

Roselle Park Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/17/2024

Location: Casano Center

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley

Member: Donald Chin

Member: Corina Rodriguez

Member: Ellen Margarita

Alt #2: Diane Rahoy

Municipal Land Use Board Member: Andrew J. Casais

EC Members Absent:

Member: Scarlett Gaudin

Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Member: Emil Trgala

Community members present:

None

Call to Order: 7:08 pm by Tim

Agenda

1. Garden Updates

- a) Available grants for 2025 include Union County Means Green (for community gardens), AARP Community Impact (for general environmental projects). The EC agreed to apply for the Union County grants.
- b) There is a need to begin replacing the community garden's wooden raised beds with metal beds, preferably 4'x8'x 1'. The wooden beds have passed their original 5-year useful life, and metal beds have a 10-15 year useful life. Tim offered to contact Groundworks Elizabeth for more information on where they source their beds from.
- c) The EC discussed remaining community garden cleanup tasks from the prior season.
- d) The EC discussed creation of a sub-committee to plan out the 2024 season (e.g. procure supplies, lay out to-do's, and plan events). No consensus was reached. Tim suggested an event in the June-July

timeframe to complement the potluck event held the last 2 years in September.

2. Shade Tree Update

- a) The EC discussed the status of the street trees planted in the fall on Westfield Avenue, particularly their maintenance. Per Andrew, the Borough is working on a contract for pickup of trash receptacles and tree watering. Ideally this will include the use of “gator bags” on new trees. RP has \$79k in capital funds available in 2024 for new trees, including purchase and installation. There is still a list of locations for which residents requested new street trees; about 40-50 sites, per Andrew. The EC also discussed how to address sidewalk lift/damage from tree roots, as there are options available that do not require removal of an entire tree. Per Andrew, there is a separate budget item for sidewalk repair.
- b) One suggestion from the EC is to put a small sign on each newly planted tree with species, mature height/width for reference purposes (and for residents who requested a tree).
- c) Tim let the EC know that Rutgers’ Urban and Community (Core) forestry training program is upcoming in March. As a reminder, Tim noted, there is a requirement for a Borough employee to complete Core training for NJDEP certification purposes. NJDEP accreditation is a common requirement for state grant funding, and the Borough is slated to lose its current status by end of 2024.
- d) A new Community Forestry Management Plan is also due by end of 2024 to maintain NJDEP accreditation. This would include a tree inventory to guide future maintenance.

3. Green Team / Other Updates

- a) The first Roselle Park Repair Café event date is set for March 23 at the Casano Center, from 10am-2pm. The EC discussed the current needs:
 - i) More volunteer “fixers”
 - ii) Event marketing
 - iii) Volunteers for day of the event
 - iv) Supplies (including food, electric, signs, etc.)
- b) The EC discussed the Green Team Survey, which only has ~20 responses to date.

c) The EC discussed the observation that Borough trash receptacles are overflowing with (seemingly) residential garbage. DPW is occupied w/weather related issues right now. The EC discussed a number of alternative options with Andrew, but no consensus was reached.

- i) Code enforcement
- ii) Removal of cans (except Chestnut Ave?)
- iii) Adopt-a-can
- iv) Other ideas?

4. MLUB Update

- a) TBD – Andrew Casais is new liaison

5. Other Business:

- a) Tim told the EC that he submitted 2023 expenses to Borough for reimbursement in December, and reminded other members to pull together any receipts and we can work on the reimbursement process.
- b) The EC discussed other opportunities for EC to support the Borough beyond its current core activities.
- c) The EC discussed options to connect more closely with RPHS students:
 - i) Ecology Club contact – Pat Rock (prock@rpsd.org)
 - ii) Garden Club contact – Nicole Honrath (Tim already has this connection)
- d) Tim will begin work on the required Annual Report for 2024.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 pm by Tim

Next Meeting Date: February 21, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

