

**Upper Merion Township  
Park and Recreation Board Minutes  
March 13, 2012**

**Attendees:** Dan Russell, John Tallman, Barb Schafer, David Burns, Eileen Connelly, Mike Trachtenberg, Erika Spott, Mary Ann Ahearn

**Guests:** Patty Morris, Lizzie Furino, Tricia McGill, Ryan Marquez, Jake Keszczyk

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of February 2012 Minutes**

**Guests**

Patty Morris along with students Lizzie Furio, Tricia McGill, Ryan Marquez & Jake Keszczyk from Students Against Destructive Decisions, presented a check to the Park & Recreation department to help high risk kids in Upper Merion afford camp. The Upper Merion Area High School students raised \$100 from a bake sale.

**Board of Supervisors Liaison Report**

1. “Upper Merion Recreation Center” (formerly known as the Gold’s Gym property) –A Request for Proposal has gone out to 45 architectural firms, followed by 28 walk-throughs and 18 responses. Greg Philips and Bill Jenaway will make a first pass through them.
2. Heuser Fields – the BOS has requested that funds for the completion of the practice fields at Heuser park be included the Recreation Center renovation bond issue. Once the fields are completed, two to three growing seasons will be needed before they can be put into use.

**Directors Report:**

1. McKaig Nature Education Center fire on Feb 23rd – the fire department did a very good job of containing the fire in spite of windy conditions. It consumed 3-5 acres of mostly ground cover with no significant tree damage. No cause has been determined although a lighter was found and teens were seen fleeing the area by car.
2. Trails
  - Dan attended a meeting for the Chester Valley Trail Extension. It will begin construction and should be complete in November of 2013. This trail crosses UM Township from the Schuylkill Expressway bridge to Bridgeport, and will join the Schuylkill River Trail in Norristown.
  - Heuser-VF Trail – very productive meetings with Norfolk Southern. Dan is trying to expedite the process. He met with operations people on the site and the most difficult concerns around the bridge area were resolved. Next step is for T & M to put designs together, after which it goes to the operations people followed by the real estate people. Dan updates the state every week.
3. Recreation Center – Dan will start meeting with the current tenants this week to work out temporary leases. Eagle Scout, Jamie Shelton, will present his project to clean up the woods to the BOS on 3/15.
4. Camp Fair – will take place in the township building on Friday from 6 – 8 PM. It will present various camp options to Middle School aged children. This is the first year we are doing this.
5. Shannon Connelly project – Eileen’s son met with Park & Rec and picked out an OmniSpin for the Heuser location. It will be installed along with a memorial bench, plaque and tree in place of the chess tables. The donated funds more than cover the costs.
6. Concerts Under the Stars schedule is in the works for the 2012 season.

**Old Business:**

1. Goats for Weed Control – Yvonne gave us possible dates she'd be available to make a presentation at a televised supervisor's meeting and we will continue to try to find a date that works for everyone.
2. Heuser fields – Erika presented the idea of capturing rain water for irrigating the new fields.
3. Moore Center – waiting for UM Players to raise funds for renovation.
4. Norview – the parking area in front of Petrucci's & sidewalks have been improved

**New Business:**

1. Whitegate Park – Barb reported goose droppings everywhere. Dan will ask neighbors with dogs to walk them in the park. This works at the township park to keep the geese away.
2. Joint Meeting with the BOS - scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. We should think of topics we'd like to discuss and bring them to our next meeting.
3. Skateboard Park – how can we support the effort? \$2500 more is needed for plans.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Ahearn  
Secretary