**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**November 30, 2023**

Vice-Chair Veronica Leone 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, Dan Raftery, Dennise Santana, Daniele Fede. Absent: Gloria Rivera. Ex Officio Members. Excused: Tiffany Chen, Josephine Carangui, Janet Harris, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson, Daniele Fede, Rita Raftery, Joe Maggio.

The minutes of the October 26, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Dan Raftery and seconded by Harry Menta. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of bills:** none.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

**Correspondence****:**

**. Correspondence:**

* Email dated 10/31/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: 10/31 Pickup 23.10 lbs.
* Email dated 11/07/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: 11/07/23 Pickup 122.80 lbs.
* Email dated 11//14/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: 11/14/23 Pickup 21.60 lbs.
* Email dated 11/15/23 from Gannett Legals Public Notices Re: 11/30 Meeting Date Publication
* Email dated 11/21/23 from Sabrina Arauz, SJ Re: SJ Luncheon Photo
* Email dated 11/21/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: 11/21 Pickup 165.60 lbs.
* Email dated 11/22/23 from American Red Cross Re: Your organization helped hospital patients in need, find out where!
* Email dated 11/28/23 from Francine Orovitz, DPW Re: RP Compost Program Info
* Email dated 11/28/23 from Neighborhood Compost Re: 11/28 Pickup 80.20 lbs.
* Email dated 11/30/23 from John Richey Re: Interested in Joining SRP

**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.
* Actions that Expire in 2023: **Members to review and select one or two they can do or assist with.**
  + Create a Green Team – Leslie Olson
  + Community Education & Outreach - Update Welcome Guide with simple map
  + Emergency Communications & Planning – Someone needs to review to find what updates are needed.
  + Vulnerable Population Identification – Someone needs to review to find what updates are needed.
  + Energy Tracking and Management – Francine/Carol
  + Community Garden – Marian McKenna
  + Buy Fresh Buy Local – Nicole Terrarosa – Check the list and delete and update.
  + Environmental Commission – Barbara/Steve
  + Recycled Paper – Leslie Olson
  + Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal – Leslie has support material.
  + Household Hazardous Waste – Someone needs to review to find what updates are needed.
* Possible New Additions?
  + Municipal Communications Strategy
  + Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly
  + Public Electric Vehicle Charging Structure
  + Local Health Assessment & Action Plan
  + Safe Routes to Schools
  + Lead Blood Screening
  + Best Practices Local Boards of Health

**Old Business:**

* **Health Fair/Blood Drive** 
  + K of C reserved 10/12/24, waiting to hear back from St. Francis & AGE if the gym can be used
  + American Red Cross said it could do blood drive that day.
* **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:** Spring Newsletter – Starting thinking of ideas for spring newsletter
  + Article on bringing EPS to be densified....we are near the holidays.

#### New Business:

**November:**

* Structured release of Health Survey**-**SRP, EC**,** Board of Rec**,**Municipal offices, DPW
  + How should we release to employees – online or paper?

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

* The date is January 24, 2024,@ 7:00 p.m. 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. Maybe a high school student could record the talk.

**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. Spring Into Green Living – possible name
* 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

**Election for Chair and Vice Chair to be held at end of January 2024 meeting.**

#### Dates to Keep in Mind:

* Meeting dates for 2024
  + Members prefer the meeting date to remain on the 4th Thursday.
* January 7, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. county wide collection in RP
* March 23, 2024 – Indoor Green Fair @ Civic Center – Possible name; Spring into Green Living
* September 21, 2024 – Swap and Shop 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
* October 12, 2024 – Health Fair/Blood Drive

**Future Plans:**

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

A motion was made by Harry Menta and seconded by Dennise Santana to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 25, 2024, @ 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

cc: Commissioner Olson Barbara DeLuca