~~January 17, 2024~~

February 21, 2024

March 20, 2024

April 17, 2024

May 15, 2024

June 19, 2024

July 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/28/2024

Location: Casano Center

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley
Member: Donald Chin
Member: Corina Rodriguez
Member: Emil Trgala
Member: Ellen Margarita
Alt #2: Diane Rahoy
Intern: Emily LaRosa
Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

EC Members Absent:

Member: Scarlett Gaudin
Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Community members present:

Lisa Coppola (working on the Repair Café)

Call to Order: 7:04 pm by Tim

Agenda

1. Garden Updates
 - a) The EC discussed upcoming grant deadlines - Union County Means Green is DUE MARCH 8th. We have limited options under which to apply, as we do not need any new beds, including Garden Enhancement and Educational Growth. The EC aligned on applying for the Garden Enhancement option.
 - b) The EC discussed dates in March to complete cleanup of the garden from the prior season.
 - c) The EC discussed additional needed garden supplies, including tomato stakes and weed cloth. Andrew said the DPW can submit a purchase order.
 - d) The EC discussed outstanding tasks to launch garden signups, including an updated flyer, Google form, and a review of the rules. Last year's sign-up deadline was April 21, so flyers will need to go up around April 1.

- e) The EC Discussed security for the garden, including gate locks and cameras. For now, a decision was made to install a non-functional camera to give the appearance of additional security. Tim opposed locks on the garden given the difficulty of managing access once the beds are rented to 20+ residents, plus volunteers.

2. Shade Tree Update

- a) The EC reviewed the open residential tree requests submitted to the Borough, and provided recommended species by tree size.
- b) The EC discussed potential collaboration with RPSD on additional plantings on SD property, focusing on “right tree, right place.”
- c) The EC confirmed that no additional members signed up for Rutgers “Core” forestry training, scheduled for March 2024.
- d) Tim noted the upcoming Roselle Park Arbor Day event at Aldene School (Friday, April 26)

3. Green Team Update

- a) The Repair Café event is March 23 at Casano Center, 10am-2pm. Volunteer fixers were invited to arrive starting at 9am.
 - i) Repairers/fixers are mostly set; there is still some outreach to identify cycle repair options.
 - ii) Event marketing flyer is coming soon from the Borough marketing team; the Borough will post the flyer on its social media.
 - iii) Volunteers for day of the event will be coordinated by Ellen and non-EC member Sam Leinberger.
 - iv) Regarding supplies (including food, electric, signs, etc.) - Tim sent a note to fixers last week on supplies and received no feedback. The EC discussed lamp supplies were the most urgent/likely supply a “customer” might need.
- b) The EC discussed the lack of Green Team Survey responses, and agreed to relaunch at Repair Café.
- c) Andrew mentioned a proposed rain garden pilot project at the intersection of Beechwood/Amsterdam Avenues. The Borough would handle funding/construction, and the EC agreed to handle ongoing maintenance.
- d) Tim provided feedback from a recent webinar he attended, in which municipalities discussed the use of Stormwater

Management/Clean Communities funding & resources for Adopt-a-Drain programs. No further action was recommended.

4. MLUB Update

a) TBD

5. Other Business:

a) ANJEC events upcoming:

- i) February 29th, noon: BUILDING CLEANER COMMUNITIES THROUGH STORMWATER EDUCATION (virtual)
- ii) March 12, 7pm; FUNDAMENTALS FOR EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS (virtual)
- iii) April 13th, 9:30 am: FUNDAMENTALS FOR EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS (in-person)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 pm by Tim

Next Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

~~January 17, 2024~~

~~February 21, 2024~~

March 20, 2024

April 17, 2024

May 15, 2024

June 19, 2024

July 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/20/2024

Location: Casano Center

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley
Member: Donald Chin
Member: Corina Rodriguez
Member: Ellen Margarita
Alt #2: Diane Rahoy
Intern: Emily LaRosa
Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

EC Members Absent:

