

Reimagine Runnemedede Executive Board Meeting 12/11/21

Attendees: Ken Leap, John Ranieri, Rachelle Omenson, Eleanor Kelly, Diane Fredrickson, David Steinberg, Cathy Walker, Russell Burt

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

Thurs, Dec 16 Winterfest Harry Wms Bldg 6:30 pm
Wed, Dec 21 Winter Solstice Event at Labyrinth 3:30 pm
Sat, Dec 8 Exec Board Retreat 10am-3 pm Location TBD
Mon, Jan 17 Green Team Mtg
Fri, Jan 28 Caucus Mtg - Russell will present details of RPL bridges
Thurs, Feb 10, 2022 Triton School-location of Exec Brd Mtg 2:30pm-Std input
UNANIMOUS VOTE TO CHANGE THE TIME OF OUR EXEC MTGS TO 9-11 am
on 2nd Saturdays of the month

TASKS & COMMITTEES:

EK- Reserve/insure use of Harry Wms Bldg for Jan Vision mtg 1/13/22 7-9pm
Planning Committee for "Jan Neighbors": KL, CW, RO, EK, JR
RO will print out digitized poster presentations submitted by respondents
KL & EK will research policies on public art ordinances and finalize RIR's
KL & EK will develop a diversity, equality & inclusion policy
KL will post RFP for professional mural artist by Jan 15th
KL will post RFP for architectural site survey/plan for labyrinth completion 2022
RO will post a summary of the diversity policy, once completed, on our website
KL & DF will submit summary of reimbursable RIR expenses to JR by end Dec
JR will earmark funds (from our current budget of \$10,000) as follows:
 \$2K for architectural survey/site plan for labyrinth
 \$500 to secure labyrinth gateway structure
 \$1K for scaffolding for 2022 grant mural project
 \$500 for "reasonable and valid) costs - ie. food for "Jan Neighbors" event
RO will coordinate the entry of RIR Brd members to Triton H.S. on 2/10 at 2:30pm
DF-organize RIR collected materials into categories (resources, photos of projects, business contacts, etc.) for easy reference
DF will create a timeline for mural grant deadlines, compliance details of contract
ALL should email Ken with ideas of locations for our Retreat meeting asap!
Feb-Mar, 2022 obtain permits for installing bridges & boardwalks
March-April, 2022 Plan ground prep, digging for concrete anchoring of poles/bridges

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

GRANT Ken announced that we were awarded \$10K from Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission. No match is needed. The state of N.J. releases money to go to the arts because the arts have been proven to make a beneficial difference. Because Ken is a commissioner on that board, he will recuse himself from active

Involvement in the prospective mural project. Instead, an RFP will be circulated to the board and will be posted to sites. Timeframes are as follows:

1/15/22 RFP released

3/1/22 Deadline for RFP submissions

3/15/22 decision made and artist notified

5/15/22-6/15/22 Mural painted

N.J. artists will be encouraged, but RFP will not be limited to N.J. artists

RO offered that BIPOC artists should be included in the scope of applicants

RB suggested student artists could be targeted through Rowan & Rutgers (Camden)

art depts. KL added: the chosen artist must have achieved a certain level of professional experience in order to organize and complete the job in a timely and safe manner.

JR asked about community engagement, to which KL replied: the method used in the Philadelphia Mural Arts program will be used. Parachute cloth is fashioned in a “paint by number” style, which simplifies the painting phase, done by residents.

JANUARY NEIGHBORS A round table discussion is planned for January. Art “neighbors” (Audubon, Haddon Heights, Deptford, Lindenwold, Woodbury, Pitman, Washington Township, Mullica Hill) will be invited and asked to share successes and struggles they have had.

KL plans to invite Julie Hain (SJCA) and Anne Marie Miller to join us.

This will probably be held at the Harry Wms Bldg and will be on the date of our Vision Mtg

KL may ask those who will attend to submit a digital summary of their accomplishments, and RO offered to print these out. A visual display will be accessible to attendees

PUBLIC ART ORDINANCE KL prefers to get guidelines from a higher level (than local, individualized policies)--State or County authority--in finalizing our public art policy. KL has access to some of these standards, and he and EK will develop our policy, and it will be presented to Town Council for final approval.

