**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, August 24, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. – NO MEETING IN JULY**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**June 22, 2023**

Chair Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:03 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: Josephine Carangui, Veronica Leone, Leslie Olson, Dan Raftery, Dennise Santana, Janet Harris, Nicole Terrarosa, Daniele Fede. Absent: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Gloria Rivera. Ex Officio Members. Excused: Tiffany Chen, Harry Menta, Rita Raftery.

The minutes of the May 11, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Veronica Leone and seconded by Rita Raftery. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of bills:**

PO#53599 - $ 50.00 – Dayle’s Village Flower Shoppe – Flowers for Janet Malool (Janet sent a lovely thank you.)

**Hearing of Citizens:** None Present

**Correspondence****:**

* Email dated 5/11/23 from Christopher Cardola Grow Garden State Re: Education on growing certain seeds.
* Email dated 5/15/23 from Chetni McQueen of Greater Bergen Community Action, Inc. Re: Lead Information
* Copy of letter dated 5/30/23 from Chair Leslie Olson to Noah Otuyelu, a student in Mr. Savino’s class.
* Email dated 6/6/23 from ZB Re: Application for 245 Main RP, LLC to convert the existing commercial building at 245 Main Street to a 21-unit residential multiple dwelling. Hearing scheduled for 7/20/23. Comments due 7/10/23.
* Memo from Tara O’Grady Re: Appointments and Oaths of Office.
* Email dated 6/12/23 from Lauren Ploger of CVS ([lauren.ploger@cvshealth.com](mailto:lauren.ploger@cvshealth.com)) Re: Flu Clinic at Health Fair

**Reports:**

* **Sustainable Jersey Planning – Submission Deadline 7/27 – Third Round**
  + Finished second round with 360 points approved, enough for Silver. There are two actions that will be completed, and the final total should then be 420 points.
  + **Actions marked must revise:**
    - [**Innovative Community Project 1**](https://www.sustainablejersey.com/certification/municipal-dashboard/manage-application/#open/action/113) – must submit new project addressing new/different initiatives - 10 pts.
    - **Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution \*Retires 12/31/23\* -** 5 pts**.**
    - **Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance** - 20 pts.

Veronica had to make a slight correction for this to be completed as per the comments received.

* + - **Non-Mandated Materials Recycling**40 pts.

Leslie has to add a few more pieces of info for this to be completed as per comments received.

* + **Actions not approved:**
    - **Creative Placemaking Plan -** 10 pts – This will be for 2024.
    - [**"Green" Your Green Fair \*Retires 12/31/23\***](https://www.sustainablejersey.com/certification/municipal-dashboard/manage-application/?tx_sjcert_application%5BactionSubmission%5D=11132&tx_sjcert_application%5Bapplication%5D=289&tx_sjcert_application%5Baction%5D=editActionSubmission&tx_sjcert_application%5Bcontroller%5D=Application&cHash=cc1eb5f6c3ca13606bcb0fc7f9be006a) - 10 pts. – This retiring in 2023 so leaving it alone.
    - **Extreme Temperature Event Plan** – 10 pts.
    - **Safe Routes to School** – 10 pts – This will also be for 2024, maybe work with the traffic officer.
    - **Bicycle & Pedestrian Audits** – 5 pts.
    - **Tree Protection Ordinance** – 10 pts. – This should be able to be completed in 2024.

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* **Environmental – Veronica Leone**
* **Mayors Monarch Pledge – Nicole Terrarosa**
  + Nicole said signs were made and are in all the gardens.
  + There was a discussion about having a spotlight on people that did pollinator gardens, maybe a “Pollinator Spotlight”. It could be put online and on social media.
* **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 regarding distribution to the general population so that we can get at least 130 responses, which is 1% of 13,000. Meeting on 5/24/23.
    - Leslie is still waiting for Commissioner Gerken to set up a meeting date on the health action.
  + **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** – BOC will be installing two on Cedar Street lots and the IGA parking lot.
* **Plastic Bag Drop off locations.**
  + Might want to check the apartment buildings around town. Michele Lynn has checked into this, but Francine said it is not an easy task to just get the contacts.
  + Dan Raftery is going to speak with the Supt. of Ryan Lombardi Tower. A resident asked if they could have a collection bin as well.
  + Terracycle – collecting disposable razors. Legos directly with Legos and sneakers with Sneaker Impact.
  + MK Valencia is still looking for the cigarette butt box. Terracycle will not issue a new box until one is returned.
  + Plastic bottle caps – Dennise is working on this. Leslie ordered a second box for collection.
  + Janet Harris is also looking into daily disposable contacts as well as cigarette butts.
  + Collected 32 pairs of sneakers at Earth Day event and sent them to Sneaker Impact. Looking to place a collection box at the recycling center or another public space, such as the library, if permitted.

**Old Business:**

* **Newsletters:** Fall Newsletter – suggestions for the next newsletter:
  + Free Cycle
  + Buy Nothing
  + Upcoming events: Swap & Shop, Health Fair & Blood Drive, Rigid Plastics Recycling & Second Chance Toy Drive, Cereal Boxes for Food Pantry
* **Swap & Shop – scheduled for 9/23/23.**
  + Hackensack Green Team invited to Swap & Shop.
  + Leslie will think about some other vendors to invite.
  + RP Deli – see if they might be interested in providing some food, the food was very good on Earth Day.
* **Cosmic Wheel** – ask them if they could do a 2-hour bike check clinic.
* **NJDMV Mobile Unit** – will send this to the PD.

**New Business:**

* **Trees for Schools: Tree-planting Grants for New Jersey Public Schools, Colleges, and Universities** – info will be sent to STC to make sure they are aware of this. Applications are due by July 13, 2023, for spring 2024 plantings. In order to participate in this program, an applicant must upload documents that it is authorized to apply for this grant by August 7, 2023. This is part of SJ for schools.
* **NJDEP Recycling Awards**: Recognizing Excellence in Recycling Throughout NJ
  + NJ Dep annually recognizes excellence in recycling. Application is due by 7/21/23.
  + Barbara will submit the application, nominating the Village of RP under the category “Government”.
  + This category is for a municipality that has expanded its recycling program.
* **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.
* **6/28/23 – Free Family Outdoor Movie Night** at Roosevelt School field @ 8:30 p.m. Puss in Boots will be shown.
* **9/23/23 – Swap & Shop**
* **10/7/23 – Street Fair**
* **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.**
* **10/21/23 – Rigid Plastics Recycling and Second Chance Toy Drive, Cereal Boxes for Food Pantry**

A motion was made by Dennise Santana and seconded by Dan Raftery to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 24, 2023, @ 7:00 P.M**. There will be no meeting in July.

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

cc: Commissioner Olson Barbara DeLuca