Member: Scarlett Gaudin
Member: Emil Trgala
Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Community members present:

Percy La Rosa
Samantha Leinberger

Call to Order: 7:00 pm by Tim

Agenda

1. Garden Updates
 - a) Grants – Tim submitted a Union County Means Green Grant application for Garden Enhancement. If we receive a grant, we will need to have a representative at the award event held by the county on April 11.
 - b) Community garden cleanup - The Borough clean-up event is April 13, the EC will request some help from that pool of volunteers. Tim will send a note to the remaining garden bed renters from 2023 that didn't clean their plots. The beds need to be weeded and repaired, the irrigation system needs to be checked, and we need to deposit mulch/wood chips around the garden if enough volunteers are available.

- c) Emil will order compost from Bartell's to replenish the beds, approximately 7-8 yards this year. The EC discussed possibly bringing in worms to assist with composting, but nothing was approved.
 - d) The garden flyer still needs updating; Andrew suggested contacting Rupen Shah. The EC discussed a possible project for our intern Emily to do some simple Spanish translations for our garden materials.
2. Shade Tree Update
- a) Tim completed the Tree City USA application for 2024, which is waiting on the Mayor's signature.
3. Green Team Update
- a) Repair Café – date is March 23 at Casano Center, 10am-2pm. Fixers to arrive at 9am.
 - i) Event marketing – flyers have been put up around town and posted on social media by both EC and the Borough.
 - ii) Still need to sort out – coffee, pizza/lunch, Casano setup/takedown guidance (Andrew and Emil advised Tim to contact Rupen Shah)
 - iii) Garden signups/text alerts – we will collect on paper only for now, since the Google form is not yet ready, and contact residents when available.
 - b) Rain Garden – the EC discussed having Emily create a maintenance workplan as part of our internship projects.
4. MLUB Update
- a) TBD
5. Other Business:
- a) ANJEC events upcoming:
 - i) April 13th, 9:30 am: FUNDAMENTALS FOR EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS (in-person)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 pm by Tim

Next Meeting Date: April 17, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

January 17, 2024

February 21, 2024

March 20, 2024

April 17, 2024

May 15, 2024

June 19, 2024

July 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/24/2024

Location: Casano Center

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley

Member: Ellen Margarita

Member: Emil Trgala

Member: Andrew Casais

Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Alt #2: Diane Rahoy

Intern: Emily LaRosa

Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

EC Members Absent:

Member: Scarlett Gaudin

Member: Corina Rodriguez

Member: Donald Chin

Community members present:

Call to Order: 7:05 pm by Tim

Agenda

1. Garden Updates
 - a) Grants – The EC received a Union County Means Green Grant for Garden Enhancement.
 - i) Tim, Mariann attended event on Thurs 4/11 to receive the award recognition and other materials.
 - ii) Tim contacted Groundwork Elizabeth re: sources for metal garden beds, and is awaiting a response.
 - b) Seven yards of compost were ordered and delivered on April 8th.
 - c) Remaining cleanup from prior season – We had 10+ volunteers during the Borough cleanup on Saturday April 13, and additional volunteers on April 20.
 - i) All beds are now cleaned out (except carrots in bed #9, which was Emil's from the prior year).

