



SUSTAINABLE OAKLAND GREEN TEAM

August 15, 2020 Meeting 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chair:
Carol Peterson – Co-Chair
Alison Fleeson – Co-Chair
Board Members:
Pat Weiman
Vacant
Rachel Spina
Associate Members:
Dana Andro
Marisol Kozlovski
Courtney Carbone
Elisabeth Ochoa
Nancy Krause
Andrea Levy
Council Liaison:
Pasquale Pignatelli
Borough Admin. Designee:
Michael E. Carelli

Meeting Called to Order at 7:38 p.m. via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Co-Chair Carol Peterson, Co-Chair Alison Fleeson, Board Member Pat Weiman, Board Member Rachel Spina, Associate Member Dana Andro, and Associate Member Andrea Levy present. Dylan Warner, Elisabeth Ochoa, Courtney Carbone, Marisol Koslovski, Nancy Krause, Councilman Pat Pignatelli, and Borough Administrator's Designee Michael Carelli absent. Members Dylan Warner, Nancy Krause, and Courtney Carbone not excused. Borough Administrator Designee Michael Carelli and Councilman Pat Pignatelli excused.

Meeting Announcement: This meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law, duly announced, advertised and posted in the municipal building.

Co-Chair Carol Peterson stated that all Sustainable Oakland Green Team members are encouraged to vote although Board Members hold the official votes. All members are encouraged to participate in topics and members of the public must provide their name and address. 5 Minute time limit may be imposed on a member of the public and presentations must be scheduled in advance.

Carol Peterson added Secretary, Board Position, and Chicken Ordinance to new business. Motion by Alison Fleeson and Seconded by Rachel Spina to add topics to new business at tonight's meeting. All in favor.

Open to the Public:

- Motion by Alison Fleeson and Seconded by Rachel Spina to open to the public. All in favor.
 - William Miles of 36 Overlook Ridge present. Carol mentioned that the Boy Scouts were looking for conservation hours for a boy-scout project, but got delayed with COVID-19. Carol asked William if he would be interested in fixing the tubes from the Great Oak Park Roots for Rivers plantings. Carol can provide replacement ties and tubes and garbage may be collected too.
 - Bryan La Forgia of 47 Walnut Street present.
- Motion by Alison Fleeson and Seconded by Rachel Spina to close the public portion. All in favor.

Old Business:

Community Garden – Ali:

- Due to covid delays in the work on the garden, the fencing is getting wrapped up this week, and everything else is installed at this time. Ali suggested a grand opening for spring 2021 at the normal fee is \$50.00. Board Member Pat made a motion to move the opening of the Oakland Community Garden to the spring of 2021, Seconded by Ali. All in Favor. The Community Garden will open in spring 2021.

- Bench update – Ali – The free Trex bench earned by the plastic film collection program is installed at the garden and the second bench is arriving within the next 2 weeks. Due to the bins being closed for plastic film, the Green Team is not earning any extra benches.
- Need Volunteers for weeding and covering beds – Ali - suggested that the Green Team plans a day for weeding between the beds and instead of having grass, it be ripped out and install steppable plants ground cover. A date will be proposed soon. Ideas of covering the beds was discussed such as recycled boxes or cardboard.
- Remaining Grant Money- Ali - signage still needs to be purchased, Michael has designed a logo for the Green Team's feedback. A storage bin is also proposed for purchase. Materials will be stored in the proposed shed/bin. Andrea Levy added that the town wide garage sale is in September and perhaps a message should be put out for materials being sought, such as storage sheds.
- 2021 Garden Classes Calendar suggestions - Carol:
 - The Green Team would like to create a garden class calendar such as rain barrels and composting. Would need teachers and additional topics covered. Carol suggested Zoom classes during the winter. Pat suggested a HUB recording from Farmburbia that could be recycled and posted..

FLOW Green Film Fest Rescheduled Dates - Ali/Carol:

- On hold.

Seed Bank - Final Purchase – Carol:

- Working on final seed order through PSEG grant. If anyone has non-GMO, organic, and native plants, herbs or lettuce seeds, they may be packaged up.

