

**Upper Merion Township  
Park and Recreation Board Minutes  
April 12, 2011**

**Attendees:** Barb Schafer, Neil Sardinas, John Tallman, Eileen Connelly, Mary Ann Ahearn, Mike Trachtenberg, Dan Russell

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Minutes for March 2011 meeting approved.**

**Directors Report:**

Earth Day Festival: scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> at the township building park in conjunction with the UM Farmers Market. There will be 25-26 vendors, more than ever before, with many township organizations and groups represented. In case of rain, the festival will be moved from the gazebo to the space under the overhang and inside the building.

Concerts Under the Stars: this year's concerts have been finalized. Sponsorship coordinator, Tom Blömström, is working with Bottom Dollar on a two year sponsorship of the concert series. He will also help find sponsors for the Farmers Market and the Tricentennial Committee. This year's concert ticket price will be lowered to \$5.

Farmers Market: kickoff will be May 21<sup>st</sup> along with a BBQ Rib contest sponsored by the Valley Forge Optimist Club.

Park & Rec Web Site: will be restructured to allow online payment for programs (which will also be done via a kiosk in the lobby) and should be live by mid summer.

Heuser Park: Dan will draft terms of use policy for the park. The press box was found to have writing on the walls and a broken window when lacrosse season started. Football equipment needs to be relocated during the off-season. Timers for the lights sometimes fail causing the lights to be on at odd hours.

School District Relationship: Dan is talking with Fred Remelias, the director of operations for the SD about the proposed new usage policy. Until now, Park & Rec has not been charged to use school facilities except to pay for custodians when not otherwise on duty. The proposed policy would require P&R to pay all costs and share revenue which is estimated to be \$50,000 to \$75,000 per year. This would have a negative impact on 90-95% of our programs that use school facilities.

Dan & staff will make a presentation to the BOS about how this would affect P&R programs. There is room for negotiation – the township waves permit fees for the school district, charges them nothing for road salt and little for fuel, and allows them to use township athletic facilities with no charge. The Middle School grant may also stipulate that the township has use of the facility at the end of the school day and the school year.

**Old Business:**

We need to come up with goals for 2011.

May 12<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with the BOS issues to discuss:

1. Use of school district facilities
2. Maintenance
3. Goats for weed control
4. Playground resurfacing projects
5. Community Center
6. Trail projects

Upper Merion Swim & Tennis Club: 300 memberships have been sold and work is underway to get the pool ready to open. Water & electricity lines run through the Factory which is negotiating with the township about allowing usage.

Fundraiser – Eileen Connelly's fundraiser in memory of her daughter Shannon was very successful and raised \$7882 for Park & Rec to purchase adaptive playground equipment for special needs children, and for The Outer Limits Organization to host events and funding trips for special needs children.

Skate park: Les Glauner & Fran Littlewood gave a great presentation to the BOS at the workshop meeting on March 10. Fund raising must happen before anything else. Battle of the Bands is the first fundraiser in June.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Ahearn  
Secretary