



The Borough of Highland Park

Sustainable Highland Park

County of Middlesex, New Jersey

P.O. Box 1330

HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY

TEL. (732) 572-3400 FAX (732) 732-6006

SHP Meeting Minutes 9.25.24

Attendees: Rose DeLorenzo, Tina Weishaus, Matt Hersh, Claudia Farber, Paul Sauers, Thomas DiStefano, Sheree Neese-Todd, Tami Sharma, Lisa Noss, Irene Marx, Irene Riegner, Chris Perez

Agenda

1. Introductions if any new people
 - a. Thomas
2. Borough Liaison Report - Matt Hersh
 - a. Redevelopment
 - i. Track C meeting last night (includes the Farmers Market). The conditional developer, Garden Homes, is looking to develop a significant part of that area. It will be voted on at the next Borough Council meeting. The area includes a few additional properties, from corner of South 2nd-South 3rd (stopping at Salon Envy) & additional property on Magnolia
 - ii. Public works committee supports Sen. Smith's gas-powered landscaping legislation and Matt can try to get a resolution in support of that bill on a council agenda in October.
 - iii. **Next steps: Matt to email Teri for a meeting date on redevelopment**
3. Report on recent events
 - a. Town-Wide Garage Sale
 - i. New resource: We created a last-minute [info sheet](#) on what to do with unsold items to keep them out of the landfill
 1. People really liked this resource. Thank you, Tami, KT & Lisa for working on it!
 2. **Next steps: We're going to work on the resource more and re-share it as a general resource for the year**
 - ii. Tabling: we gave away flower pots. It was a great location and for next year we can plan further in advance, especially if we want to upcycle/give away items (we're not sure we can sell anything). It was good we had a presence there. We were only there for 3 hours and people were excited about our new resource and about getting involved with SHP.
 - b. Arts in the Park - Native Plant giveaway
 - i. We gave away large, beautiful native plants and it brought a lot of people to our tables. We met so many people in the community & it was a big success!

- c. Our work is attracting a lot of people and we're an important part of the community! We are grateful to everyone who participated in these events.
- 4. Communications Team Report - Lisa
 - a. October calendar review
 - i. Oct 5 (Sat) - Community Clean Up
 - 1. 10am - 12pm, location TBD
 - ii. Oct 6 (Sun) - Native Plant Sanctuary Guided Walking Tour
 - 1. Meet in the parking lot at 50 River Road
 - iii. Oct 11 (Fri) - Middlesex County Paper Shredding
 - 1. 9am-12pm
 - 2. Donaldson Park
 - iv. Oct 14 (Mon) - SHP Programming Team Meeting
 - 1. 7:30pm, virtual
 - v. Oct 19 (Sat) & Oct 20 (Sun) - Native Plant Giveaway? **Need more info**
 - vi. Oct 20 (Sun) - Community Clean Up
 - 1. 10am - 12pm, location TBD
 - vii. Oct 23 (Wed) - SHP Monthly Meeting
 - 1. 7:30pm, virtual
 - viii. Oct 26 (Sat) - Middlesex County Backyard Composting Workshop
 - 1. 10am - 12pm, Earth Center, North Brunswick
 - b. Exploring other internal communications tools like Slack
 - i. There is a lot of interest so **KT & Lisa will look into creating a Slack for SHP**
 - c. **Please email KT your ideas for sustainability & Halloween for a social media post**
- 5. Membership - Tina
 - a. Our bylaws say we can have 11 Borough-appointed members but we would like to expand to 15
 - b. We have been operating in a very informal way & don't make distinctions between "members" appointed by the Borough and "non-members"
 - c. We are an advisory committee only and have very few votes
- 6. School District Report - Rose, Meli
 - a. We had our first HS Environmental Club meeting last week & 38 students showed up!
 - b. A lot of ideas:
 - i. There's a thrift shop at the H.S. that we're going to try to revitalize
 - ii. Green threads fashion show
 - iii. Recycling plastic bags to make a bench
 - iv. There are many ideas but we need a focus and a buy-in to accomplish things
 - c. Now that Rose & Meli are working with the schools we can get students more involved with SHP programs & we can share the H.S. environmental club events on social media/in our newsletter
 - d. Student liaison - we spoke with Theo and he does want to remain a liaison
 - i. Theo said they want to do events/programming on their own, but maybe there are ways we can come together to support them
- 7. Native Plant Giveaway Update - Chris (Park Partners Grant)
 - a. We have \$800 left from the Park Partners Grant. Next giveaway: October 19/20

- b. Maybe we can do some shrubs
 - c. How can we be inclusive of renters? Indoor plants that help purify the air?
We have to confirm that we can give out these types of plants as part of the grant.
 - d. **We will send everyone who signed up an email asking for feedback/pictures of their plants. We can also share about the native plant tour on October 6**
8. Report on SHP Budget
- a. We currently have about \$650 left in the budget for this year
 - i. Idea from communications team: \$13/month for Mailchimp, \$17/month for [Later](#) (social media planning)
 - b. Add annual native plant giveaways to the budget. We got verbal approval from Teri to add \$2,000 to the budget for this
9. Apartment Outreach Planning
- a. Need to have a committee for this
 - b. **Next steps: Plan the first meeting** (Tami, Irene R, Tina, KT, Sheree, Rose)
10. Committee Structure - Irene M
- a. This is a way for all of us to get involved and pitch in
 - b. Suggested List of Sub-committees:
 - i. Earth Day Event (our signature event) - Tina & [REDACTED]
 - ii. Clean-Ups - Mark & [REDACTED]
 - iii. Adopt-a-Drain Project - Irene M & Sheree
 - iv. Native Plant Giveaway (potentially an annual SHP event) - Chris & Sheree
 - v. Communications - Lisa & KT
 - vi. Website - Claudia & Lisa
 - vii. School District Work - Rose & Meli, Sheree
 - viii. Rain Garden Maintenance - Chris & Mark
 - ix. Leaf Blower Education & Outreach - Tina & Irene R & Thomas D
 - x. Public Events - Tabling, Farmers Market, Borough Events - Rose & [REDACTED]
 - xi. Composting and Waste Reduction - Tami, Rose
 - xii. Programming - Chris & (Lisa) & [REDACTED]
 - 1. Community-led skill-sharing workshops this winter - Tami
 - a. Ex: someone teaching mending to repair items
 - xiii. Apartment Complex and Tenant Outreach and Activities - Tina & Tami & Irene R
 - xiv. State Legislation which supports Sustainability - Irene R & Tina
 - xv. Re-development - Irene R & [REDACTED]
11. Leaf Blower Update
12. October 6 Tour of NP Sanctuary - Preparations
- a. Via email: need to have an end time, program description, and meeting location so we can share this event
 - b. End time is 3 pm.
 - c. Principal volunteer, Andy Warren, will give a guided tour of this 2-acre park along the tidal part of the Raritan River.
 - d. Meet at the parking lot on River Road
13. State Legislation on the move - next meeting
14. End of Year Party / Potluck - to discuss next meeting

Next programming team meeting: Monday, 10/14 at 7:30pm (virtual)
Next SHP monthly meeting: Wednesday, 10/23 at 7:30pm (virtual)