

**Upper Merion Township
Park and Recreation Board Minutes
April 10, 2012**

Attendees: Dan Russell, John Tallman, Barb Schafer, David Burns, Eileen Connelly, Erika Spott, Mary Ann Ahearn, Neil Sardinas

Guests: John Clementi, Meg Clementi

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of March 2012 Minutes

Guests

For his Eagle Scout project, John Clementi would like to build a permanent wooden announcement booth behind the main baseball field at Walker Park. It would accommodate 5 – 7 people with a table, bench, scoreboard controls, and mike if needed, and would eliminate the need for the trailer. Stream cleanup would also be a part of the project. The design is in the works and the goal is to complete the project by the end of July/August. The scouts would do the work and the UMBA board is behind the project.

Board of Supervisors Liaison Report

1. Upper Merion Recreation Center (formerly known as the Gold's Gym property)
 - a. Working from the 18 proposals received, Greg Philips and Bill Jenaway have chosen five architectural firms to be interviewed for the renovation. The interviews will be scheduled & publicized and will be open to the public.
 - b. The Factory never had any agreement with the township to operate the facility and will move out on May 6th.
 - c. Cleaning up the woods on the property is Jamie Shelton's Eagle Scout project and he is looking for help. Information can be found on Greg Waks' website: <http://gregwaks.org/?p=737>.
 - d. The bond to fund the renovation was issued and is on the market. The project will be "tax neutral."

Directors Report:

1. Tree City USA– Upper Merion Township has been given a Tree City USA award by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 36th consecutive year. Philadelphia is the only other city in the state to achieve this status. The award will be given on Friday April 22 at 10 AM.
2. Farmers Market Grant – Our grant writer, Jerry Jamison, will meet with the Farmers Market Committee to work on an application for a grant from the US Dept. of Agriculture for our Farmers Market. It is an open-ended grant whose funds can be used for infrastructure or for other needs. It is very competitive and could bring as much as \$50K-100K to our market.
3. Heuser-VF Trail – T&M sent a rendering of the proposed trail to Norfolk Southern. The Park & Recreation board would like T&M to come to our May 8th meeting to present the plan.
4. We would like Jay Kowall to come to our June meeting to report on park maintenance and improvement.
5. Earth Day Festival – will be held on April 21st from 10am to noon. There will be 27 vendors and lots of activities, including the chance to meet several farmers from our market, and the presentation of a green award to the UGI Corporation.

Many local organizations are mounting cleanup events for Earth Day.

6. Upper Merion Recreation Center cleanup – Jamie Shelton's project will take place on these days & times:
 - April 14: 8:45 am – 3:00 pm (trash & construction material removal)
 - April 22: 12:30 am – 3:30 pm (invasive vine removal)
 - April 14: 8:45 am – 3:30 pm

7. Heuser Park Club House access road – as John Tallman noted vehicles on this access road are a danger and effective immediately the gate will be locked and cars will no longer have access.
8. Heuser Park parking lot use – a park neighbor requested permission to allow people attending a Sunday School in her home to park 20-25 cars in the park's lot every other Sunday from 2:30pm – 5:00pm. There is no ordinance against this. The township solicitor will be consulted.

Old Business:

1. Use of undeveloped land at Heuser Park – Neil asked about the plan for this land and if it could be designated for unstructured activities. After consulting maps and a long discussion, the need for a new master plan was agreed upon. The current plan is outdated, and a new plan would include parks and trails, and would incorporate the research done in writing the Community Center Report.

2. Mike's letter – Mike Trachtenberg could not attend tonight's meeting and sent the following:

..... I would like to suggest that we as a Board make an attempt to meet with each of the organizations who use our fields- preferably at one of their Board meetings. The purpose would be to show our support for them, to hear any issues directly that they may have regarding the facilities or our services, as well as expressing our expectations for the care and safety of those facilities we offer i.e. no parking at Walker driveway, cleaning of kitchen at Heuser Field, maintenance of our facilities and fields, etc. I also suggest that we ask them to describe their current inclusion program for participants who may have disabilities or who may not be able to afford their fees. I would like to propose that we go in at least pairs or more to one of their meetings.

Discussion followed and it was felt it might be best to bring these issues up when the organizations come to request funds.

3. Joint Meeting with the BOS – topics for the meeting scheduled for April 19th:
 - i. Adaptive playground equipment donation by Eileen Connolly family
 - ii. Request for a Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - iii. Bike/pedestrian trails
 - iv. Goats for weed control at Bob White Park
 - v. Field conditions at Heuser Park and support for additional fields there.
 - vi. Park maintenance
 - vii. Meeting with all sports teams
4. Norview – Erika doesn't think the parking barriers are effective and asked that the committee check them out to discuss next time. There should also be "No Idling" signs put up.

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Ahearn

Secretary