- ii) All beds except the 2 standing beds and market beds have been filled with fresh compost.
- d) Garden signups – we have 19 signups so far, out of 30 beds; we need the the Borough to post reminders (Andrew will handle that), and Tim will attend the Meet the Borough event on April 26 to recruit additional new residents. We can extend the deadline as needed.
- e) Other garden prep:
 - i) Tim has been growing seedlings, many of which are ready to move into pots and/or the ground; he will bring to the garden on 4/27
 - ii) Tim signed up for free seedlings from Groundwork Elizabeth, to be picked up on Thurs May 9th.
 - iii) Diane has a fig tree which can be planted – the apple tree appears to be dead and needs to be removed.
 - iv) Tim will explore expanding irrigation out to the berry patch
 - v) We've decided to order additional supplies for ourselves and submit receipts to the Borough. Tomato stakes and weed cloth are needed.
 - vi) Mariann suggested removing the elderberry in the back – it's way too invasive. The EC is in agreement and we will ask DPW to handle.
- f) The EC discussed additional security for the garden, including signs in both English and Spanish.
- g) Planting/opening day at the garden is tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 11.
- h) Electric line at garden – Andrew spoke to PSE&G. The line needs to come across Valley Road from existing lines, and must be high enough for tractor-trailers to go underneath. It can't go too far into garden and needs a pole. Tim's feedback is this is a "nice to have" but not top priority. We only have occasional need for a power source.

2. Shade Tree Update

- a) Arbor Day is Friday April 26th, and there will be a planting ceremony at Aldene School at 10am; please try to attend.
- b) Our Tree City USA application was submitted and approved. Materials are at the Borough office.
- c) Tim will reach out to RPSD regarding collaboration on additional plantings on SD property (for example, surrounding the rear RPHS parking lot, or perhaps crepe myrtles in front of RPHS along W. Webster)

3. Green Team Update

- a) Repair Cafe - the event was a great success in spite of heavy rains throughout the event. We had 10+ fixers at the event, and over 40 items were successfully repaired for attendees. The team posted live updates to the event, we got a few garden signups, a few Green Team Surveys completed, and collected over \$100 in donations to the EC.
- b) The EC discussed the ongoing Union County Rails to Trails efforts, with an upcoming walk of the Rahway Valley Railroad pathway – Ellen will support on behalf of the EC.

4. MLUB Update

- a) TBD

5. Other Business: None.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:06 pm by Tim

Next Meeting Date: May 15, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

~~January 17, 2024~~

~~February 21, 2024~~

~~March 20, 2024~~

~~April 24, 2024~~

May 15, 2024

June 19, 2024

July 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/22/2024

Location: Casano Center

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley

Member: Andrew Casais

Member: Donald Chin

Alt #2: Diane Rahoy

Intern: Emily LaRosa

EC Members Absent:

Member: Scarlett Gaudin

Member: Corina Rodriguez

Member: Emil Trgala

Member: Ellen Margarita

Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

Community members present:

Call to Order: 7:08 pm by Tim

Agenda

1. Garden Updates

- All beds have been rented; 5 rental payments remain outstanding, and Tim is tracking down the remainder of payments due.
- Following the removal of a diseased tree in the rear of the garden, the rear community beds were damaged and needed to be reconstructed. That has been completed, along with planting. Tim is going to put together a "Florida Weave" trellis structure for the tomatoes.
- Andrew set up a \$500 purchase order at Bartell's for us to purchase garden supplies. Tim ordered 3 additional yards of compost, along with additional supplies, exhausting the PO. The additional compost was needed due to the damage to the rear community beds.
- Other garden work that is required:
 - Diane's fig tree needs to be planted

- Complete fixes on rear bed irrigation lines, which were also damaged with the tree removal.
 - Check/repair tree irrigation as needed
 - Extend irrigation to berry patch
- Security for garden – the EC aligned to work with the Borough on signs in English and Spanish, advising people not to pick produce but to contact the EC for information on free produce distribution.
- The elderberry bush was also removed by the DPW alongside the tree removal.

2. Shade Tree Updates

- The EC discussed additional support of future Borough tree plantings, including monitoring of plantings, outreach to residents who requested trees about their care, and other options.

3. Green Team Updates

- Rain garden – will be installed in conjunction with additional Boy Scout Park renovations this summer (this is located on the west side of town, where Ashwood meets Amsterdam). The EC discussed having Emily put together a maintenance plan after the end of the school year.

