

7:30 PM Tuesday

September 10, 2013 – Revised 10/9/13

## 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

**Guests:** Cathy and Nick DeRosato

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved July 9, 2013 & August 13, 2013 minutes.

**Director's Report:** The Upper Merion Carnival and Community Fair at Heuser Park went very well. Four thousand tickets were sold on Friday September 6. Twelve thousand tickets were sold on Saturday September 7. Seventy runners participated in the 16th Annual 5K Big Red Run. This event benefited Upper Merion's Mothers Club. The Upper Merion Farmers Market operated on its normal schedule at the Upper Merion Township Building Saturday from 9:00 to 1:00.

The Tricentennial Celebration Parade was a success. The Community Fair at Heuser had 82 vendors. Thousands of people attended the events. Next year's Community Fair will probably be at Heuser.

Stephen Stiles and his family will be installing a bench in Swedeland Park in memory of Stephen's brother.

It was a good summer for UMPR. The UMPR 2013 Fall Activity Guide has been out for a few weeks.

UMPR is starting to work on the 2014 capital budget.

**Board of Supervisors Liaison Report:** Bill Jenaway complimented UMPR for a job well done regarding the Community Fair. The great majority of the comments from the public were positive. TV channels 6, 10, and Fox, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Times Herald reported on the event.

**Old Business:** The option of deploying goats to remove mile-a-minute vines from Bob White Park is being considered. Previously UMPR worked with Yvonne Post and her goats. She recommended clearing the overgrown area behind the tennis courts. Yvonne Post is no longer available for consultation. On August 30, 2013, Mary Ann Ahearn, Barbara Schafer and Bill Shutter met at Bob White Park with Laurie Jenkins from Shady Apple Goats of Flourtown. They explored the partially cleared area behind the tennis courts.

Laurie Jenkins said it could cost tens of thousands of dollars to clear the vines with goats. She suggested starting with the area behind home plate. Laurie thought Upper Merion could ultimately save money by

having its own dedicated herd of foraging goats. Possibly Upper Merion could generate revenue by leasing them to other entities.

Swedesburg has a new asphalt ramp at the basketball court. No feedback was received from PECO regarding a light. Upper Merion has not replaced the bulbs in the Swedesburg Park neighborhood streetlights.

**Master Plan:** UMPR requested and received bids from five contractors to produce a master park plan. The purpose of the master plan is to produce a facilities inventory, determine the community's need, maintenance projections and update the UMPR map. The UMPR board will review the request for proposals (RFPs), choose one of the proposals and make a recommendation to the Upper Merion Board of Supervisors.

**Community Center:** Ken Ballard will meet with the Upper Merion Board of Supervisors on Sept 19, 2013 at 7:30 at the BOS' scheduled workshop meeting. The topics will be costs, hours of operation and additional staffing.

**New Business:** Barbara Schafer requested that sports organizations submit their financial information in writing to UMPR in October. Representatives of the sports organizations will be asked to appear at the November UMPR meeting to present their financial information in person. Last year \$28,000 in grants was awarded to local sports organizations.

Heuser Park has a large volume of asphalt millings. The material will be used on parking lots in various locations in Upper Merion.

**Park Progress Report:**

**Bob White Park**

Removed the seesaw playground equipment for repair  
Repaired tennis court #3 net

**Executive Estates Park**

Scrubbed the tennis court, removed moss and mildew to prevent players from slipping  
Removed the dead branches from the tree near the tennis court  
Painted benches throughout the park

**Swedesburg Park**

In the process of removing the vines growing on the fence  
Installed a blacktop path leading to the basketball court from New Church Road

**Tabak Park**

Installed new basketball net  
Cleaned up the vines along the fence

**Township Building Park**

In the process of removing low hanging limbs

Valley Forge Acres  
Repaired the post and rail fence  
Trimmed low hanging limbs along the walking path

McKaig Nature Center  
Storm damage and water management were discussed

**Additional Business:** Kathy DeRosato inquired about specifics in the July 9, 2013 UMPR minutes. Nick DeRosato suggested that he would bring a petition from Swedesburg Park neighbors in favor of a light for the Swedesburg Park basketball court.

Neil Sardiñas suggested forming a partnership between UMPR and the Upper Merion Library to create an ESL program and have it listed in the UMPR Activity Guide.

Barley Van Clief of the Upper Merion Township Shade Tree Commission and Jaquelin Camp of the Upper Merion Township Planning Commission are interested in working together with UMPR to design the western portion of Heuser Park.

Meeting adjourned,  
Neil Sardiñas

Neil Sardiñas

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