**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, May 11, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**April 27, 2023**

Chair Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were Veronica Leone, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Janet Harris, Daniel Raftery, Nicole Terrarosa. Absent: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Gloria Rivera. Ex Officio Members. Excused: Janet Malool, Dennise Santana, Rita Raftery.

The minutes of the March 23, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Veronica Leone and seconded by Dan Raftery. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of bills:** None.

**Hearing of Citizens:** Key Club MembersTiffany Chen and Josephine Carangui were present as invited guests.

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**Correspondence****:**

* Email dated 3/27/23 from Commissioner Portorreal Re: Girl Scout Garden in McGowan Park

Leslie explained that the Glrl Scout Daisy Troop did rock painting last week. They want to put a kindness garden in town. They have 3 locations they are deciding on 1) next to the police station 2) Fellowship Park 3)McGowan Park.

* Email dated 3/31/23 from Maggie Echenique  Re: Confirming sneaker recycling on 5/20/23.
* Email dated 4/1/23 from Wasayef Bsharat Re: Montclair State University and Neurodevelopment Lab – would like to reach out at health fair to provide info about opportunities they offer families – participating families get $50 gift.
* Email dated 4/24/23 from EC Re: Looking for volunteers to plant at NP on 4/29/23.
* Email dated 4/25/23 from John Adams Re: Fluorescent bulb disposal.

**Reports:**

* **Sustainable Jersey Planning – Submission Deadline 5/12 – Second Round – 6 actions must be revised.**
* **Environmental – Veronica Leone**
	+ Leslie explained that the DPW asked SRP to work with them. They now have Facebook, etc. They have asked SRP to put some articles up so they can use them. Now we will focus on what to promote for May. Some suggestions: lawn cutting, visual of recycling.
* **Arts and Culture – Nicole Terrarosa**
	+ Work on sign with garden
	+ New proclamation signed for Mayor’s Monarch Pledge
		- looking for additional places to put native gardens.
	+ Leslie spoke to a former eagle scout to discuss picnic tables.
	+ Class of 2024 – will reach out to see if they are interested in building the little libraries.
* **Health and Wellness – Barbara DeLuca and Leslie Olson**
	+ - Health Assessment Questionnaire ready. We need to get 500 points to be gold.
		- Leslie is putting a proposal together to submit to Commissioner Gerken and she and Barbara are trying to schedule a meeting with him in May.
	+ **Welcome Packet**
		- Did not get approved because it was already a special project.
		- Pointed out it was very good for community outreach.
	+ **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** – BOC discussing if they should pursue this at this time.
	+ **Expanded Supplemental Food Programs 10 points and Promoting Safe Food Donation for Food Security 10 points.**
		- Janet Malool looked at it and feels we will not get points for it.
		- Janet will also work on Community Garden.
* **Plastic Bag Drop off locations**
	+ Might want to check the apartment buildings around town. Leslie will work on getting contacts for the apartments.
	+ Terracycle – collecting disposable razors and Legos as well as sneakers at Earth Day.
	+ Plastic bottle caps – Dennise is working on this.
	+ Janet Harris is also looking into daily disposable contacts as well as cigarette butts.
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**Old Business:**

* Health Fair/Blood Drive – date is 10/14/23.
	+ Continuing to get new vendors.
* Review of 4/22/23 – Paper Shredding and Hard Plastics Recycling 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
	+ The day went well. Shredding by the DPW was busy. Second Chance Toys took everything that was collected. The girl scout troop was present and ended their day with a tour of the recycling center. Hard plastics collection went well. Harry Menta will put up pictures from the events.
* Leslie will reorder a battery container. She is looking into 55-gallon drums to collect batteries. She wants to do a little research on Call to Recycle. She will order two boxes for now and will speak to Bergen HUB as well.

**New Business:**

* **No Mow May** – resolution passed by BOC on 4/25/23**.**

Bergen Hub discussed No Mow May. It originated in England because they were losing their bees. Wisconsin was doing it. Ridgewood was doing it and discussed it at Bergen Hub. It is important to understand that supporting pollinators doesn’t mean completely abandoning all lawn maintenance. Each resident can decide how they wish to support pollinators whether it be a small section of their lawn, mowing less, allowing dandelions to grow. The important thing is to raise awareness. There will be signs available for participating residents. This is posted on Instagram, Facebook and village websites. The DPW will also be participating. It is a voluntary program. Residents can choose how they want to participate and if they want to participate. A flyer will be sent to the schools and Leslie will make sure Mr. Savino gets a copy as well.

* **Earth Day** – scheduled for May 20, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
	+ Remind Mayor Anlian to make a robo-call.
* Sneaker Impact Inc – collecting sneakers for recycling at Earth Day
* NJDMV Mobile Unit – maybe do this in 2024 and invite, Bogota & Little Ferry

#### 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.
* **5/20/23 – Earth Day 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
* **9/23/23 – Swap & Shop**
* **10/14/23 – Health Fair 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. @ K of C Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

A motion was made by Veronica Leone and seconded by Harry Menta to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for **THURSDAY, May 11, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Mark Olson