

**Upper Merion Township
Park and Recreation Board Minutes
June 12, 2012 REVISED**

Attendees: Dan Russell, John Tallman, Barb Schafer, Neil Sardinas, Mike Trachtenberg, Mary Ann Ahearn

Guests: Jay Kowal, Rob Devers

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of May 2012 Minutes

Guests

Rob Devers lives next to Swedesburg Park, coaches and is interesting in helping.

Jay Kowal reported on the work his department has done in response to our park reports.

1. Kingswood Park - wood carpet has been replaced. There is lots of repeated vandalism and two residents call when they see a problem. Barb volunteered to contact the owner of the neighboring property about removing refuse from the edge of the park. The neighbor has been cited for this by the township, but to date has done nothing. The apartment complex should be mowing the park, its entrance and the adjacent PECO property.
2. Bill Wall Park - the weeds around the West End Civic Assoc. building are the organization's responsibility and the township will let them know.
3. Swedeland Park - timer for the lights must be reset after every power outage which is why they are sometimes on at odd hours.
4. Norview Park – in response to Neil's concern, Jay reported that although the Rooster's legs appear cracked, they have a concrete core and are stable. Because of past incidents of vandalism, the rooster now has an alarm sensor and a surveillance camera.
5. Jay reported that this is a very busy time of year with lots to do for his staff of 4. It would be good to add 2 part time workers at least for the summer if not for the entire year.
6. Jay has no objections to synthetic turf at Heuser fields.

Directors Report:

1. Heuser to Valley Forge Trail – Discussions with Norfolk Southern have been up and down about an easement for the trail and the use of their bridge. Dan heard back from higher-ups in the company that they do NOT want the trail on their property. Dan and T&M have been working on it and things seem to be moving in the right direction, but are taking longer to resolve than anticipated.
2. Upper Merion Recreation Center
 - a. The BOS hired Buell Kratzer & Powell architectural firm to design the renovation. ECDC, Park & Rec and the Community Center sub-committee will get involved in the plans.
 - b. June 21 BOS meeting will approve month-to-month leases with three of the tenants: vitamin store, pole fitness, karate fitness. Park & Rec will partner with them to offer classes. The other tenant is still in the building and there is a court date set for an emergency eviction.
3. Shannon Connelly Memorial has been installed at Heuser Park. We will be notified when the official dedication is scheduled.
4. Walker Park – intense storms have caused the creek to flood three times washing out the playground surface each time. Replacing the woodchips costs \$2K. Alternatively, moving the playground is very expensive (\$30-50K). Engineers will evaluation other options, but all are anticipated to be more expensive then replacing the surface.
5. Concerts Under the Stars – start this Sunday, June 17th.
6. Summer Programs – kick off on June 25th, with staff training and some camps beginning June 18th.

7. Fran Rupert, former Recreation Superintendent, DCNR regional advisor, passed away recently.

Old Business:

1. Dan is getting 2 quotes for synthetic turf for Heuser fields.

New Business:

1. Neil introduced a motion that we email our park reports to Dan and the rest of the board rather than Dan having to print out a copy for everyone. The board voted and passed the motion.
2. Ryan McGee wants to put in a plaque in Belmont Park in memory of his father who he says was instrumental in developing it. Dan is looking into it and invited Ryan to attend tonight's meeting.
3. Mary Ann asked about protecting what appears to be a very old, giant sycamore tree on Shoemaker Lane just off S. Gulph Road. Dan will look into it. It is probably on the property of Gulph Mills Village Apartments whose web site refers to its "ancient shade trees".

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Ahearn

Secretary