

**Upper Merion Township
Park and Recreation Board Minutes
December 11, 2012**

Attendees: Dan Russell, Neil Sardiñas, Mike Trachtenberg, Mary Ann Ahearn, Barb Schafer, Eileen Connelly, Dave Burns

Guests: Kathy and Buddy DeRosato

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of November 2012 Minutes

Guests

The DeRosatos raised some concerns about Swedesburg Park:

1. The park needs a light so kids can play basketball after dark.
2. Fence along the street hanging off it support poles.
3. Trees need to be trimmed above basketball hoop
4. Cinderblock fragments all over the basketball court
5. Exit from basketball court to street is washed out

They also reported that one of the backboards in King Manor Park is broken and that graffiti is re-appearing through the paint that covered it.

The process for this request is to get cost estimates, present them to the BOS, contact neighbors and if approved, install the light.

The board voted that Dan should explore the costs of installing and operating the light that's been requested, along with funding ideas, and present this to the BOS along with our recommendation that the light be installed.

We discussed our park reports and Neil suggested ways to improve them and the township's response by red-lining safety repairs that are needed and getting quick feedback from Jay on these. We need to prioritize issues as:

Priority 1: safety repair

Priority 2: repair that will cost more the longer it is delayed

We agreed to call attention to safety issues in the body of our emails when we send our reports and to note things very clearly as safety issues. Those who send reports as attachments will save them as pdf documents when possible.

BOS Report (given by Dan on behalf of Erika who could not be here):

1. Happy holidays from Erika
2. Jane Callahan is the new Upper Merion Superintendent of Schools.
3. UM High School choir is in the final round of radio station B101 high school choir competition. We can listen to the 3 finalists and vote at <http://choir.b101radio.com/>

Director's Report:

1. Community Center -
 - a. Design process is ongoing and Dan is meeting with architects on building codes. Hope to begin interior demolition in first quarter of 2013
 - b. Last month the BOS approved Ken Ballard to make the operations plans in three areas:

- i. Assurance we get all the functions we need to be profitable and successful
- ii. Staffing models, job responsibility and description, staffing plan
- iii. Recreational programming to evaluate needs, scheduling and fee structure

Ken will put together an operating budget which is his main area of expertise. He's been working with Joe Power and will hit the ground running in January.

- c. The building will not be able to accommodate a walking track
 - d. Two or three volleyball courts to be accommodated.
2. Bike Trail – Dan met with our State Representative, Tim Briggs, to ask for help with Norfolk Southern. Tim will reach out to our US Senators and others to help. Andy Strauss will look at the easement agreements. Dan keeps the state in the loop about the current situation.
 3. Holiday Hoopla and Lights Contest -.Holiday Hoopla was well attended. There were 20 entries in the lights contest, up from 13 last year. The winners are:

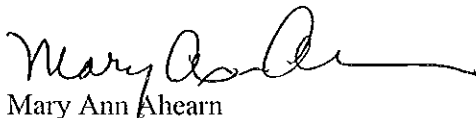
Most Colorful - 565 Kingwood Road
Most Classical - 300 Marielle Drive
Most Creative - 637 Pancoast Road
Most Variety - 265 Lincoln Road
Grand Prize - Car Stopper - 1007 Longview Road

Old Business:

1. Shannon Connelly's memorial tree will be planted tomorrow morning.
2. T-shirts for participants in the Outer Limits program will be ordered in January.
3. Heuser Park fields - there are funds available for natural fields, but none for turf fields at this time. Possible sources could include the new fee schedule which raises fees for private park & field use. Neil asked about the undeveloped area and whether it can be designed to be more inviting and usable for residents who are not on teams. The Master Plan should lay the ground work for the design of this space. We need to take stock of the undeveloped land remaining in the township, as well as our current fields and how best they can be utilized.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Ahearn

Secretary