

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
JOINT MEETING  
MAY 11, 2017

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Joint Meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2017, in the Board Room, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

DISCUSSIONS:

COMMUNITY CENTER COMPLEX ADVISORY BOARD

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Greg Philips, and Carole Kenney. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Glenn Anne Chabala, Assistant Director Park and Recreation; Paul Kubler, Chairperson; Chris Levy, Vice Chairperson; Karen Huller; Rob DeFelice; Evelyn Ankers. Chairman Bill Jenaway and Supervisor Erika Spott were absent.

Evelyn Ankers stated the objective of the Community Center Complex Advisory Board is to ensure that the wellness of residents and community members are optimally supported by the facility and its programs and amenities. With this mission the advisory board will liaison and advocate various viewpoints evaluating and making recommendations regarding the following: maintenance and safety, equipment, programming, space allocations, operations, budgeting, passholder experience, marketing and partnerships.

Ms. Ankers discussed the accomplishments of the advisory board. Highlights follow:

- There were four monthly meetings to date.
- Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Upper Merion Community Center complex.
- Made application and received \$2,600 from the Board of Community Assistance for various items needed for the community center.
- Held successful soccer tournaments.
- Initiated dialog with Upper Merion Senior Center.
- Scheduled successful summer programming preview party
- Working on converting retail space to programming space.
- Close to reaching 2,000 passholders – will decide on what type of recognition to mark this milestone.
- Pool open house scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> with opening on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

- Volunteer clean up days will be scheduled.
- Working on ideas for new parking signage for the facility and other related signage needed.

Paul Kubler discussed some of the parking challenges hosting very large events, using the building more efficiently, improving scheduling, obtaining quality instructors with current insurance requirements and maintenance and cleaning activities.

Rob DeFelice discussed future opportunities. He suggested using the Senior Center's large room and landscaped patio as a rental space as well as a venue for Upper Merion activities, fundraisers, and various programs. Other opportunities include a possible teen center, partnership with ECDC and Upper Merion Township Foundation and additional programs with Main Line School Night.

With regard to parking, Mr. Philips commented about the availability of overflow parking across the street.

Mr. Philips asked for more information on the teen center. Ms. Ankers responded it was hoped that one of the retail spaces could be partially used for a place for teens to gather and enjoy music and other activities.

Mr. Waks commented there are three large spaces in the basement originally designated for leasing to a vendor, but with community center membership soon to surpass 2,000 members the conversion of these spaces will enable additional programming to meet the ever increasing demands.

As Board Liaison to the Community Center Complex Advisory Board, Mr. Waks expressed appreciation to the board members for their tremendous efforts and progress to date. He mentioned the current vacancy that exists on the advisory board which is reserved for an individual who is both a member of the senior service center and a member of the community center and encouraged someone to step up and help complete the advisory board.

Mr. Waks commented on the progress made at the Upper Merion pool with the installation of a new ADA ramp, improved locker rooms, fresh paint, and new windows.

Mrs. Kenney expressed appreciation to those serving on this advisory board and asked if they need anything in particular from the supervisors. Ms. Huller responded anything that could be done to encourage a representative from the senior center to apply for the vacancy would be helpful.

## TRANSPORTATION/GENERAL AUTHORITIES

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Greg Philips, Bill Jenaway, and Carole Kenney. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Tom Kohler, Chairman, Lou Zotti, Vice Chairman; Carlton Stuart, Secretary; Marvin Meneeley, Treasurer; Ian Kingsley, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Supervisor Erika Spott was absent.

Mr. Tom Kohler, Chairperson, stated the Transportation Authority works with stakeholders to design construction projects and provide the public with safe and efficient travel throughout the township. The Authority has been in existence since the early to mid-1980's and has worked to complete over \$1 billion worth of road work in Upper Merion Township. Some of the stakeholders include residents, businesses, Board of Supervisors, other state and local elected officials, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Montgomery County, the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Kohler discussed some of the recently completed and current projects which include:

- Valley Forge Roadway Improvements (near the Community Center) at Caley Road and General Knox Road adding a long desired traffic signal for safety.
- Sullivan's Trail over the Schuylkill River – American Society of Highway Engineers named this 2016 "Project of the Year"
- US 422 Bridge Replacement and Relocated North Gulph Road which is currently under construction – due to be completed May 2020
- PA 23 Trout Creek Bridge Replacement currently in design
- Church Road Bridge over SEPTA Route 100 Line
- Prince Frederick Extension – this project has a trail component

Mr. Jenaway stated having these jobs in shovel ready status is critical when funding becomes available. Mr. Kohler commented the Henderson off ramps are an example of the benefit of having a project in shovel ready status which was made possible by the work of the Transportation Authority.

