

7:30 PM Tuesday
February 10, 2015

Upper Merion Park and Recreation Board Minutes

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Minutes: January 13, 2015

Guests: Steve Sicilia - Upper Merion Area High School student Steve Sicilia joined the UMPR Board meeting to observe. The idea of adding a UMAHS student representative to participate on the UMPR Board each year is being considered and Steve Sicilia may fill the position.

Mike Trachtenberg asked the group to always use discretion when speaking to others outside of the UMPR Board. We are an advisory board. Ideas that are not being recommended by the UMPR Board should not be distributed to mislead the public about our direction. A discussion followed regarding a proper way to inform board members that they will not be reinstated.

Board of Supervisors Liaison Report: Bill Jenaway - Two applicants have applied for the one open slot on the UMPR Board.

Director's Report: Dan Russell - More than 750 Park Master Plan surveys have been completed online. A Heuser to Valley Forge Trail construction meeting is scheduled for this Thursday. The anticipated trail completion date is September 2015. Dan Russell is setting up a tour of the Upper Merion Community Center construction site for the Upper Merion Board of Supervisors. Upper Merion is hosting an open house for community day camps on March 27, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Freedom Hall. Concerts Under the Stars has been nominated for Best Outdoor Event in Montgomery County. Dan Russell had a conversation with departing UMASD Superintendent Jane Callaghan regarding the school district's facility study.

New people have been hired by Upper Merion Park and Recreation in anticipation of the Upper Merion Community Center. GlennAnne Chabala from Upper Gwynedd Township will be UMPR's Assistant Director. She has been Upper Gwynedd's Parks and Recreation Director for the past 12 years. Gerri Vattimo will be UMPR's Marketing and Special Events Manager. She brings 20 years of experience from Lockheed Martin and Junior Achievers. Her responsibilities will include fund raising and event publication.

Old Business: Mike Trachtenberg - Community responses to the UMPR Master Plan survey imply that Upper Merion's residents do not know about UMPR's facilities. The survey's wish list includes a community pool, proper maintenance, turf fields, trails, more passive activities, safety, ADA equipment, and field lighting.

UMPR's Master Plan will show development options for Heuser and recommendations for the other township parks. The amount of money required for maintenance and upkeep of each park will be attached to the various options.

New Business: UMPR intends to contact Brian Knox of Eco-Goats in Maryland. The goal is to have goats eat the parks' invasive plants. The UMPR Board discussed options for the sports teams that do not leave the UMPR fields in good conditions. This board would like to talk with the outside groups that use UMPR fields. How should UMPR enforce the proper care of our fields? Should the permits include a contract?

Dave Burns mentioned that Troy Chiddick has revitalized basketball in the schools.

Adjournment:

Neil Sardiñas