

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING  
May 11, 2010

ATTENDENCE: John Tallman, Dan Russell, David Burns, Barbara Schafer, Mike Trachtenberg and Erika Spott

Absentees: Neil Sardinas and Eileen Connelly

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES: April 13 minutes approved

GUEST: Sue Migliore  
Symme Trachtenberg  
Mary Ann Ahearn  
Carole Kenney

Sue Migliore, PT, DPT, MS, PCS, Physical Therapy Center Coordinator for Clinical Education, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia presented on Adaptive Recreation Programs for young people with special needs. She made the following points:

Leagues can decide on inclusive program vs. separate program, like Challenger Baseball.

Parents must share information about their child(ren) including the challenges they face - what the child can and can't do.

Education of coaches – The Board discussed the possible issue for coaches: What do they need to work on and learn to be confident to coach children with disabilities? Coaches should be provided with training programs possibly leading to certification.

Education of parents - need to be given the general scope of the program offered by the league to determine if child is able to participate. Parents must “buy into” the program, support the program, and help to create and advertise the program with the goal of the parent, child and team all being prepared for the activity.

Process to initiate an Adaptive Recreation Program in Leagues/Activities sponsored by Upper Merion Township Park and Recreation:

1. Invite the League/Activity Presidents to our meeting to assess what types of programs are currently offered to young people with special needs in June and July.
2. Ascertain the number of coaches volunteering in the Township and offer a series of pre-season clinics preparing different sports based on their season. Coaches may not be comfortable working with children with special needs. Sue is qualified to offer these specialized educational classes

3. Form a parent committee to find out what programs they want for their children.
4. Park and Recreation should look for grants to cover costs of these educational presentations. Erika suggested we tie the amount of the grant requests to the actual expenses, for example special equipment, Disability Expert to do training, etc.
5. Send online survey to coaches to determine their comfort level working with children with special needs.
6. Include a blurb in the Township newsletter requesting parent involvement and input in developing appropriate programs for their children.

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LIAISON REPORT:

Erika reported that there are several candidates to fill the vacancy on the Park & Recreation Board. Selection will be voted upon at May 20th Supervisors meeting.

The Farmers Market to start on May 15 at 9:00 am. Already have 500 Face Book friends.

Township exploring the use of our 10 goats to control the vine growth at Bob White park, This would be a “natural way” to resolve the problem.

We should develop a master check list for our parks that we could use monthly in our park evaluation. They should be uniform including a check list of work needed and follow up of what has actually been completed. A spread sheet for each park should be developed.

#### DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Our registrations for our activities have exceeded last year by approximately \$20,000.00. Participation is up 60 children. 1,500 total participants at this time.

Participants include:

Chess Camp 11 participants  
Dance Fusion- 93 adults  
Life guard- 24 participants  
After school program- 26 participants  
Adventure Day Camp- 230 participants

Earth Day event drew the largest crowd we have ever had.

Sudah Suryadevara has been hired as Recreation Superintendent.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Rubberized surfaces at playgrounds need attention. Moss is taking out the wood supports which can be a tripping hazard. Maintenance is expensive and replacement also very costly. Some parks are overgrown with weeds.

Heuser Park- water leak in building not discovered for long period of time. Township billed \$5,200.00 by the water company. We need to provide evidence that it will not happen again. System now in place to check Township facilities on a regular basis.

WIFI Security- Police Chief is looking for information in upgrading the system and including park security cameras.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upper Merion Park Partners program. We want to promote this program to civic groups and local businesses. Any comments on brochure should be referred to Dan.

Our grant writer is pursuing grants for the department.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Trachtenberg  
Secretary