Mrs. Kenney asked for more information about the PA 23 Trout Creek Bridge replacement. Mr. Kohler responded this will be a new structure away from the existing structure. The new structure will be built first and traffic rerouted over it and then the old bridge will be demolished.

Mrs. Kenney asked if there is a paper road associated with the Prince Frederick Extension. Mr. Kohler responded there is a paper street and private properties that would have to be acquired. The Prince Frederick Extension is not

envisioned as a heavy arterial road, but more of a parkway boulevard access road to reduce traffic at the Henderson intersection.

Mr. Philips stated another positive aspect of the Prince Frederick/Saulin Boulevard extension is the potential that those lands may be developed and tie into some of the transportation planning that has already been done. Mr. Philips commented on the foresight of the Transportation Authority since its inception in ushering in many projects across the township and the leadership of Mike Santillo, who was the chair of this Authority for over 30 years, Ron Wagenmann and every member who served on the Authority.

Mr. Philips mentioned the Authority's engineer, Boles Smyth, has been asked by the county to look at proposed slip ramps from the Pennsylvania Turnpike, particularly at Henderson Road and the King of Prussia Business Park and asked how that is moving forward. Mr. Kohler responded so far the only commitment the Turnpike has made is to fund the Lafayette Street Interchange in Plymouth Township which will connect to the new Lafayette Street Extension in Norristown.

Mr. Marv Meneeley, Chairman, General Authority, described the work of this Authority in overseeing the work done in the Township Building.

Mr. Kohler discussed development in the township which generates assessments that help fund transportation improvements. With regard to long range plans, part of the township's Comprehensive Plan 2040 there is a significant transportation component which was discussed at an open house last month in the Township Building.

Mr. Meneeley mentioned the four charging stations located at the Township Building which people can use to charge their electric vehicles.

Mrs. Kenney stated there has been much improvement in cost and efficiency of solar energy and would like to see more work done to explore possible uses at the township building. Mr. Kohler responded as more enhancements are made to this building the Authority will remain as environmental sensitive as possible.

Mrs. Kenney mentioned staff has been informing the Board of Supervisors about SolSmart which provides recognition and no-cost technical assistance to help local governments reduce barriers to solar energy growth.

Mr. Meneeley stated the Township Building is already using LED lights and other measures to cut down on energy usage. He noted one of the township's vehicles is utilizing the charging station which saves the township money and helps the environment.

Mr. Jenaway mentioned the traffic adaptive signals in Upper Merion Township are still the only ones existing in the state.

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, and Carole Kenney. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Kyle Brown, Associate Planner; Jenn Lyons, Chairperson; Scott Sibley, Secretary; Joe Brophy. Supervisor Spott was absent.

Jenn Lyons, Chairperson, discussed ECDC's activities in 2016. Highlights as follows:

- "Love My Local" promoted local businesses and community members
- Revisited 2020 Vision Plan for new ideas
- Beer Garden – Park and Recreation took this on as KPI
- Advised BID and SEPTA on rail messaging

Ms. Lyons discussed the ECDC's activities for 2017 include partnering with the Business Improvement District on the Business/Entrepreneurial Incubator – small scale office space for start-ups and personal businesses. This would also provide a space for retired executives to network

Mr. Jenaway commented the supervisors met recently with the managers of the new apartment complexes. He said the people who are moving here from outside Upper Merion Township all work here and an opportunity exists to reach out to the lease managers with some information.

A discussion followed about the use and success of an incubator space program in other areas and the need to discuss this with the BID to explore ways to have such a program in the township.

Mr. Brophy discussed the possibility of a community garden at Heuser Park with the ECDC working together with the Park and Recreation Department.

Mrs. Kenney mentioned the ash tree problem at Heuser Park and the recent discussion about large scale removal of ash trees along the Heuser Trail.

Mr. Jenaway pointed out another possible site for a community garden would be space near the fire house on Beidler Road.

Mr. Sibley mentioned the Beidler site might have the additional advantage of being closer to some homes. He said while Heuser is a good site not too

many people live nearby to walk and take care of their garden.

Mr. Brophy discussed the example of Philander Chase Knox which is a wedding facility made possible with a public/private partnership.

A discussion followed about areas in Upper Merion Township that would be ideal for this concept in utilizing and maximizing its assets such as the Moore Irwin House.

Ms. Lyons discussed additional ECDC ideas:

- putting together a community in service day
- working with the Upper Merion Township Foundation looking for possible ways to provide financial assistance for community center memberships for lower income families and assistance for seniors who want to remain in their homes.
- The ECDC is represented on the 2040 comprehensive planning committee.

Mr. Philips appreciates the ECDC's "outside the box" thinking on such projects as the business/entrepreneurial incubator space. He also favors the idea of renovating the Moore Irwin House at very little expense using grants and public/private partnerships.

