

**UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP
PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2010**

ATTENDENCE: John Tallman, Dan Russell, Barbara Schafer, Neil Sardinas, Mike Trachtenberg, Eileen Connelly, David Burns, Erika Spott and Amy McAteer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES: December 8, 2009 minutes approved.

GUESTS: Fran Littlewood, Dave Ritting & Kelly Bereda

REORGANIZATION OF PARK & RECREATION BOARD

1. Chair – John Tallman
2. Vice-Chair – David Burns
3. Secretary – Mike Trachtenberg

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LIASION REPORT:

1. The Community Center RFP to select a Planner will likely be back on the Board of Supervisor's agenda – hopefully in the next few weeks. Upper Merion has grant money in the amount of \$10,000 to retain a Planner. The grant expires in June 2010 if not used. Retention of the Planner would require an additional \$3000-\$5000 expenditure from the Township in addition to the grant. Dan will alert the Park & Rec Board members when it's on the agenda so that they can attend the meeting.
2. The Farmer's Market committee is to meet for the first time next week. Kelly Meenely is the Chair. Erika & Kelly to visit the Canter Hill Farms – they are interested in helping Upper Merion establish a farmers market without cost.
3. The Smoking Ban was passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Emily Miller received a grant from Walmart for Outer Limits.
2. The Upper Merion Police Assoc gave a generous donation of \$2000 to the Outer Limits program.
3. The Park & Rec staff is planning for the 2010 Spring & Summer programs.
4. Dan has been working on the summer concert series & 4th of July.
5. There is no winter maintenance at the parks. Park & Rec Board member park evaluations will begin in March.
6. The irrigation system at Heuser Park baseball fields is almost complete.
7. Erika said she noticed a lot of water filled areas around the park and suggested that a rain water collection system & tank could be put in place. Dan said he would look into this – gather information & check with other townships.
8. A fee schedule was approved by the Board of Supervisors for use of the park gazebo and pavilions (both a resident & non-resident rate).

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP
PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2010
Page 2 of 2

9. The Heuser Park/Bob Case Trail is complete with the exception of some additional plantings to be done in the spring.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Eileen Connelly is concerned over the criteria for attendance for members of the Boards. Different options of tracking attendance were discussed, possibly a sign in sheet. The question was raised as to who should be responsible for addressing attendance issues – the Park & Recreation Board or the Board of Supervisors.
2. David Burns noted that the gate at Kingwood Road Park is off the hinges.
3. Jay Kowal will be bringing a report on the updates of the Park & Rec Board member monthly park evaluations – will begin in April.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fran Littlewood, Kelly Bereda & Dave Ritting requested that the football fields at Heuser be named after Dave & Mary Vannicelli, both who passed away in 2009. The Vannicelli's were the founders and listed on the original charter for the King of Prussia Indians giving over 50 years of service to the organization. The Park & Recreation Board will write a recommendation in support of this to be approved at the February Park & Rec Board meeting.
2. Dave Ritting is now a Board member of the PA State Sports Hall of Fame/Montgomery County Division, along with Dan Russell.
3. Dan will bring a Program Summary to each future Park & Recreation Board meeting to keep the board members up to date on program registrations.
4. John Tallman would like to see the connection of the Heuser Park/Bob Case Trail extended to reach Valley Forge Park become a priority for the Park & Rec Board this year. Dan does have \$40,000 in design monies in the Budget to begin looking into this project.
5. David Burns asked about the status of a Skateboard Park – Dan replied that all capital spending projects were put on hold.
6. All Park & Rec Board members are to come to the February meeting with their ideas/concerns for the 2010 Park & Rec Board Priorities. This item is to be placed on the February agenda.
7. Barb Schafer asked about the status of the additional fields at Heuser Park and would like to see any plans for this.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Trachtenberg
Secretary

