

**Upper Merion Township
Park and Recreation Board Minutes
1/8/2013 Revised 2/26/13**

Attendees: Dan Russell, Neil Sardinas, Mike Trachtenberg, Mary Ann Ahearn, Barb Schafer, Eileen Connelly, David Burns, Bill Jenaway.

Guest: Buddy and Cathy DeRosato.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Erika Spott said goodbye, as Board of Supervisor Liaison and Bill Jenaway is the New Liaison.

Park and Rec. Board reorganized for 2013.

Barb Schafer was temporary Chair. Neil Sardinas was elected Chairman. Mike Trachtenberg Vice Chairman and Dave Burns Secretary.

The DeRosato's asked for an update on the state of Swedesberg Park.

They are still interested in the township providing lights for the basketball court.

Dan will work with the Township Manager to get a cost. Dan will then survey the residents around the park to obtain their input. If the residents are favorable Dan will report to the Park and Rec. board and get the board's recommendation to give consideration to the Township Board of Supervisors for their final consideration.

Other concerns in the park were:

The step to the street from the basketball court is still washed out.

The fence on the east side of the court at the base is pushed out 2-3 feet.

The top of the fence is missing many support. Will the whole fence be replaced or repaired? Dan will talk to Jay Kowal tomorrow.

They felt that the trees at the south side nearest the turnpike are still overhanging the backboard and rim.

They were concerned about Vandalism in the park.

Other discussions focused on relationship with PECO at Bob Holland Park, The time that lights are on in the Parks. Photocells and timers are to use to manage the lights in the park.

The Board continued discussion about the damage to the aluminum benches in the parks. It appears that the landscapers hit the ends when they mowed the parks. Further discussion included how to repair the ends of the benches and replacing the end caps.

Board of Supervisors Liaison Report:

Bill Jenaway talked about his, The Park, and Recreations mutual interest over the past several years. Bill

Jenaway was a Chair member of the Committee for the Community Center.

Township Police will now have a Community Response Officer, Mr. Harry Nuskey. There is a police vehicle dedicated to the position that will support the schools and parks. A discussion of national and local safety concerns based on current events was reviewed with relevance to our parks and programs.

Directors Report:

The Martin Luther King Celebration is tomorrow night at the Middle School.

The Bethesda Broad Street Project for Opportunities for Community Service is available.

Also Community Service at Manor Care will be a location for Volunteerism.

Walker Field #4 has experience a major sinkhole. The dangerous hole has been filled. There is a protocol for maintaining safety for the community when sinkholes occur.

The Shannon Connelly Memorial was completed at Heuser Park.

The Community Center continues to move forward. Meetings with architects and budget plans to organize interior demolition.

Again, Discussion began about Safety for students and summer campers at parks and schools.

There is still an opening on our board. Interviews and applications are currently being taken.

Old Business:

Our board discussed land use plans for the 40-acre Heuser Park. Excellent ideas were discussed based on examples from parks in Maryland. The discussion was ways to maximize the potential of the parks land for all residents. Not just our sports teams although they are a significant focus. Again more discussions about the use of Heuser Park like multi use space, garden centers, outside organizations, liability insurance for vendors

The Board continued to discuss a Master Plan for the Townships Parks and Recreational Services.

We have mentioned the plan yearly and progress continues in the township but a master plan is not the outline used. New properties have been added to the Department like the New Community Center and planning would have benefits for future grants and funding. The report will be due in two years. The plan will require public input and surveys.

The Board discussed the high grass around Kingwood Park and Reese Road. Who owns the problem? PECO only seems to cut the grass around their Electric Towers. The Park and Rec. Board asked Dan to find out the answer to that question using Jay Kowal and contact the PLS.

The Mile a Minute Vine issue and the prospects of Goats to manage the Vine were discussed. The Director continues to work with Yvonne Post a goat specialist used by our township. A proposal was shared with the Parks Dept, and Board of Supervisors. Also

Goats maybe a more appropriate to help us with the evasive vine problem.

New Business:

The Board discussed the improvements to the lighting at the High School in the front and back gym. The Basketball program is under new leadership. The programs seem to be running well.
Update on the King of Prussia Indians football program.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



David Burns
Secretary