

Upper Merion July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Park and Rec Meeting  
Minutes

Neil Sardinas, Mike Trachtenberg, Mary Ann Ahearn, Barb Schafer, David Burns and Tina Garzillo, Bill Jenaway, Bill Schutter Dan Russell with two Guest  
The DeRosato's

Pledge

Approval of Minutes for June  
Approved

Last time we meet the Board had Homework regarding lights to Swedesburg Park.  
Feedback on the homework:

1. Sports lighting requirements minimum of 4 lights with other specs.
2. Two bids were given for two light poles approximately \$9-10,000. It was recommended that we add two more poles for Basketball quality lighting. That would add significant cost b/c of additional lighting/ the specifications would double the lighting.
3. No Lighting funds ...also there have been No complaints about difficulty with games suspended b/c of light.
4. The 90 residents were invited to the meeting about the basketball lighting. Two Households responded. Their issues were safety issues. They are encouraged to forward security concerns to the Upper Merion Police Department. We encouraged neighbors to report vandalism of Swedesburg Park to the Upper Merion TWP. Police.
5. Coordinated meetings with the Police and Park and Recreation members about the lighting and safety issues. They felt any amount of lighting would be good however there is a tradeoff. If the park is lite more people will come and the potential for trouble could increase.  
Therefore police don't think the benefits of a light out weighs the negatives to add Basketball Quality lighting.

DeRosato's...trees and weeds over hanging the Park. It is embarrassing... Mrs. Connelly reported the concerns to the board and interviewed residents of the park.

Mike Trachtenberg made a motion...

I motion that we do not recommend to the Board of Supervisors the installation of the Basketball Quality Light at Swedesburg Park.

5-0-1 the board voted to not go forward with lights in the park.

Dan stated that minimal reports are made to the police department of problems and vandalism. Dan has meet with the police 6 times to look at this Swedesburg Park and Walker Park.

Dan reported the broken lights will be up to UM TWP Transportation Department or Highway Department to fix.

Mike Tractenburg made another motion that we do a more collaborative effort with the Transportation Department and the Police to address the safety concerns at Swedesburg Park.

The vote was 6-0

Dan spoke with Chas and the police to work on the lights and will continue to work on the lighting of the Park. Dan will double-check the lighting from Center Street and the Alley Street.

Question? In the past how were those old lights powered? Dan will investigate.

Board of Supervisors Report.

Mr. Jenaway shared the recent Goals and Objectives meeting with TWP. Board of Supervisors

Two of the tenants are now moved to an interim space as the plans for the Community Center go forward.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> Fire Works went well. A GREAT EVENT.

The TWP. Board will look at the ACCEES roads to the revised Community Center.

The pool is not reporting any thing of concern.

Two Scouts will be working on the trails behind the pool. Andrew Fry and Jamie Sheldon.

Directors Report.

Partnership with Shade Tree Commission

The commission received two grants. The first is to inventory trees in 5 parks. A phone application will record the different trees. It is called i-tree. Volunteers will be trained. The training will be 8/27 and 8/29 at the Twp. Building.

The second grant is for planting 40 trees at the connector between Heuser and Bob Case. The planting will be 11/23/2013.

The Shade Tree Commission is hoping the Park and Recreation Board will help with volunteers to help with these projects.

Master Plans with T and M Associates about Park Plans. Dan will send out some \$40,000 grant request from the State with the support of Senator Leach and Representative Briggs.

The Hueser to VF Park. trail plan continues to move forward with the Norfolk Southern RR. The RR seems pleased.

Community Center Update. Tenants vacated. The architect design of the building is done. The site plan to go to the Zoning Board is ready. Plus the Business plan will be shared. Plan was reviewed by our TWP Manager. Also. He saw some corrections and helped move the plan along. The plan will include new, added staffing. The plan does show for 9 additional staff. The projected revenue is low but we listened to explanations as to why. Also revenue projections were lower in some things that may have better actual returns.

The Fire Works went well. Police have a Special Units that made several arrest at the Park.

Concert Under the stars: Three shows so far...Weather concerns for one show. The Tim McGraw Tribute act will be back...

Camp has increased this year.

McKaig has had damage because of the weather. The shelter, the walk way, the bridges, the trails are knotted up and washed out. It is impressive what the storms have done. The McKaig group maintains the park. They have some money but they may need and Engineer to help with the park. All the spring work is all gone, washed away.

Kick Off for Budget season for 2014. Goal and Objectives Session 4 plans shared with TWP. Board

The Vandalism issue at Basketball Ball court in Walker Field Park. Kids are breaking into the electric boxes and throwing rocks at the lights.

Barb asked about The Rubber matting... \$60,000 in budget for the next 5 years...Dan stated it will start in the Fall. Who are the contacts that take care of their neighborhood parks can they be activated to help us with the parks. Barb is thinking the Pavilion should be taken down. It is in disrepair however the roof of the pavilion is scheduled to be fixed this fall. And the field is used by UMBA.

The question was asked, how used our the parks? "Part of the Park and Recreation Master plan will be to determine the use of the parks."

Mrs. DeRosato asked that," when is a good time to bring our questions to the Board"? Usually early is when we open the meeting to the guest.

Then the DeRosato's shared concerns like:

Issues w/park boundaries, people bring their dogs to the park and when they are off their leashes. It is a problem w/ dogs going on private property. Can an area be found in the parks for dogs? Dogs are welcomed in the parks on leashes. Also a dog park is discussed... regularly.

Define the park property area...a fence would be a consideration.

Dan will check the Boundaries of the Park. Dan will review the leash laws with Officer Nuskey and other Police Staff.

The Trash can smell in the Parks. Trash is picked up every Monday.

Report on Parks from Bill Shutter. Bill gave a list of projects addressed.

Highway Dept. will put a step down outside the court... And the tie downs for the backstops will be attached again. ( Swedesburg Park)  
ETC.

Mike Trachtenberg, commented that the Heuser Park Baseball camp was the best facility this year for Phillie Summer Camps...

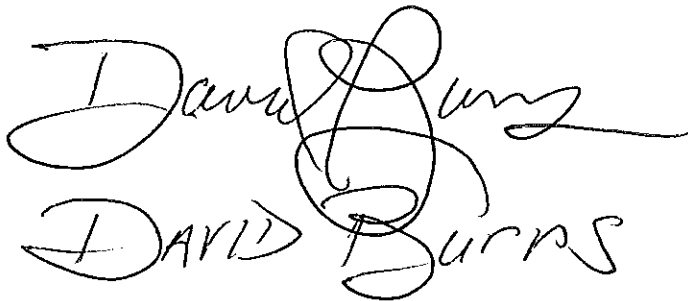
Tina Garzillo asked with the new construction in the TWP, is it possible to get dirt from these sights for the parks?

For example can we get dirt for Heuser Park from Target, or from Car Sense/Home Depot. Dan talked about how nice it would be to get good dirt from a the old golf course.

Where are we with the three fields for Heuser Park?

A Master plan has to be approved. Dan is in the process of obtaining bids for a engineer. The Board wants him to get more bids. After a bid is picked. The plan for the park will begin. The discussion concluded that in September the layout for the fields will begin.

Meeting was adjourned

  
DAVID BURNS