**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**February 22, 2024**

Chair Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Daniel Raftery, Dennise Santana, Janet Harris, Dominick Melchione, Elizabeth Shulman. Absent: Gloria Rivera, Ex Officio Members. Excused: Tiffany Chen, Josephine Carangui, Nicole Terrarosa, Rita Raftery, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Joe Maggio.

The minutes of the January 25, 2024, 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:** Carolyn Ferrer was present. She wanted to discuss recycling art supplies. One suggestion was to have an art trade or maybe an open swap on Grove Street where people would bring supplies and take what you need. Leslie Olson will contact the art school in New Milford to see if they take any supplies.

**Correspondence****:**

* Email dated 1/27/24 from Dominic Melchione Re: Interested in Becoming a member.
* Email dated 1/30/24 from Neighborhood Compost Re: Service Alert Weight: 228.20 lbs.
* Email dated 2/16/24 from Rita Raftery Re: Hackensack River Nation Council meeting 3/26/24 @ 9:30 a.m. via in person (location TBD)/ zoom.
* Memo from Tara O’Grady Re: 2024 Newsletter Deadlines. 2/15/24, 5/17/24, 8/16/24, 10/18/24
* Email dated 2/22/24 from Terry Rodriguez, Junior Girl Scout Troop 98030 Re: Interested in little libraries.

It was noted that the Little Library at Fellowship Park needs to have the plexiglass repaired. Dominick said he would fix it if someone had plexiglass. **NOTE AFTER MEETING:** Nicole already repaired it.

**Reports:**

* **Sustainable Jersey Planning – Submitted 7/27 – Third Round submitted for 420 points.**
* **First Round Submission Deadline: 2/28/24**
	+ 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 - Done
	+ Community Education & Outreach - Update Welcome Guide with simple map – Rita will work on it too.
	+ Emergency Communications & Planning – **Someone needs to review to find what updates are needed.**
	+ Vulnerable Population Identification – Done
	+ Energy Tracking and Management – Francine/Carol - Done
	+ Community Garden – Marian McKenna - Done
	+ Buy Fresh Buy Local – Nicole Terrarosa – Done
	+ Environmental Commission – Barbara - Done
	+ Recycled Paper – Leslie Olson – might be retired so Leslie will look into it.
	+ Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal – Done
	+ Household Hazardous Waste – Working on it.
* Possible New Additions?
	+ Municipal Communications Strategy – Not yet.
	+ Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly – working on it.
	+ Public Electric Vehicle Charging Structure
	+ Local Health Assessment & Action Plan – will file for the first round to get feedback.
	+ Safe Routes to Schools – **No**
	+ Lead Blood Screening – Barbara will look into this to see if it can be done now.
	+ Best Practices Local Boards of Health – submission will depend on Commissioner Gerken and how far he wants to go with this – may filed and get feedback.

**10. Old Business:**

* **Health Fair/Blood Drive**
	+ K of C reserved 10/12/24, did not hear back from St. Francis & AGE if the gym can be used but Janet Harris said she spoke with St. Francis about using the gym for summer recreation and was told the gym will only be used by the school.
	+ Starting to gather vendors.
* **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. Rita will work on the writing. Michelle DeLuca will be added to this to assist with new businesses in town.
* **Newsletter:** Spring Newsletter – Start thinking of ideas for 5/17/24 newsletter
	+ Deadlines: **May 17, 2024**, August 16, 2024, October 18, 2024
	+ Article on bringing EPS to be densified.
	+ SRP EOY Wrap up article – comments, should it be used in 1Q24newsletter as well?
	+ 49 Spots still available for composting – remind people to remove tags from food before composting.

#### 11. New Business:

**January -**

* Structured release of Health Survey**-**SRP, EC**,** Board of Rec**,**Municipal offices, DPW
	+ Will email to employees – waiting for approval from Commissioner Gerken
	+ Leslie will speak to Commissioner Gerken before releasing to the public.
	+ Minimum of 130 responses needed for action.
	+ See if the high school medical club wants to get involved.

**March – 3/3/24 DPW – 10am - 2pm**

**EPS Recycling** - Open to all Bergen County towns. Hosted by Sustainable RP and Leonia Green Team. RP will need at least four volunteers on 3/3/24. 2 hr. shifts – Rita @ 10:00 a.m.; Veronica, Carolyn, Dominick @ 12:00 p.m.

Leslie explained that each town coordinates their drive. RP is not just the drop off point. The town must bring their volunteers and densify the Styrofoam that is collected.

**Green Fair - Civic Center – 3/23/24 - Cancelled.**

* 4/25/24 Meeting – see if Dry Goods Refillery will do a talk.
* Rita & Dan Raftery will be gone from May 14 – June 17 so they will not be able to pick up the plastic bags then.
* Leslie is looking for someone to donate and make two little libraries – one in front of the library when it is closed and another for McGowan Park. SRP will have Michelle do post on social media.

**Swap & Shop – 9/21/24 – Civic Center (al three floors).** Will look into finding a place to donate home goods left over from the Swap & Shop. Dennise has a place that takes the leftover clothing.

**Street Fair –** scheduled for October 5, 2024. Leslie thinks that SRP should focus on two things at the street fair.

**Elections were held:**

A motion was made by Dennise Santana and seconded by Janet Harris nominating Leslie Olson as Chair. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Dennise Santana and seconded by Harry Menta nominating Veronica Leone as Vice Chair. All were in favor of the motion.

Leslie Olson and Veronica Leone will attend the Sustainability Summit in Holmdel.

Janet Harris said she would like to see SRP march in the July 4th parade or make a float. It was suggested that SRP see if the EC and Nature Preserve would want to partner on this event.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 28, 2024, @ 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

cc: Commissioner Olson Barbara DeLuca

**Future Plans:**

* NJDMV Mobile Unit – maybe do this in 2024 and invite, Bogota & Little Ferry
* 4/25 – Invite Dry Goods Refillery to give a talk.
* Lantern Flies – popular topic raised by people on nature walks & social media – maybe a session on them with EC?
* No Mow May
* Mayor’s Monarch Pledge
* Possible gardening event on vegetables in spring

**Dates to Keep in Mind:**

* **2/24/24 -** 6:30 p.m. Jazz Concert @ Civic Center by students taught at Jazz Day
* **3/03/24** – EPS Recycling at DPW 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (volunteers needed)
* **3/16/24** – RP Arts Association & Girl Scouts – Event to benefit Girl Scouts
* **3/24/24** – Earl Sauls Birthday Jazz Trio Concert – Civic Center – 7:00 p.m.
* **4/06/24** – Paper Shredding & Bulky Rigid Plastics Collection @ DPW
* **5/10/24 – Second Round SJ Submission Deadline**
* **5/11/24 – Every Day is Earth Day 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
* **7/31/24 – Third Round SJ Submission Deadline**
* **9/21/24** – Swap and Shop – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Civic Center
* **10/05/24** – Street Fair
* **10/12/24** – Health Fair/Blood Drive – K of C – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00
* Meeting dates for 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.in court room
	+ JANUARY 25 MAY 23 SEPTEMBER 26
	+ FEBRUARY 22 JUNE 27 OCTOBER 24
	+ MARCH 28 JULY 25 NOVEMBER - WORK SESSION TBA
	+ APRIL 25AUGUST 22 (IF NEEDED) DECEMBER – no meeting.