4. MLUB/Borough Updates

- Andrew highlighted a new stormwater regulation required by the state DEP for municipal implementation. The regulation will a permit to take down a tree on private property, and will mandate planting of replacement trees based on the trunk diameter of the tree being removed. The EC discussed a list of acceptable trees for replacement, enforcement mechanisms, and ways to limit the burden on homeowners.
- Additional model ordinances from the state will update pest waste and wildlife feeding ordinances.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:59 pm by Tim

Next Meeting Date: June 19, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

January 17, 2024

February 21, 2024

March 20, 2024

April 24, 2024

May 15, 2024

June 19, 2024

July 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/26/2024

Location: Roselle Park Community Garden

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley

Member: Andrew Casais

Member: Corina Rodriguez

Member: Emil Trgala

Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Alt #2: Diane Rahoy

Intern: Emily LaRosa

EC Members Absent:

Member: Scarlettte Gaudin

Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

Member: Donald Chin

Member: Ellen Margarita

Community members present:

Call to Order: 7:05 pm by Tim

Agenda

1. Garden Updates

- One payment remains outstanding for garden plot rentals, Tim is in touch with the person.
- Union County will visit the garden on Friday 6/28 at 11am, a condition of the grant approval. Tim will bring the certificate. Other EC members are encouraged to attend for photo purposes.
- Other garden work:
 - Diane's fig tree was planted and is being watered regularly.
 - Tim still needs to complete fixes on rear bed irrigation lines, if available supplies allow. He will purchase additional drip tape if necessary.
- The EC continued to discuss event ideas for the garden, including a possible movie night.

2. Shade Tree Updates

- RFP for street tree planting has been delayed, as it is too late in the year for a spring planting.
- The EC discussed supporting the workflow process for Rich's tree service, e.g. by organizing by geography to make maintenance outings more efficient.
- New tree ordinance covers permitting/restitution for resident removal of trees on private property. This raised a number of questions for discussion:
 - Is there enforcement/permitting for tree services? Are the fines severe enough for residents who fail to get a permit?
 - Can we provide an affordable option for residents to replace removed trees (not purchasing trees for residents, but subsidizing by purchasing at bulk/selling at a discount)? See e.g. Cranford Canopy Project. Can fees paid into the Borough's tree fund through the new ordinance be used for this purpose?

Green Team Updates - None.

MLUB/Borough Updates - None.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:52 pm by Tim

Next Meeting Date: July 17, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

~~January 17, 2024~~

~~February 21, 2024~~

~~March 20, 2024~~

~~April 24, 2024~~

~~May 15, 2024~~

~~June 19, 2024~~

July 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: 7/17/2024

Location: Community Garden

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley
Intern: Emily LaRosa
Member: Emil Trgala
Member: Andrew Casais
Member: Ellen Margarita
Alt #1: Mariann Brenner
Alt #2: Diane Rahoy
Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

EC Members Absent:

Member: Scarlett Gaudin
Member: Corinna Rodrigues
Member: Donald Chin

Community members present:

Call to Order: 7:05 pm by Tim

Agenda

Garden Updates

- All seasonal rental beds are now paid for.
- The EC discussed purchase of a new shed and possible greenhouse. We'd need a concrete pad installed at the NE corner of the garden to accommodate. Per Andrew, the Borough can install the concrete pad, we will just need the dimensions based on the structures installed.
- Other garden work:
 - Tim and Emily marked the leaks in the rear bed irrigation, but we still need to complete fixes on lines, if available supplies allow.
 - Tim will order more wood chips from ChipDrop.
- Security for garden – Draft signs are ready in English and Spanish.
- Event ideas - The EC discussed another potluck event, including recipes for garden produce.

Shade Tree Updates

- Andrew: RFP for street tree planting probably in August with planting in late September.
 - Andrew: All gator bags have been used for Westfield Ave. planting and 30 more being ordered.
- [Green Union County grant available](#) – deadline August 12th

Green Team Updates

- Repair Café
 - There is an online workshop next week with Repair Café Garden State (7/24, 4pm).
 - The EC also discussed locating the next event in the HS cafeteria. Ellen is following up with the high school.
 - The EC discussed timing for the next Repair Café in fall: possibly after the Arts Festival (early October).