Mr. Waks commented on the current aggressive agenda of the ECDC and pointed out the history of the ECDC reflecting aggressive agendas which have resulted in the Business Improvement District, the Upper Merion Community Center, and the Tricentennial celebration to name a few.

Mr. Jenaway stated at the recent Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors Conference Upper Merion Township there were two sessions discussing future planning for communities and Upper Merion Township was held up as a model for the way to get things done right.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, and Carole Kenney. Also present were: David Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Rob Loeper, Township Planner, Matthew Popek, Chairperson, Mark McKee, Vice Chairperson; Vivian Peikin; Todd Brown. Supervisor Erika Spott was absent.

Mr. Matthew Popek, Chairperson, stated the Planning Commission held 15 meetings in 2016 and provided an overview of the development activity in

Upper Merion Township.

Mr. Popek mentioned the sizeable role the Planning Commission has on the Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee. He outlined various other planning efforts ongoing in the township including the potential Norristown High Speed Line Extension into the Upper Merion area.

Mr. Popek mentioned the Safe Routes Transit grant awarded to the Township for additional study of the Hughes Park Station.

Mr. Popek noted there is now an ongoing large development and planning cycle and this township is well positioned to take advantage of it based on the availability of different residential options, availability of different commercial retail office options, and a strong industrial sector.

Mr. Popek asked if there are any focus areas the supervisors would like to see incorporated more into the planning commission's discussions.

Mr. Jenaway stated more and more plans are trying to fit more building into less area and would like the planning commission to be on alert for over density on township properties.

Mr. Jenaway stated Mr. Popek has the opportunity to see what is being done in other communities in Montgomery County and asked if there is something being done elsewhere that should be considered in Upper Merion Township. Mr. Popek responded there are a few places in the county that are taking a small corner or area and turning it into a small plaza or pocket park. He recognized the linear park and open spaces planned for First Avenue and some green activity in somewhat smaller places is something that might be an opportunity for the township down the line.

Mr. Jenaway mentioned the previous discussion with the ECDC about the Moore Irwin House and grants to fund that project.

Mr. McKee suggested an opportunity for a pocket park to be part of a community comprehensive plan for the mixed use development in the business park.

Rob Loeper: Township Planner, stated Jacquelin Camp has been a great asset to the planning commission because of her architectural background. During a recent discussion about development along the US 202 corridor Ms. Camp made it clear greater emphasis should be placed on developing standards for streetscapes, especially with buildings closer to the road. She also suggested better standards for sidewalks, lighting, street furniture, and landscaping.

## FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES BOARD

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, and Carole Kenney. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Bernie Gutkowski, Chairperson; Dennis Orangers, Fire Chief Swedeland; Jim Gallagher, Fire Chief, King of Prussia; Charles Rossi; Jerry Recupido, Fire Chief, Swedesburg; Ed Martin, Lafayette Ambulance. Supervisor Erika Spott was absent.

Mr. Bernie Gutkowski, Chairperson, stated each company chief will report on their activities for 2017 and their goals for 2017.

Chief Jerry Recupido, Swedesburg Fire Company, highlights as follows:

- Swedesburg Fire Company responded to a total of 208 incidents, an increase from 2015. These incidents were in our municipality and surrounding communities where we provide mutual aid. Most were minor incidents, but there were 7 vehicle rescues and 10 working fires. A total of 1,300 personnel come out on the calls which averaged 9 per call.
- During 2016 there were no firefighter or civilian injuries
- Responded to 50 building fires, 12 mulch fires, 18 vehicle fires, 25 vehicle accident related responses and 5 water rescue responses.
- In 2016 firefighters trained for 1,250 hours. These hours of training included 15 rescue company operation trainings, 4 water rescue trainings, 23 engine company operation trainings and 17 courses at the fire academy.
- Members participated in 6 live run sessions and outside the fire house members trained and received certifications for various courses.
- In 2016 the Swedesburg Fire Company was successful in receiving the state fire commissioner's grant to help reduce the loan debt to the relief association.
- Received the grant from the Board of Community Assistance for 10 new water rescue dry suits
- For the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row the company was awarded the Robert F. Little Fire Safety Education award from the State Firefighters Association and with funds we received from that source and the King of Prussia Rotary Club the Swedesburg Fire Company hosted the largest fire prevention night at the Giant Supermarket they ever held with a large turnout of both fire companies and civilians.
- On Saturday, October 21, 2017, the Swedesburg Fire Company will close out their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a parade and housing.
- The company is continuing with building upgrades and would like to obtain and install a bench at Swedesburg Park for founding member Edward J. Dybicz. Another goal for 2017 is getting a boat ramp installed at the



Upper Merion boat house to assist with water rescues on the river.