Census Update – Courtney:

- Lawn Signs are available at the Oakland Borough Hall. Oakland is at 82% self-response rate. A mailing from the Mayor was mailed to the lowest Census tracts this week.

Roots for Rivers – Carol:

- No update.

Bat and Bird Boxes - Pat W / Nancy:

- No update.

Arts Council - Pat W/Ali:

- Ali provided two sample resolutions to Michael and Rich, the power point slideshow from the Creative Bergen webinar, and the Mayor's letter of endorsement. Ali will attend the Council meeting in case any questions arise from the Governing Body. Pat added that as part of Sustainable Jersey, the Bergen County HUB initiated the Creative Bergen Team. The team was formed in June and a kickoff meeting was held in July 2020, and there are about 17 core members on the team right now. The officer election will be held in September, an Arts Crawl will be held in June 2021, and much more activities. Pat added that they were looking to get a 501 C-3 status. Ali noted members are working on launching Social Media (FB & IG).

Styrofoam Outreach – Carol:

- Carol Peterson suggested making a small presentation on what the Styrofoam business rewards program is and what its goal is. Information would be distributed to all Borough businesses, and the Styrofoam rewards program would showcase businesses that eliminate Styrofoam, such as restaurants and convenience stores..

SOGT Branding Subcommittee Update:

- No update.

EV- Michael:

- No update.

New Business:

- **Board Secretary – Ali/Carol:**
 - The Green Team would like to request the budget for a secretary from the Governing body in the 2021 budget. Ali asked members to step up and take minutes on a rotating basis until approved.
- **Chicken Ordinance – Carol/Ali:**
 - The Borough of Oakland is amending their chicken ordinance. The draft ordinance will negatively affect a lot of residents who are chicken owners, and includes requirements for professional animal waste services, limits on the number of chickens, and other items that seem to be not in line with best practices. Carol added that in the draft ordinance it states chicken waste cannot be composted, which is not true as chicken waste is compostable. Dana added information on waste removal. No residents cannot afford a waste removal company to come on a daily/weekly basis. Carol has concerns with the ordinance and suggested the Green Team should offer comments on the draft ordinance and send them to her. Dana added that larger cities allow chickens with no limitations. Member of the public Brian La Forgia commented that the Board of Health has a discussion and there was a few dissents and that Mr. La Forgia questioned if anyone from the Green Team was present. Ali added that at the last Council Meeting there was a lot of discussion and Councilman Pignatelli added that the Board of Health was working with the Animal Control Officer on the ordinance.
- **Board Position Opening – Carol/Ali:**
 - A Board position is vacant, and we need three Board members in attendance to make quorum. Carol suggested holding a vote at the next meeting. All members agreed. Ali added that the Sustainable Oakland Green Team has to renew in 2021 and new positions will be voted on.
- **Styrofoam and Plastic Collection Bin update – Ali:**
 - Ali stated that the Styrofoam bins have been removed from the First Aid Squad and there is no update as to the status of the bins. The HUB is working on some options for plastic film and Styrofoam and until solutions arise, the bins are shut down.
- **Actions Expiring 12/2020 (see attachment) – Ali:**
 - Ali noted the Green Team was approved for 320 and revising an additional 200 points by September 11, 2020 due date. There are some actions expiring in 2021 which include innovative community project, prescription drug safety and disposal program, paper shredding day, construction and demolition waste disposal program, backyard composting program. Members are needed to take the lead on these actions.
- **Great Oak Park maintenance**
 - Monarch Waystation:
 - Carol Peterson added that the monarch waystations need some care as poison ivy has over taken it. Carol Peterson wants a push mower and landscaping tools to remove some of the invasive species.
 - New Monarch Signs:
 - Carol has spoken to Don Torino, head of the Bergen County Audubon and a new sign will be donated to Oakland by the larger monarch garden in Great Oak Park. Carol will get dimensions and a photo of the sign which needs to be approved by the Great Oak Park Committee and the Borough Council.

Motion to Close by Pat Weiman and Seconded by Rachel Spina. All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Next Meeting on **Tuesday September 22, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM** Video Conferencing.