leave It, Recycling & Recycle Coach, new cardboard recycling, What Goes into Wednesday’s Recycle Bin, Harry will do an article on Wish Cycling.
* Health Fair/Blood Drive – date for 2023 is 10/14/23.
  + Starting to receive responses.
  + American Red Cross – no reply from Vitalant, will contact Red Cross
  + Have posted on social media and Eventbrite looking for possible vendors.
* Recycle Coach – DPW wants us to help with campaign about this as well.
  + Kim Stuart, Customer Success Manager, 1-855-343-3363 X 121, [kstuart@recyclecoach.com](javascript:void(0);)

#### New Business:

**Dates to Keep in Mind:**

* 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.

* **4/22/23 – Paper Shredding and Hard Plastics Recycling 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
* **9/23/23 – Swap & Shop**
* **MEVO** [**https://www.mevo.org/**](https://www.mevo.org/) **as a possible Field trip in April/May 2023**
* **10/14/23 – Health Fair 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. @ K of C**

Leslie advised that there will be no 2023 Arts Amble. It will be a bi-annual event now and the next one will be held in 2024.

Barbara DeLuca will contact a company that does sneaker recycling to see if it could be done at Earth Day.

No date has been set for Earth Day yet. The EC is looking into May 20 if the Riverkeeper and HRFA are available.

There was discussion about maybe having a 2-hour open house session at the civic center. People could ask questions and just talk to members. It would probably be a good idea to have a member of the DPW at the meeting. SRP will ask the DPW if a member could attend the next meeting on March 23, 2023.

A motion was made by Harry Menta and seconded by Janet Malool to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for **THURSDAY, March 23, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Mark Olson