Chief Ed Martin, Lafayette Ambulance, reported as follows:

- In 2016 Lafayette Ambulance responded to 3,434 calls and of those calls they transported 2,500 patients to the five area hospitals.
- Grant funding was used to obtain scoop stretchers.
- Accepted 8 new volunteers.
- With funding from the township a new ambulance was placed in service.
- All members have been outfitted with ballistic vests for their safety in responding to calls.
- Upgraded video laryngoscope airway system.
- Combined the Chief and Executive Manager into one position
- In 2017 goals are to continue with CPR initiative to train as many residents as possible in community CPR
- Increase volunteer hours in the evenings and weekends by placing a third unit staffed by volunteers offsetting some of the advanced life support crews.
- Continue to grow the tactical emergency casualty care program
- Projects for grant funding – a binder lift. A vest that can wrap around a patient which allows providers to more safely lift a patient from the ground to a standing position or onto a stretcher.
- Upgrade DriveCam systems of two existing ambulances
- Awaiting the approval or disapproval of a grant to purchase two power stretchers.

Chief Jim Gallagher, King of Prussia Fire Company, reported as follows:

- Received first place in demographic category for fire prevention and safety education form the Firemen's Association of Pennsylvania.
- Performed over 1,000 hours of fire prevention and community education programs
- Completed over 2,600 hours of training
- Successful in writing specifications to purchase a new pumper engine
- On June 11<sup>th</sup> participated in a five county regional disaster response task force at Abrams Yard.
- Successful in receiving two FEMA grants – one was for new hydraulic tools to improve rescue capabilities and the other was a \$258,000 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant to help staffing levels at night.
- Capital improvement goals for the station at Allendale Road - improve concrete flooring and upgrade station living program.
- Participating along with Swedeland and Swedesburg in the Montgomery County Dispatch Deployment Program.
- Implemented continuing education requirements- including online training.

- Looking to create a stipend program for a driver and firefighter in Allendale Road station on a weekend basis.

Mrs. Kenney asked who would fill these positions. Chief Gallagher responded King of Prussia firefighters as well as any of the members from the other stations could fill these roles.

Mr. Jenaway asked about the number of response calls in 2016. Chief Gallagher responded there were 654 calls.

Chief Dennis Orangers, Swedeland Fire Company, reported as follows:

- There were 280 emergencies for 2016.
- Received first place fire prevention award from the state for division B.
- Recertified with Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner's office for training certification levels – certified at 75% level.
- Also recertified volunteer rescue service through the Department of Health and Fire Commissioner's office.
- Received \$15,000 for building improvements for station.
- Participated in numerous fire prevention demonstrations and community events
- Hosted fourth consecutive open house and fire prevention and safety demonstration in August 2016.
- Hosted first car show fundraiser.
- P – donations given to children that need school supplies.
- Hosted a housing ceremony for new ladder truck
- Gained additional fire police staff this year.
- In 2017 will participate in numerous fire prevention activities.
- Plan on conducting a national certification course for ladder operations to manage aerial apparatus safely and in accordance with NFPA standards.
- Will host another open house in August 2017.
- Second annual car show on August 5, 2017.
- Looking to obtain another state grant for much-needed building improvements.
- Will enhance rescue capabilities and training levels through state
- Enhance recruitment and retention.

Mr. Gutkowski stated the Fire and Rescue Service Board is recommending the strategic plan of hiring a township fire chief from outside the township. They are also requesting looking into having staff – a deputy fire marshal and fire inspector released from their duties if needed at the station to pull apparatus or go in as a firefighter during the day. Mr. Gutkowski said Chief Ed Martin is going to talk to staff who are cross trained and if they are not busy with the ambulance they would help out also. It was noted the Fire Board has a mutual aid agreement with Norristown and is also in the process of looking into

signing such an agreement with Lower Merion. In order to assist with recruitment and retention of volunteers, the Fire Board would like to see some type of tax break incentive.

Mr. Jenaway commented about the law that was enacted late last year in Harrisburg granting municipalities the authority to offer active tax credits for active volunteers of fire or emergency medical services companies. He pointed out the rules for this legislation were just released within the last 10 days and will be reviewed to determine how the tax breaks will be dispensed.

Mr. Gutkowski mentioned the time and effort that is expended in the process of applying for grants.

Mr. Jenaway stated the Fire and Rescue Services Board provided a list of recruitment and retention items which are being worked on and given every consideration.

Mr. Philips encouraged residents to consider volunteering for the fire and rescue services. Mrs. Kenney pointed out volunteer positions also include various administrative functions that are much needed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the joint meeting at 9:37 p.m. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

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DAVID G. KRAYNIK  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered: