



SUSTAINABLE OAKLAND GREEN TEAM

July 27, 2020 Meeting 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chair:

Carol –
Ali –

Board Members:

Pat
Dylan Warner
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 7:32 p.m. via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Co-Chair Carol Peterson, Co-Chair Ali Fleeson, Rachel Spina, Pat Weiman, Andrea Levy, and Courtney Carbone present. Members Dylan Warner, Dana Andro, Elisabeth Ochoa, Nancy Krause, Councilman Pat Pignatelli, and Borough Administrator Designee Michael Carelli absent.

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

Open to the Public: No members of the public present.

Administrative:

- **Vote absent members & adopt minutes:**
 - Marisol Kozlovski excused.
 - Members Dylan Warner, Nancy Krause, Dana Andro, and Elisabeth Ochoa not excused.

Carol stated that she received an email from Recycling Coordinator Matthew Goodrich. The Plastic Film bin will be converted to a styrofoam bin and residents will be directed to drop off plastic film at nearby stores including Shop Rite of Oakland. Carol stated that this was a shock as the Sustainable Oakland Green Team started the plastic film program which the Borough then took over when we received the recycling bins. The Sustainable Oakland Green Team has earned 2 benches through the Trex Program. Carol voiced concerns and asked if the Green Team can take back the plastic film program. Further information to be shared.

Old Business:

- **Community Garden – Ali:**
 - No update.
- **Flow Green Film Festival Rescheduled Dates – Carol/Ali:**
 - No update
- **Seed Bank – Carol:**
 - Seeds will be ordered. Seed donations are being sorted. The Library will host the seed bank and seeds will be in a photo album.
- **Census Update – Courtney:**
 - Courtney advised that at the Green Team's request, Michael Carelli reached out to the County Freeholders to reapply for the census grant, and the Borough received \$1,000 for Census communications. The Borough is looking at postcard mailing, lawn signs, and a letter. There was an idea of sending to lowest responding Census tracts to save money. Courtney added that the Sustainable Oakland Green Team reached out to local realtor

Chopper Russo and got our Census message in his mailer. Oakland is at 81.4% self-response rate as of today. Glen Rock is at a 90% self-response rate. Fair Lawn is at 79%.

- ***Roots for Rivers – Carol:***
 - The 2020 projects were delayed due to COVID-19. The Sustainable Oakland Green Team is asking for an extension for a spring 2021 planting for Great Oak Park along with an extension for the Roosevelt Boulevard property.
- ***Bat and Bird Boxes – Pat W:***
 - The bat and bird box spreadsheet to all members. The next step is a site visit in Great Oak Park. It was suggested to create a list of hardware supplies and the pricing. The Great Oak Park Committee has the budget for the materials.
- ***Arts Council – Pat W/Ali:***
 - Tomorrow is the kickoff meeting/community presentation explaining what Creative Bergen is. Mayor Linda H. Schwager will be hosting. Creative Bergen is looking to create a Board with roles as well as creating events. The meeting will be recorded, and will be posted on Oakland TV Channel 77 and FiOS 45.
- ***Styrofoam Outreach – Carol:***
 - No update
- ***Sustainable Oakland Green Team Branding:***
 - Pat reached out to members for ideas. Andrea Levy asked what the goal of the branding is. Pat stated that the Green Team is concerned that the Green Team is viewed as environmental issues only when it is much more than that including the arts. Carol gave an overview of Sustainable Jersey's history. Sustainable Jersey is evolving other moving parts and actions such as diversity and inclusion actions, the arts, and others. Carol asked all members to send an email with their definition of sustainability to help the SOGT branding project.

New Business:

- ***Sustainable Bergen HUB Meeting August:***
 - Bergen County HUB has asked the Sustainable Oakland Green Team to host the next HUB Meeting. A secretary is needed and a chair to lead the meeting. Oakland has not hosted a meeting yet. Oakland Green Team is strongly encouraged to attend.
- ***Resubmission 2020:***
 - The 2020 Points Certification Submission was sent back for review and is due September 11, 2020. The Sustainable Oakland Green Team was approved for 320 points, with 250 under review for edits. All members will receive the feedback comments. Another 100 points will be finalized for re-submission. Certification levels was explained to team members. Nancy Krause added that years ago the Borough struggled to make bronze and now in the last several years Bronze became easy, and to get to silver is a big deal and takes a lot of effort and hard work.
- ***Census Webinar:***
 - The Bergen County HIB is interested in hosting a Census Webinar similar to the previous composting webinar. The HUB wants to keep creating content. Carol asked Courtney Carbone for her expertise on the topic and volunteers are needed. All 20 towns in the Bergen County HUB will be invited to participate. Courtney Carbone gave an update on why the Census response rate is important to the town and State of New Jersey.
- ***RGEA Webinar – Carol:***
 - The Sustainable Jersey RGEA webinar is tomorrow. More information to be shared shortly.
- ***2020-2021 Submission Ideas:***

- EV Charging Stations (15 Points)
 - Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan
 - Bat and Bird Boxes
 - Roots for Rivers
 - Animals in the Community Education (10 Points):
 - Education Programs:
 - Water Conservation Education:
 - Community Education and Outreach:
 - Lead Education:
 - Green Building Education:
 - Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance:
- Carol and Ali were contacted by Council President Lew Levy about Huber Lake property where a new pump station is being installed off Franklin Avenue. A garden is being proposed for the site. The project itself is a year out, and then the garden project is after that. Carol and Ali took a site visit on the property to float ideas with Councilman Levy. A folder with photos and ideas will be shared to the team. Pat asked about the property and its uses. The site is not for recreation use. Carol added that the Wayne Arboretum has a wonderful sensory garden including plants that can be touched. The Green Team feels it would be beneficial to Oakland to have a sensory garden. Pat asked if the Oakland Garden Club should be contacted. Carol added that we can reach out to them.
 - Pat asked about a gentleman that lives in Oakland and has a beautiful yard along with pollinator gardens and if he could be of benefit to the Sustainable Oakland Green Team. Ali added that she will look into the town ordinances to see if there is anything there about having your property certified for pollinator gardens. There are code enforcement restrictions regarding grass height and other property maintenance issues.
 - Courtney Carbone stated that in Glen Rock they are conducting a multi-town book club and was wondering if Oakland would be interested in the program. The book topic is diversity and inclusion and Courtney questioned if the program could be counted towards any Diversity Actions through Sustainable Jersey Program. Carol added that the Town Library Director Peter Havel would be the one to contact and that if this program does not work under the Diversity Actions through Sustainable Jersey, they could work under Innovative Actions as they expire after 1 year. Ali asked if it would be worth reaching out to Sustainable Jersey to see if the diversity actions could be expanded in light of today's current world.
 - Carol added that the Sustainable Oakland Green Team is in process of establishing a seed bank in the Oakland Public Library, which would be the first seed bank in Bergen County. The Sustainable Oakland Green Team could then pitch the idea to other surrounding towns to expand the program as BCCLS was not originally interested or supportive of the program.
 - Carol brought up "Leave the Leaves" Campaign.

Motion to Close by Ali and Seconded by Carol. All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at

Next Meeting on Tuesday August 25, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM Video Conferencing.