



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WILLIAM JENAWAY, PhD
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TINA GARZILLO
GREG PHILIPS
GREG WAKS

TOWNSHIP MANAGER/ SECRETARY-TREASURER

ANTHONY HAMADAY

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

FIRM OF:
HAMBURG, RUBIN, MULLIN,
& MAXWELL & LUPIN, P.C.

Minutes

Community Center Complex Advisory Board

January 19, 2021

7:30pm

1. Attendance: Paul Kubler, Dennis Rudzinski, Ben Eyer, Paul Salamy, Chris Levy, Greg Waks, Sharon Davis, Karen Huller
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Re-organization of Board
 - A. Temporary Chair of the Board
 - a. Sharon
 1. Nominations for Secretary
 - a. Paul nominates Karen
 - b. Chris seconds Karen
 - c. Moved > Accepted
 2. Nominations for VP
 - a. Paul nominates Chris
 - b. Karen seconds
 - c. Moved > Accepted
 3. Nominations for President
 - a. Paul Kubler nominated by Chris
 - b. Sharon seconds
 - c. Moved > Accepted
4. Approval of December 15, 2020 minutes
 - A. Chris moves, Sharon seconds
 - B. All in favor
 - C. Approved
5. Staff Report
 - A. Departmental Changes
 - a. GlennAnne is no longer with UM Park and Recreation
 - b. New Staff Liaison - Dennis Rudzinski

1. With township for over 5 years
2. As Rec Superintendent, ran programming for the community center
3. Sports fan, still plays slow pitch softball
4. Bachelor in Rec Management from Temple
5. Certified Park and Rec Professional
6. Still transitioning with Dan

B. Passholder update

- a. Passholder cancellations – 991 total since March
 1. 34.66% of all passholders
- b. Passholder freezes – 616 currently frozen
- c. 1919 passholders currently, including the frozen accounts
- d. 38 new memberships in January –
 1. Maybe not new, could be old members re-joining
 2. They have at least not been signed up for at least a year
- e. Could be a sign of things picking back up

C. Reopening update

- a. Dennis goes in the morning and works out
 1. Been busier, but not as much as normal
 2. Could be 10-15 in the center at the same time in the morning
- b. Karen drove by around 4 PM and there were a good number of cars in the parking lot
- c. Paul has been going daily and he notices an increase
 1. People using weights and machines
 2. Pickleball courts fuller
 3. High schoolers shooting basketball
 4. The noise is happy noise
 5. Wife took a course that was offered to learn how to play Pickleball
 - a. Had 8 people
 - b. For members and non members
 - c. 2 people were inquiring about being a member
 - d. Perhaps more tutorials like that would encourage people to become passholders
 - e. Karen wants to know how wife learned about it
 - i. Would have been advertised via e-mail and in the activity guide
 - ii. Paul thought he saw it on Facebook
 - iii. The instructor could have told Paul personally
 - iv. Karen doesn't seem to get any P&R facebook posts on her home feed
 1. Paul suggests Greg write some posts for us
 2. Greg has promoted the center on his page before
 - a. Hesitant to promote too much going on at the center
 - b. Still being careful about encouraging it due to COVID

- c. Will be happy to plug pre/post-COVID
- d. Did blast out the activity guide in his e-mail
- e. Will do so in the future
- 3. The course is being taught in-person
 - a. Probably tougher to do a digital demo
 - b. Some good YouTube videos to explain the basics
 - c. Maybe Dennis can share that to promote the class
 - d. First class did sell out

- d. Daily average usage
 - 1. 93.6 people per weekday
 - 2. 68.5 during the weekend
 - 3. 109 yesterday
 - 4. About 300 average pre-COVID

D. Pool feasibility study

- a. Presented at BOS business meeting 1/14 at 7:30 pm
- b. MKSD Architects did their presentation
 - 1. Dennis, Paul, and Heather attended
 - 2. There is a video on the township website
 - 3. Greg was concerned that there would be non-economic negative response
 - a. Board was pleased overall
 - b. We obviously don't have \$10.3M and there are competing long-term projects
 - i. Heuser Park
 - ii. Land acquisition
 - c. Shade area vs. non-shade area was a concern
 - d. Comments were substantive
 - i. Board members liked the lazy river
 - ii. It would appeal to more than kids
 - 4. Very aspirational
 - a. Like a 5-year plan, pending economic recovery
 - b. The community center was aspirational at one time
 - i. The right things lined up at the right time
 - ii. Could happen again
 - c. If we had the money to invest, the plans presented seem to fit the township recreation needs of the future
 - 5. If we had less money, we can make cuts from there
 - a. We can do this in phases, but continuous construction is disruptive

