

7:30 PM Tuesday

April 08, 2014

Upper Merion Park and Recreation Board Minutes

Attendees: Mary Ann Ahearn, David Burns, Eileen Connelly, Tina Garzillo, Bill Jenaway, Dan Russell, Neil Sardiñas, Barbara Schafer, Bill Schutter

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Minutes: March 2014

Board of Supervisors Liaison Report: Bill Jenaway – The Upper Merion Board of Supervisors passed a ten million dollar bond for the Upper Merion Community Center, bridges, police and trail. The BOS is looking at options for Upper Merion's Schuylkill riverfront property.

Directors Report: Dan Russell – The front of the Upper Merion Community Center has been removed and the demolition is complete. A few problems with the building have been discovered. Overall, this has been a good contract. Upper Merion will be posting construction documents on PennBid. The Upper Merion BOS discussed naming the building the Upper Merion Community and Senior Center.

At the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Convention, UMPR received award for S.N.A.P. Soccer. On April 10, 2014 there will be a workshop in Withpain Township for respectful inclusion in community programs. Kathy Muller from Philadelphia will be the presenter.

There was a comprehensive master plan meeting with T&M. One of their tasks will be to determine the needs in Upper Merion by speaking with members of the community. The township will be forming an advisory sub-committee.

An Earth Day celebration is scheduled for April 26, 2014 at 10am. This year Upper Merion will receive a Tree City USA award, acknowledging the Upper Merion's commitment to trees.

The Township Building's pond was discussed. It was built to be a water retention basin. Silt has accumulated in the basin and the plant growth has increased. Wetland animals now populate the location. If the basin were dredged, it would require permits and be expensive. The Stony Creek Anglers determined that the water in the basin was too shallow and salty and decided to not have the fishing rodeo here. Upper Merion Township is meeting with DEP tomorrow to discuss the future of this basin.

Park Report: Bill Schutter – Bob White Park will soon have new tennis court LED lights installed.

Old Business: There appears to be no community support for SEPTA to build a Norristown to King of Prussia rail connection on DeKalb Pike.

The Valley Forge to Heuser Trail DCNR grant is delayed because of three small parcels of land with ambiguous ownership. The parcels are most likely owned by Pennsylvania. The project may soon be ready for bid. Norfolk Southern Railroad and Upper Merion have a private crossing agreement where the Valley Forge to Heuser Trail will intersect with NSRR's King of Prussia Industrial Park spur. Piazza's property is close to an agreement with UM for trail access.

New Business: UMPR Board will meet with the BOS on Thursday April 10, 2014 from 8:00 to 8:30. Mary Ann attended the Watershed Alliance of Southeastern PA workshop. She has information about water management. The Park Board discussed hiring goats for invasive vine removal.

Adjournment:
Neil Sardiñas

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