

7:30 PM Tuesday

February 11, 2014

Upper Merion Park and Recreation Board Minutes

Attendees: Mary Ann Ahearn, David Burns, Eileen Connelly, Tina Garzillo, Dan Russell, Neil Sardiñas, Barbara Schafer, Mike Trachtenberg

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Minutes: January 14, 2014 minutes approved.

Directors Report: Dan Russell –

- Feb. 7 BOS meeting, the Upper Merion Community Center presentation included information about rain gardens and storm water management. The plans have generally received a positive response. The UMGA website will post the meeting in a few days. Residents have expressed traffic safety concerns. Parking issues were discussed.
- Demolition of the existing building on the UMCC site is 90% complete. The demolition crew will remove the front of the building. The project is currently \$50,000 under budget.
- In regards to the multi-use trail, most of the property owners along the right of way from Heuser Park to Valley Forge Trail are close to signing agreements with Upper Merion. The one exception, the Norfolk Southern Railroad is opposed to the trail crossing their property and will discuss this with Upper Merion in the future.
- UMPR summer brochure completed.
- Nominated for state awards, Cop Camp and community weekend activity (Carnival and Community fair)

Construction of a Rail Line to King of Prussia from Norristown

Guests: SEPTA representatives Byron Comati and Liz Smith

Project Purpose:

- "Provide faster, more reliable public transit service that offers improved transit connections to the King of Prussia/Valley Forge area from communities along the existing Norristown High Speed Line, Norristown and Philadelphia
- Improve connectivity between major destinations in the area, better serve existing transit riders, and accommodate new transit patrons."
- Currently KoP is served by bus and two rail lines near King of Prussia, the R5 Paoli and R7 Norristown lines.

Project Need:

- 57,100 jobs in Upper Merion in 2010; 62,100 jobs in 2040
- 12,500 jobs at Mall/Vicinity & 19,000 jobs in Office Park
- 25M visits/year to King of Prussia Mall
- 1.5M visits/year to Valley Forge National Historical Park
- Average Weekday Ridership is 4,000 using bus service to/from King of Prussia Mall; ridership is growing.

Project Benefits:

- An alternative to highway & local traffic congestion
- Attract new transit riders & new markets for shoppers & commuters
- Economic development opportunities that meet sustainability & livability goals

Project Support:

- Extension has Local & regional support
- Upper Merion & Montgomery Co. Comprehensive Plans
- DVRPC Long Range Plan 2035 (Connections)
- Upper Merion & KOP-BID Project for Transit Supportive Zoning (2011-2014)
- Funding for AA/DEIS, FEIS, and some engineering

SEPTA continues to hold public meetings to inform and explore options with this project.
An elevated line would have a 3rd rail

Should the line serve local business or access to the mall and the business park?

The Village at Valley Forge will exist in 2024 and will need access transportation. The local community can provide local transit from the rail extension's stops. Improved transit will contribute to economic growth. Project is 8 to 10 years away.

Additional information:

www.kingofprussiarail.com

info@kingofprussiarail.com

www.twitter.com/KOPRail

Old Business: We do not have goats for hire to eradicate invasive vines from our township parks. The possibility of SEPTA's rail extension along the PECO right of way was discussed.

New Business: Upper Merion's Economic and Community Development Committee has asked UMPR to consider a dog park. It will be considered as part of the UMPR master plan.

Adjournment:

Neil Sardifias

Neil Sardifias