**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**October 26, 2023**

Vice-Chair Veronica Leone called the meeting to order at 7:07 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, Dan Raftery, Janet Harris, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Nicole Terrarosa. Absent: Gloria Rivera. Ex Officio Members. Excused: Tiffany Chen, Josephine Carangui, Leslie Olson, Dennise Santana, Daniele Fede, Rita Raftery, Joe Maggio.

The minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Dan Raftery and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of bills:**

* PO#5499 – $65.00 – Reidel Sign Company – Green Fair Sign Update

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

**Correspondence****:**

* Email dated 10/10/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: 10/10 Pickup 109.70 lbs.
* Email dated 10/16/23 from Joyce Massaro, Red Cross Re: Results of 10/14/23 Blood Drive.
* Email dated 10/17/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: 10/17/23 Pickup 36.00 lbs.
* Memo from Tara O’Grady Re: Newsletter Deadline is 11/1.
* Email dated 10/24/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: 10/24/23 Pickup 473.60 lbs.
* Email dated 10/25/23 from SJ Re: Silver Recertification – Luncheon scheduled for 11/14/23.

**Reports:**

* **Sustainable Jersey Planning – Submitted 7/27 – Third Round submitted for 420 points.**
  + Application was approved for 31 actions in 12 categories for a total of 420 points.
* **Health and Wellness – Barbara DeLuca and Leslie Olson**
  + - Health Assessment Questionnaire ready. We need to get 500 points to be gold.
      * Phase 1 – Village Employees – going out in November.
      * Phase 2 – Make the questionnaire live.

**Old Business:**

* **Health Fair/Blood Drive – review**
  + Academy of Greatness & Excellence – worked out well, need another outdoor sign to alert people there are more vendors inside the gym – happy to collaborate on the event.
  + Blood Drive – went very well, crew was friendly and helpful, took walk-ins.
    - Results: 30 presented, 5 deferred, 5 power reds, 28 pints + 84 lives saved
  + Printed 250 programs and 79 were left over.
  + Tallies at front tables had K of C: 74 and AGE: 50
  + Smaller tables worked out great and allowed for a lot more vendors.
  + Asked vendors throughout the day if they were satisfied with the number of visitors and they said yes.
  + Several thank you emails were received from the vendors.
  + K of C – 4 vendors did not show but two sent emails – total of 43 vendors present
  + AGE – 10 vendors did not show and did not email before or after – total of 34 vendors present.
  + Did hear some negative comments about one particular vendor.
  + Working on a date for next year with K of C (possibly 10/14) – do we still want two locations? Yes.
  + Sending out a survey to vendors for their comments/suggestions.
* **Hard Plastics Recycling – review**
  + Veronica Leone, Harry Menta, Rita, and Dan Raftery were at this event and said it went very well.
  + Had 11 cars bring hard plastic for recycling.
  + People are starting to get used to the April and October drives.
  + Maybe next year, give more examples of what can be recycled.
* **Welcome Guide –** a number of people have been asked to review for comments so it can be updated. Please continue to compile your comments. Dan Raftery checked the links to make sure they were all working.Page 11 – ambulance does not work, PD – not working, Parking – 404 error.
* **Newsletter:** Winter Newsletter – Deadline is November 1
  + Article on bringing EPS to be densified....we are near the holidays.
  + For those who have SJ access, please look at the SJ actions scheduled to expire at the end of this year and consider some promotional articles in those areas.
  + Leslie will do a Food Waste Composting Update.
  + Include 1/24/24 joint project with EC at the library on preparing your garden.

#### New Business:

**November:**

* Structured release of Health Survey**-**SRP, EC**,** Board of Rec**,**Municipal offices, DPW

**January - Civic Center - Strategies for winter sowing of native plant seeds**

* The date is January 24, 2024, for strategies for winter sowing of native plant seeds as an introduction to native plant gardening for pollinators is the topic with Linda Quinn and Tammy Laverty of the EC presenting. 45 min - 1 hr.

**March - Civic Center – 8, 9, 10 (already booked, 3/31 is Easter) – 3/23/24 selected.**

* Free indoor Green Fair.  Invite 3- 5 Green Teams (not including us) and 1-3 sustainable vendors. – March 23, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
* Maybe a theme?  Around Repurpose/Reuse/Reduce? Green Teams share their latest projects, most successful projects, or something else.
* On-site art project - 5-10 buckets filled with recycled items that need to be reused for youngsters.
* Possible Vendors - sustainable cosmetics, candles and soaps, Dry Goods Refillery, Bradley’s Gluten-free Bakeshop, Neighborhood Compost

**November meeting date to be 11/30/23 @ 7:00 p.m.**

* **December meeting – no**

**Staples –** in addition to crayons, markers and pens can be dropped off for recycling.

**Dates to Keep in Mind:**

#### Saturday, 10/28/23 – need to train other people to work the densifier.

* + Delivery from Saddle River is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.
  + Harry said he can stop by. Dan is already committed for the morning.
* Meeting dates for 2024
  + Members prefer the meeting date to remain on the 4th Thursday.

**Future Plans:**

* NJDMV Mobile Unit – maybe do this in 2024 and invite, Bogota & Little Ferry

A motion was made by Dan Raftery and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 30, 2023, @ 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

cc: Commissioner Olson Barbara DeLuca