SITE PLAN FOR LABYRINTH COMPLETION Money raised from our fund-raiser (\$2800+ Giving Tuesday) will be earmarked for the specific and immediate need for a professionally derived site plan. DS made a presentation of bench placement, etc at the last Town Council meeting, but no final resolution was forthcoming. We need a creative architect to present an official survey to Town Council, which will likely be accepted for the completion of the labyrinth site. An approximate cost of \$1K was suggested to pay for this. KL recommends Palomino (company used by Woodbury), Adam Tecza (who gave us a free and informal survey a couple of years ago), or Sikora-wa.com. These. An RFP will be sent for architects/engineers who can address safety and legal issues associated with the labyrinth project.

SUMMARY OF GREEN TEAM EVENTS JR reported that \$100K has been dedicated to solar for the Harry Williams Bldg in 2022

Green Team goal is to retain “Bronze” certification for Runnemedede-renewable in 2022

JR put a deposit down a F-1 Ford electric car (expected in the fall, 2022)

PEP= Public Engagement Program is accessible and people are starting to come to the Green Team for information.

Regarding Community Garden- commented that, while the initial, foundation is important, on-going maintenance is key. Commitment from volunteers is vital to success.

JR reported that the weed-whacking and mowing around the labyrinth site has been very taxing and difficult—solutions are needed. DS offered that he has volunteers who have committed to doing this task, and will use their own equipment.

JR recommends that the request for an ice sculpture (for Winter Solstice Event) be put on hold until 2022.

TRITON STUDENT BOARD MEMBER RO invited Cassandra (who is a Gloucester Co. resident) but she did not attend our meeting. RO explained that the “Gen Z” students have experienced a post pandemic syndrome, and don’t seem to be responding to things as fully expected. Student responses present a challenge now.

DF suggested that a student might find it intimidating to attend a meeting of RIR adults singly, and that it might be helpful to attend, accompanied by a friend. RO offered a solution: that RIR board members come to Triton (student territory) to address some interested students in RO’s photography class on 2/10. RO recommended that the topic be presented as if it is a contest—students respond to that approach. KL emphasized that it should be explained to these students that the intention of the meeting is to obtain **their** input on what they would like to see in Runnemedede, and that RIR is offering RIR’s resources to them.

Our Feb Exec Board Mtg will therefore take place at Triton on Thursday, 2/10/22 at 2:30 pm. Board members will report to the front door of Triton for entry and shown to RO’s classroom-E-12.

RO will coordinate the entry of RIR members to Triton via the principal.

CHANGING MURALS It has been shown that changing displays is important to keep the interest of residents and passersby. Therefore, the 4’ x 8’ Loveamede mural “faces” will be offered to businesses (\$100) for re-painting first. CW suggested maybe the location could also be changed—maybe to Deluxe Bakery location. KL emphasized that this mural is NOT a sign, and does not fall under sign regulations of the borough.

RLP BRIDGES Russell Burt was present for a review of his assessment and measurements for 2 bridges and 3 boardwalks at RLP. He had submitted quotes and specifics to KL and JR on 11/10. Total cost= \$20-25K for bridges and \$22K for boardwalks. The bridges can be bought in kits, and the boardwalks will be built with pressure treated lumber, or made of fiberglass, for low or no maintenance.

The materials will be purchased, using the grant money; the labor will be through volunteer efforts. (JR has volunteered to assist)

Permits are needed, and a presentation to Town Council is necessary, and will be made by RB on 1/25/22 at the Caucus meeting, during which our engineer and lawyer are present.

The plans in the kits come with engineering plans (upon purchase). RB gave details

on Bridge #1 (Hawthorne arched style) and Bridge #2 (Bedford style)—both are safe and appealing designs. An ATV can safely traverse the Bedford style bridge!
RB discussed the moorings, footings, and parking lot delivery in detail. Planning includes digging holes and ground preparation for “telephone poles” in March or April.
Another consideration is the time vendor needs to ship order after purchase—8-13 weeks lead time needed. Concrete work will be done by Ed White—this also has to be coordinated.
CW mentioned “naming rights” for donors and suggested that \$1K would be the bar for a name to be placed on a bridge.
RB proposed that Dave Watson, who served Runnemedede for 23 years (now deceased), receive a name plate, in trade for a generous intended donation. An additional brief summary of who the donor is/was may also be added to major donors.