MLUB/Borough Updates - None.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:11 pm by Tim

Next Meeting Date: August 21, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

~~January 17, 2024~~

~~February 21, 2024~~

~~March 20, 2024~~

~~April 24, 2024~~

~~May 15, 2024~~

~~June 19, 2024~~

~~July 17, 2024~~

August 21, 2024

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: 8/21/2024

Location: Casano Center

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley

Intern: Emily LaRosa

Member: Emil Trgala

Alt #2: Diane Rahoy

EC Members Absent:

Member: Andrew Casais

Member: Ellen Margarita

Member: Scarlett Gaudin

Member: Corinna Rodrigues

Member: Donald Chin

Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

Community members present: none

Call to Order: No quorum. Next meeting September 18, 2024.

Agenda

Garden Updates

Shade Tree Updates

Green Team Updates

- Tim attended the 7/24 Repair Cafe webinar held by Repair Cafe Garden State.
- The next Repair Café was scheduled for October 5 in the high school cafeteria, following efforts by Ellen to secure the location.

MLUB/Borough Updates

Meeting Adjourned:

Next Meeting Date: September 18, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

~~January 17, 2024~~

~~February 21, 2024~~

~~March 20, 2024~~

~~April 24, 2024~~

~~May 15, 2024~~

~~June 19, 2024~~

~~July 17, 2024~~

~~August 21, 2024~~

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/25/2024

Location: Casano Center

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley

Member: Emil Trgala

Member: Donald Chin

Member: Ellen Margarita

Alt #2: Diane Rahoy

EC Members Absent:

Member: Scarlettte Gaudin

Member: Corinna Rodrigues

Intern: Emily LaRosa

Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Member: Andrew Casais

Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

Community members present:

none

Call to Order: 7:03 pm by Tim

Agenda

Garden Updates

- One of the standing garden beds collapsed. It does not appear the bed can be repaired before the end of the year. Tim notified the renter. We will need to reinforce the other standing bed before the next season starts.
- Volunteers planted a small crop of fall greens; with the dry weather they have not yielded much additional produce, but we continue to harvest the produce that is ready for distribution to residents on a weekly basis.
- Security at the garden - The new signs were installed at the garden in mid-September.
- The EC tentatively aligned on a 15' x 30' concrete pad for the garden to hold a new shed and greenhouse.
- After a discussion, the EC aligned on a greenhouse for purchase (~\$900), and Tim suggested an alternative resin shed to the previously discussed metal sheds which have poor customer ratings (~\$3000).

- The purchase of these items would begin depleting the EC's trust account savings which are ~\$4000.
- The EC discussed an additional capital purchase of new 4' x 8' x 1' raised metal beds for installation in 2025. The anticipated cost is around \$1000, but we can adjust based on available funds and prioritization of the most damaged wooden beds.
- Chris Tango, a Roselle Park resident, has proposed an Eagle Scout project of constructing a bulletin board outside the garden. We expect installation to be completed later in the fall.

Shade Tree Updates

- It does not appear the RFP for street tree planting will be issued this fall given other Borough priorities.
- The EC discussed potential purchase of inexpensive bare root tree saplings from the Arbor Day Foundation for growing in the greenhouse after purchase. No decision was made as the greenhouse purchase is pending.

Green Team Updates

- Repair Café – Date set for Saturday October 5th, 10am-2pm in the RPHS cafeteria. We currently only have a few repair stations manned, and we are still waiting on flyers from the Borough.
 - When flyers are available, Tim will print 25-50 flyers and EC members can hang around town as well as on booths at Saturday's Arts Festival.
 - Tim will contact Repair Café Garden State to find out if any out-of-town repair experts are available (suggested – electrics, knives, bicycles, misc.)
- Rain garden – update from the Borough - Boy Scout Park upgrades pushed to next spring. Emily will put together a maintenance plan as part of her internship.

