

Reimagine Runnemedede VISION Meeting November 16, 2021

Attendees: Robert Bauskter, Ibeth Sanchez, Priscilla Guerrero, Deb Schmidt, Patrick Chilcote, Donna Starts, Lynne Straker, James Jackson, Robert Hawthorne, Jess Frail, Nick Scull, Susan Rondeau, Michelle Winters, Eleanor Kelly, John Ranieri, Diane Fredrickson, Rachele Omenson, Cathy Gregory-Walker, David Steinberg, Ken Leap (21)
Special Guest: Michael Bosky (Cook's Florist)

REVIEW OF VOLUNTEER TEAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2021

Grants

Ken Leap reported that we successfully applied for a grant from Camden County Cultural Alliance. It was received and reviewed; final announcement is not expected until January. The State Arts gives funds to the counties, who give it to non-profit organizations. This year the "matching funds" requirement was waived, and there was no cap on the amount that could be requested. We asked for adequate funds for a mural to be painted on the outside wall of "Dee's Dance Studio," adjacent to Cook's florist shop on the Black Horse Pike.

For future grant writing efforts, **Deb Schmidt has volunteered to head proof-reading. More volunteers are needed for our grant writing team.**

Cultivation of a Business Association

Reimagine Runnemedede recognizes that working in tandem with a business association could expedite our common goals. Representatives from our team could offer assistance in making changes envisioned by Runnemedede business owners (ie. facade upgrades) come to life.

Mike Consetti (of "Cob Fathers") has expressed an interest in heading up that committee. More volunteers for Business Association development are needed.

Monthly Newsletter

There have been 4 issues of our newsletter, well received by residents.

Cathy Gregory-Walker and Diane Fredrickson have teamed up to make this happen.

All can go to Reimagine Runnemedede.org and get the link to the newsletter

Runnemedede Lake Park & Trails

Split post & rail fences and trash & recycling bins have been placed at all trail heads.

Monthly trail clean-up sessions have been held with great results of removing glass and trash from the stream and environment.

Adoption Center

On our website, ideas are documented and maintained. You can click on the link for "Adoption Center" to submit an idea or to become a steward (lead coordinator) of a project you feel passionate about.

Community Engagement - Future Alliances

Ken has approached some contacts in the small towns around us--Audubon, Deptford, Glendora, etc. He has invited them to join us at our January meeting to share a success story, and share a challenge they have met. With the group that responds, we may be able to apply for a regional grant. The South Jersey Cultural Alliance (SJCA) is a regional organization that supports other arts groups by sharing ideas and helping to solve problems. Camden County Cultural & Heritage (of which Ken is a member) holds round table meetings at Camden County College.

December Party & Volunteer Appreciation MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Thursday, December 16th from 6:30-9 pm Reimagine Runnemedede will hold a celebration for all who have contributed to all these accomplishments

Currently the place chosen is the Senior Center in the Harry Williams Building, but an alternative was suggested by John Ranieri to use the Field House, which has a gas furnace, tables, etc. **Eleanor will report on certificate of insurance** for the sites and a final decision on location will be announced. Potluck will be the fare for the evening.

Volunteers are needed for this party committee.

RFP (Request for Proposal) for Labyrinth

Kirk Seese designed and installed the gateway to the labyrinth

Equinox celebrations were held

Bricks were laid; 8 stone benches were donated and may be installed by the Winter Solstice

Reimagine Runnemedede 2022 Calendars

Ken Leap did the photographic art and production of the 2022 Calendar. Calendars are available for a donation of \$10 or more (to cover production costs)

Dates for RIR meetings, trail clean-up dates, and general community meetings are listed
Plans for the next 2023 calendar include using a professional photographer. John Ranieri recommended that reproductions of the paintings made by the artists at our event be featured in the next calendar, with the painter's permission.

Artists in the Park Sunday, November 14

Several artists participated, using multiple media. Bobby posted pictures of the artists on Instagram, and Cathy Walker hosted an after party for participants. Eleanor Kelly hopes to approach Kathy Vasinda to coordinate a display the artwork at our library.

Plans are already in the making for an **Artists in the Park Event on Saturday, May 21, 2022**

Committee for Bridges on the Trail

The borough of Runnemedede received \$25,000 for the purpose of installing bridges on the trail.

**Russell Burt is the chairman of the committee; Zoom meeting scheduled for 11/22/21
More volunteers are needed for this committee.**

“Giving Tuesday”

This effort was initiated by Cathy Gregory-Walker. She explained that it is an international day to celebrate giving, and it follows Cyber Monday. Our goal is \$2,000.00. There is a software program that shows a goal progress indicator, and incentive gifts will be given for certain donation amounts. Bobb, Jess and Nick are on our fundraising team, and Bobbiycreated a frame to feature donors, who can then express in video or photographic form why they donated. The website for Giving Tuesday will be ready by 11/22, and people can choose to “champion” the cause, sharing with family and friends or share on Facebook. Thank You gifts are as follows:

\$25 or more=patron, and will receive a mug

\$50 or more=muse, and will receive a RIR calendar

\$100 or more=visionary, and donor will get his/her name on the donor wall at the labyrinth

\$200 or more=creative circle, and donor will receive all 3 gifts

There may be an after party at Leap’s Studio on 11/30 at 6 pm-confirmation pending.

Upcoming Centennial for Runnemedede (in 2026) was brought up by Susan Rondeau, who would like to draft a letter to the English Monarchy, as we are a “sister city” to Runnymede, England. RIR will undoubtedly be involved in the planning and implementation of our 100th year celebration, and we realize the planning needs to start soon! John Ranieri envisions a lighthouse structure on the jetty at the David Vanella Memorial Park.

Ken mentioned that, historically, Runnemedede broke off from a conglomerate of cities, originally known as Centerville.

NEW BUSINESS:

Winter Solstice Celebration at the Labyrinth is Tuesday, December 21st

Plans are being made to create paper lanterns at our potluck supper on 12/16.

These will serve as luminaries, to be mounted on sticks so they can be carried in a light parade and then installed at the labyrinth for enjoyment by drivers-by in the evening.

John Ranieri will ask Frank at the ice company in town about an ice sculpture, which could be placed in the center of the labyrinth. A stipend could be offered for this sculpture.

GUEST PRESENTER, MICHAEL BOSKY from COOK’s FLORIST graciously created several autumn-themed floral arrangements, while he added tips for lay people to design their own creations from nature’s bounty-right in their own backyards! Many practical tips were shared and Michael made it all look easy! He offered for us to take some of the left over flowers as a gift. This demonstration lent a very enjoyable end to our meeting night.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Fredrickson, Secretary

