

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

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

Guests: Jay Kowal

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of August 2012 Minutes

Guests

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

1. Heuser Park – parking lot lines will be finished within a week. Boulders in the parking area keep people from driving around the speed bumps.
2. Bob Holland Park – the merry-go-round and pole have been removed.
3. Township Park – one of the fountains in the pond has a problem and we're waiting for the manufacturer to come fix it. The broken springy rider metal piece has been removed but still needs to be filled in.
4. Jay reported that his department is short one full time employee who is injured.
5. Re-lining the sports fields every week is very time consuming
6. Two growing seasons need to pass before we can use the 3.5 proposed new fields in the budget.

Directors Report:

1. 2013 Budget is in the works. Dan is working with playground surface installer to come up with a 5 year plan & budget to resurface all playgrounds. Most of the existing surfaces have been in place for 10 years.
2. Community Center - Joe Powell and Dan will give a report including a time line at Thursday's BOS meeting. There have been lots of positive meetings with seniors and P&R staff. There will be a meeting with the Community Center committee in 4-6 weeks. Hope to start the renovation by next summer
3. Community Fair – held last Saturday and there were some parking issues that will need to be addressed before 2014 when it will be back in the Township Park after a move to Heuser Park in 2013 as part of the Tri-Centennial Celebration. The number of vendors was slightly down as was the number of runners this year. Signs were in the wrong area, some vendors double parked, runners didn't park in overflow lot. The sheer volume of traffic was a problem.
4. No Smoking Signs – Dan and Pashanda Reily got a grant from the Community Alliance for a Safer Tomorrow for 18 no smoking signs that are ready to install in our playgrounds. A discussion followed of whether we should change our policy of no smoking in township parks to an ordinance. Dan will check to see what other parks are doing. We have always opposed smoking in parks and will continue to support anything the BOS would do on this.
5. Synthetic Turf – Sprint Turf and Field Turf are the two major vendors and both will be coming out within the next week to give estimates. Sprint Turf's cost is \$6-7 a square foot, so surfacing two football and one multipurpose field totaling 80,000 sq.ft would be around \$560,000. Maintenance costs would fall to a couple of thousand dollars per year and the turf is guaranteed to last 10-12 years of maximum use. Injuries go down over 200% with a turf field but the turf gets hot and fencing is recommended. Dan will email us more information.
6. Goats for week control - Dan talked with Yvonne Post and will meet with her and Jay on Thursday at noon to put together a 12 month plan for Bob White Park.

Old Business:

1. Whitegate Park - big problem with goose poop. Neighbor dogs help but it's no solution.
2. Defibrillators – baseball & football have their own. What about lacrosse?

3. Grants – we'll hand out grants to sports organizations at the September 20 BOS meeting and discussed whether portions of the grants could be held as security deposits to cover the cost of any damage to the facilities.
4. We discussed inviting sports organizations to come to a meeting to discuss concerns and hear their suggestions.
5. Challenger Day – stopped 2 years ago due to lack of participation. Instead we do more adaptive activities.
6. No Dumping sign at Bob White Park has been put up.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Ann Ahearn", followed by a horizontal line.

Mary Ann Ahearn

Secretary