MLUB/Borough Updates - None.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:02

Next Meeting Date: October 16, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

~~January 17, 2024~~

~~February 21, 2024~~

~~March 20, 2024~~

~~April 24, 2024~~

~~May 15, 2024~~

~~June 19, 2024~~

~~July 17, 2024~~

~~August 21, 2024~~

~~September 25, 2024~~

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/28/2024

Location: Casano Center

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley

Member: Donald Chin

Alt #2: Diane Rahoy

Intern: Emily LaRosa

EC Members Absent:

Member: Emil Trgala

Member: Ellen Margarita

Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

Member: Scarlett Gaudin

Member: Corinna Rodrigues

Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Member: Andrew Casais

Community members present:

Call to Order: No quorum. Next meeting November 20, 2024.

Agenda

Garden Updates

-

Shade Tree Updates

-

Green Team Updates

-

MLUB/Borough Updates

Meeting Adjourned: n/a

Next Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

January 17, 2024

February 21, 2024

March 20, 2024

April 24, 2024

May 15, 2024

June 19, 2024

July 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

September 25, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

Roselle Park Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/20/2024

Location: Casano Center

EC Members Present:

Chair, Member: Tim Coakley

Member: Emil Trgala

Member: Corinna Rodrigues

Member: Donald Chin

Member: Ellen Margarita

Alt #2: Diane Rahoy

EC Members Absent:

Council Liaison: Khanjan Patel

Member: Scarlettte Gaudin

Member: Andrew Casais

Intern: Emily LaRosa

Alt #1: Mariann Brenner

Community members present: Erik Larnick

Call to Order: 7:03 pm by Tim

Agenda

Garden Updates

- DPW shut off the water at the garden in mid-November. Tim sent a notice to renters reminding them to clean out their beds. We also distributed more wood chips throughout the garden.
- Tim sent a shopping list to Andrew for the Borough to order a new 10'x14' shed and a large amount of new garden equipment. The total cost would be \$3,232.36.
- Based on the dimensions of the structures, Andrew will have an appropriately sized concrete pad installed (recommending 15' x 25').
- Tim purchased two 4' x 8 x 1" metal beds at a price of \$40 each, as a test case to determine the effort to assemble. The construction was straightforward (about a 25-minute project for two people). The model purchased is not available at this time from Amazon, but we can assume ~\$1200-\$1500 to replace all current beds.
- We will hold off on all capital purchases until 2025.
- Chris Tango's Eagle Scout project (a bulletin board outside the garden) received approval from his local council.

Shade Tree Updates

- RFP for street tree planting has been moved to 2025, per Andrew.
- The Borough received a \$5000 matching grant from Union County for additional tree plantings.
- Tim also sent state grant opportunities to the Borough (available on a rolling basis) to support a tree inventory and CFMP development. Our current CFMP expires at the end of 2024, and as a result we will lose accreditation with the state Urban & Community Forestry.

Green Team and other EC Updates

- October's Repair Café was another success; we had ~30 customers and repaired more than 25 items. We also collected \$179 in donations, which covered the cost of refreshments and supplies for the event.
- Per Andrew, we can create an Instagram page for the Environmental Commission; Andrew needs to be added as an admin for gov't transparency and record retention purposes.

MLUB/Borough Updates - None.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 pm

Next Meeting Date: December 18, 2024

Minutes submitted by Tim Coakley, Environmental Commission Chair

2024 EC Meeting Dates (subject to change):

~~January 17, 2024~~

~~February 21, 2024~~

~~March 20, 2024~~

~~April 24, 2024~~

~~May 15, 2024~~

~~June 19, 2024~~

~~July 17, 2024~~

~~August 21, 2024~~

~~September 25, 2024~~

~~October 16, 2024~~

~~November 20, 2024~~

December 18, 2024