WINTERFEST 12/16 CW reported that the Winterfest Committee will decorate for the event. Individually wrapped snacks will be served. Some management of COVID concerns may be needed—masking, carding for vaccination. It is recommended that masking be required. Going by percentage of vaccination amongst young adults, which is 40%, standard precautions should be observed.
CW reviewed what “Giving Tuesday” achieved and stated that we need a sustainable project—one that would benefit everyone. CW believes we need to explain and account for how we spent the money we received. She suggested a mural at the Turnpike Intersection be placed to spice up entry to and exit from Runnemedede. This idea has been proposed previously but is fraught with red tape because the Garden State Authority is involved, and that intersection may change within 4-5 years anyway.
Additionally CW suggested we change temporary installations (ie. murals) every 6 months.

LABYRINTH DONOR PLATES & STONE BENCHES

WINTER SOLSTICE EVENT at LABYRINTH 12/21 & LUMINARY PARADE

VFW BEEF & BEER - FRI 1/21 7 PM

TRI-COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY TEAM - ENVIRONMENTAL POETRY CONTEST

Stone benches have been delivered, as has the wall. Placement details need to be planned. DS brought samples of the clay donor plates, which are beautifully done by “Say It With Clay.” KL & DF made a mock-up of the lanterns that will be the activity at the Winterest and will be used for the Luminary Parade on Dec 21. Paper lanterns can be kept by the maker after the parade.

DS & EK took the idea of a community garden to the business community. Goals are to improve food quality and health, and to distribute food to those in need. A steward for this project has not yet been found, so DS recommends that we go with an already established and trusted group who coordinates this. The group receives funds from banks and hospitals. A portion of the produce goes to Camden. DS states there is an art component—a fence that can be painted, or pictures of veggies can be posted in the lot. Fruit trees, especially peach, are a favorite for raising. Some discussion ensued about pesticides, maintenance. The connection for the garden lies in the fact that RIR is a non-profit, whereas the Green Team is not, so a partnership with RIR could yield funds. KL feels strongly that projects should fit RIR’s mission and should be pure to

us as an arts organization.

DS supports the VFW "Beef & Beer" event on Fri 1/21 at local VFW at 7 pm. \$25 fee charged. No presentation is expected, and masks are optional. RIR board members are encouraged to attend.

DS plans a poetry contest, with an environmental theme, in 3 categories—for youth, adults, and senior citizens. KL offered the idea: What would Greta say in poetry?

There would be prize money and an awards ceremony at Lakeland is planned for 4/30/22

This type of activity is important to forming partnerships with other communities.

There is evidence that Runnemedede is "on the map," as people are coming to us for info, and advice, KL adds.

(Not verbalized at meeting due to time constraints)

SOUTH JERSEY CULTURAL ALLIANCE NETWORKING ORGANIZATION

DF attended the SJCA meeting via ZOOM on 11/10. Two venues are offered: administrative and artist tract. Membership is free. The goal is to discover solutions to common problems, find sources of funding, connect artists with like interests, questions, etc. All art forms are accepted and there was a wide variety of artists representing all areas of the state, including a Chamber Music group (Wash Twp), a gallery owner (Tom's River), a portrait artist (Cape May), encaustic artist (Salem Co), hip-hop teacher (Phila), Arts Club (Hammonton), Moorestown Theater, and a poet from Morris County. Many tips were shared. A variety of grants and sources are made available, apprenticeships are open,, etc. Meetings are recorded and SJCA posts info on their website, shares links, and encourages submission of discussion topics. Great resource! DF would like to know if/how Vision Mtg Minutes are posted for the public. We had previously decided collectively not to publicly post Executive Board Meeting Minutes. Current status?

RETREAT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS - Saturday, January 8, 2022 10 am- 3 pm

(Location TBD- suggestions include "Firehouse" in Camden, "Arts Bank" in A.C.)

JR suggested we could perhaps use the Runnemedede bus driver to drive us to a location

1- DIVERSITY EVENT

2- OUTREACH TO BUSINESS OWNERS - CULTIVATE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

3-MOVABLE MURAL - IMPACT & LOCATION

4-COMMUNITY GARDEN

5-USE OF GIVING TUESDAY FUNDS (ie. birdhouse tree)

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Fredrickson

