



The Borough of Highland Park

Sustainable Highland Park

County of Middlesex, New Jersey

P.O. Box 1330

HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY

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Subject: Sustainable Highland Park Meeting Minutes, May 24, 2023 via Zoom and in person

Attending Members: Tina Weishaus-Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Paul Sauers, Chris Perez, Irene Riegner, Mark Lesko, Rose DeLorenzo

Guest: Sheree Neese Todd, Jack Burr, Lisa Kaplan Noss, Lili Wei, Lee Wei, Meli Shiu

- 1) Earth Day Review – Paul was concerned about the number of electric vehicles present. Biking and walking should be highlighted. Lisa enjoyed the event especially the vegan food and the EVs. The SHP table, under a canopy, was not prominent. It was not evident SHP organized the event. Chris suggested displaying signs that lead people to the SHP table. A QR code can be used for Adopt-a-Drain program. Suggestion about having a passport activity where people take an interactive tour of the ED fair and visit other exhibitors. Sheree mentioned displaying a map with the layout of tables/exhibitors. Tina suggesting formalizing the registration process for the participants. SHP gave away butterfly weed and anise hyssop seedlings and got the word out on the Park Partners grant plant giveaway.
- 2) Susan Edmonds' idea – disconnect a down spout to allow the water to drain out. Ask people to take this one action. Tina suggested focusing on one action and having an outreach strategy to get to more people in the Borough.
- 3) Communications task force/committee – communication outreach, use QR codes. Chris, Meli and Lisa will brainstorm ideas for outreach.
- 4) Park Partners grant native and pollinator plant giveaway – Over 200 people received plants during Mother's Day weekend and the following Sunday at the Environmental Education Center. Plants were also given to The Meadows Trail, HP Native Plant Sanctuary and senior housing building. The rest of the plants will be given away at Molimock-Graff (Karsey)Park and to the Teen Center rain garden.

- 5) Edison's event - display electric lawn equipment. Current lawn equipment is polluting and detrimental to health. Edison offered to have SHP co-sponsor the event. We are onboard.
- 6) Arts in the Park – Irene R. suggested having a table about spotted lantern flies at this fall event. Irene will pursue registration for a table.
- 7) Raices Lease of the Environmental Center– the borough amended the lease. Raices will lease the building and do upkeep in the interior. All organizations that want to use the building will need to reserve through Raices one month in advance.
- 8) Woodbridge power plant – there will be a protest on Saturday, June 3 in Woodbridge. (Go to www.dontgasmiddlesex.wordpress.com for more info on the demonstration.) Highland Park was the second municipality to oppose the power plant. Currently there are 14 elected bodies opposing this fossil fuel project in Keasbey, an EJ and overburdened community which already has a major gas power plant. It will add toxic pollutants to the area and GHGs (greenhouse gases) to the atmosphere.