E. Free Passholder Program

- a. Chris and Sharon re-presented the program
- b. Answered questions

- c. Discussed confidentiality
 - 1. Sharon assured only Dennis and the board members who interviewed people would know who applied
 - 2. Board was appeased
- d. BOS Unanimously approved the program
- e. Sharon talked to Dennis about putting up the online application
- f. Sharon sent the drafts for posters
 - 1. We can all help put them up around town
 - 2. Once we put them up, we wait
- g. Chris noticed that they asked the same questions, had the same concerns, and perhaps they just wanted to be heard
 - 1. There had been concerns in the past with UMT Foundation gifts that no one took advantage of it
 - 2. No money needed for this program
 - 3. Not unusual for the board to take its time to make decisions
- h. Dennis will tell us when the fillable PDF form is up
 - 1. We can start getting word out
 - 2. Will it be before the next meeting?
 - a. Yes – the next week or so

6. Board of Supervisors Liaison Report [Related matters under other headings]

7. Park and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Report

A. New liaison – Paul Salamy

- a. He uses the center and pool avidly
- b. Didn't want to be Secretary of P&R
- c. Traded with Deena

B. Catalyst is dead

- a. Greg has nothing to add
- b. Interesting lesson learned
 - 1. Can't assume that people will be okay with change
 - 2. Need to be careful with any P&R projects to think about neighbors
 - 3. Get the word out
 - 4. Better communication
 - a. It was done, but perhaps not at the right time
 - b. Is recommending to the township that any projects that affect families within so many yards contact said residents

C. Crow Creek

- a. Hard to ignore the machinery
- b. Repeated theme – someone's back yard is impacted
 - 1. Neighbors were not pleased with lack of communication and notice
 - 2. The project has been planned for years and there were meetings with residents
 - 3. Greg has put out e-mails
 - 4. As an advisory board, will do better to hit those folks who will be mostly affected by it
 - 5. First question will be are there any neighbors we need to contact

6. Greg did visit with neighbors on two occasions.
 7. Township has put out a lot of information and held many meetings
 8. P&R sent letters to property owners adjacent to the trail
 - a. Some responded
 9. A greater effort is needed, clearly
 10. Neighbors he talked to wanted more knowledge
 11. Concerned about trees being removed
 12. Overall were supportive
 13. One thought it would devalue property
 - a. Hope that they are reassured once it is done
 14. Another resident used the phrase “have to break a few eggs to make an omelet”
 15. There will always be people who will not like what we do
 - a. Opposition doesn’t always stop projects
 - b. Community center had/has opposition, proven to be a valuable asset
 - c. Paul S - If it takes a few more trees planted and we have it, there can often be a way to demonstrate they were heard
 16. 10 out of 33-35K residents, not a bad ratio
 - a. May not change plans, but will have had input and perhaps buy in
 17. Seeing a plan is different than seeing a construction zone
- c. Hoping there will be more understanding
 - d. Greg has been walking it, will walk another part of it
 1. Encourages people to walk it
 - a. Paul recommends parking at Screwballs
 - i. Sweetbriar portion of trail
 - ii. Can also go from there to VF connecting trail
 - iii. Paul showed trail map, is available online
 - b. Will the school be done by July?
 - i. Not certain
 - ii. The school is responsible for paving their portion of the trail
 - e. There was massive opposition to the VF trail
 1. It took a few years for the Glenn Rose Civic Association were in favor
 2. The greatest number of users are now those residents
 3. People imagine that their neighborhoods will be encroached upon by increased traffic and out-of-towners
 4. Proves to not be true
 - f. Paul - Residents have great ideas, and he wondered why they weren’t at the earlier meetings
 - g. End of July is expected completion date
 1. Totally under township control
 2. No vendors that might hold back
 3. The bridges will not be paved during cold weather
 - a. Once they start, it goes very quickly

8. Senior Center Representative Liaison Report
 - A. Dennis has seen Dick McCann in, but is unaware of any updates to returning
9. Student Liaison Report
 - A. Ben is happy to provide input on ideas
 - B. Basketball was paused from Dec 4th to Jan 4th.
 - a. Started Jan 5th; First game last Friday (a loss to Phoenixville)
 - b. Felt rusty, hopes playing will remedy
 - c. Hoping the season continues
 - d. No spectators
 - C. Sharon reminded Ben to let us know if someone he knows would want to take advantage of the center but can't afford it
10. Old Business
 - A. Passholder categories
 - a. Deena, Chris and Sharon looked at the categories
 1. Recommended to charge a fee for the monthly payments
 - b. Didn't find more categories than most
 1. Can eliminate the charter membership category
 2. Market plans for kids home from college
 3. Guest pass issue wasn't clear
 - a. It says on their membership how many passes they get
 4. Use the term household vs. Adult 1, Adult 2
 - c. Reporting could be more robust; would need new software
 - d. Dennis agrees that there are admin and user interface improvements to make
 - B. Anniversary party
 - a. Planning low priority as staff reassigns duties
11. New Business
 - A. Evelyn resigned
 - a. Greg will find a new person
 - b. 1st vacancy on this citizen board
 1. Will go out after her resignation is formally accepted
 2. Spread the word about the open position
 3. Looking for someone supportive of community center/pool
 - B. There is not good programming for teens online
 - a. Teens don't want to do any more online
 - b. School counselors have done a good job with outreach
12. Adjournment
 - A. Sharon moves
 - B. Karen seconds