

7:30 PM Tuesday

May 13, 2014

Upper Merion Park and Recreation Board Minutes

Attendees: Mary Ann Ahearn, Eileen Connelly, Tina Garzillo, Dan Russell, Neil Sardifias, Barbara Schafer, Bill Schutter, Mike Trachtenberg

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Minutes: March 08, 2014

Director's Report: Dan Russell

The Upper Merion Community Center demolition is finished.

Four contracts: general contractor, heating ventilation & air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical are open for bid. The Upper Merion Board of Supervisors will discuss these bid proposals during a televised meeting on June 5, 2014. UMCC site construction will begin after the pool closes for the season.

The job description, classification and job announcement for the new position of "Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation" is currently being developed. The main responsibilities for this position will be the operations and day-to-day management of the new Community Center. This position is being filled first as it will be instrumental in selecting the other new positions needed for the department's operations.

UMPR is marketing its programs to the school district. April 2014 has experienced the greatest volume of registrations for park programs in UMPR history.

Concerts Under the Stars will begin on June 22, 2014 presenting music and a new comedy night. There will not be a charge for admission.

The proposed Valley Forge to Heuser Trail right-of-way received signed agreements from the property owners. Permits for wetlands and the bridge over Trout Run are 95% complete.

Upper Merion Farmers Market begins its summer market on May 17 Saturday morning from 9:00 to 1:00. Swedesburg Fire Department and UMFM are hosting a chicken barbeque. One hundred fifty (150) tickets are available for purchase at \$8.00 each. This event supports Swedesburg Fire Department and UMFM.

Upper Merion Farmers Market has new vendors and products this season. They include pastries, organic produce, pasta maker, pet treats, snack food and coffee roaster. UMFM accepts credit cards. Also new this year is preferred parking for visitors with special needs.

Scheduled events for May 17 weekend include Relay for Life, Gumball Rally Lacrosse Tournament, and the King of Prussia 10 Miler. These events are being supported by Upper Merion's maintenance crew.

Guests: Pat Dolenti and Pat Clifton - Dog Park. Fran and Bob Littlewood - King of Prussia Indians. Cynthia Eastman, Mary and Don McCree - Upper Merion Senior Service Center.

Pat Dolenti and Pat Clifton are interested in creating a dog park in Upper Merion. UMPR's Master Plan will look at new trends in recreation. People interested in a dog park should consider creating a Friends of the Dog Park group.

The official name of the football field in Heuser Park is Vannicelli Field. Fran and Bob Littlewood are working to have a sign with the name Vannicelli Field placed by the field. Together the Vannicellies volunteered 110 years of service for the King of Prussia Indians. The Littlewoods are looking for a person to build and install the sign. The cost estimate is ~\$4,780.00. Attaching a new sign to the existing scoreboard will increase the profile and the wind loads. It has not been determining if the proposed increase in size is within the parameters of the township's sign ordinance.

The new community center's name has not been determined. Cynthia Eastman, Mary and Don McCree representing the Upper Merion Senior Service Center advocated for naming the new building the Upper Merion Community and Senior Center. Three of the six UMPR Board members present voted to name the building Upper Merion Community and Senior Center. Three voted to name the building the Upper Merion Community Center. The results of this vote will be sent to the Upper Merion BOS.

Park Report: Bill Schutter –

Bob White, new nets and removal of debris.

Executive, new trees and removed vines.

McKaig, large tree removed.

Swedeland, Swedesburg and Tabak Parks, storm damage cleanup.

Township Park, new fountain.

Valley Forge Acres, removed vines.

Executive Estates. tennis fence repaired.

In two weeks, a Department of Environmental Protection report will be issued on the Township Park's retention basin. The cost to dredge the 1.1-acre retention basin to build a pond and to engineer modifications to prevent future accumulation of silt is ~\$250,000.00. Deepening the water would create safety issues. UMPR is looking for a 50: 50 grant to fund this project.

Old Business:

There was a short discussion on the content of the pending Park Master Plan.

Parked vehicles have been observed on the service road in Heuser Park. The purpose of the service road is for dropping off and picking up items at the park building. There is a playground adjacent to the service road and the concern is for the safety of children playing in the vicinity.

Adjournment:

Neil Sardíñas

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