

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 9th, 2019

7:30 PM

Attendees: Mike Trachtenberg, MaryAnn Ahearn, Neil Sardíñas, Deena Newman, Dana Augustine, Robert DeFelice, Paul Salamy, Jerry Recupido, Dan Russell & Tina Garzillo

Guests: Joe Brophy (ECDC), Marianne Infante (Possible student member), Sheila Frederick (UMBA), Chris Burkett (Gilmore)

1. The Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of the June 11th, 2019 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 6-0.

3. Guests

- Gilmore and Associates Update
 - Spent time with sewer company to find out where all pipes are in order to do testing
 - First round of testing is complete
 - Determining flood planes
 - Working with school board because of high school construction
 - Must handle storm water management applications
 - Spot above Walker Park may be used to fulfill 80% of storm water management requirements
 - Underground infiltration beds are more expensive than infiltration basins but you can build over them
 - Other proposed storm water areas are near the Community Center, Volpi Commons, and Bob Case Park
 - Main concern would be taking land away from Mullin Tract – underwater infiltration beds would help this
 - Discussion of township road crossings
 - Property on Covered Bridge Road will need retaining wall
 - Still need to address fence on property line
 - Will be the most challenging part of the trail to build
 - A few property owners will need to be addressed
 - Will be part of a public meeting
 - Crossing in front of middle school – looking to make it as safe as possible
 - Stop signs, blinking signs, raised traffic island, etc.
 - Chris looking for agreement from the board to move forward with soil testing in the proposed storm water management sites
 - Motion approved 7-0

4. Board of Supervisor's Liaison Report – Tina's report included the following:

- Welcoming the new township manager on July 11th
 - He will be sworn in on July 18th
- July 4th event had 10,000 people

- Catalyst doing a presentation on Monday, 11/15
- Catalyst coming to the P&R board meeting in August
- Citizen board mixer went very well – looking to do more events in the future
- Saturday's Farmers Market will have the Zucchini 500
 - Race is at 11, but come earlier to decorate
 - Can buy a zucchini there or bring one
- New high end restaurant opening on Swedeland road at GSK
- Science Center also coming to that area
- At 7pm on Thursday, there will be a zoning meeting
- Top Golf coming in where the American Baptist Center was

5. Park and Recreation Director's Report - Dan

- Pickleball court lines have been replaces
 - Polite signs say to leave them alone
- Submitted a grant to offset the cost of the design for Heuser Park phase 2
- Summer schedule is strong with ACD at the CC
- Swedeland Park construction has begun – need ADA accessibility revisions
- Public Meeting for the Crow Creek Trail on August 27th
 - Will have a morning and an evening session
- Sue Hoffman, the program coordinator, is leaving – will need to be replaced
- Thursday at workshop, the BOS is discussing the CC roof project
 - Will also request update on rail station planning
- Heuser Park Wi-Fi has been installed as well as extra security cameras

6. Park Maintenance Report - Jerry

- Sent monthly list of maintenance via email
- Storm cleanup at a few parks
- Pickleball courts have been relined
- New rain barrel at Heuser
- Cleaned tennis courts at Executive Estates
- Filled holes at township building that Neil mentioned
- Wood carpet at Whitegate and Walker will be addressed
- Made spreadsheet of trees at certain parks that need to be removed
- Tree trimming at Heuser
- Rob asked why playgrounds don't have wood carpet vs. the protective rubber surface
 - Dan explained that wood carpet is more expensive and more maintenance
- Tons of Fun carnival company left trash and wood from July 4th event

7. New Business

- Riverfront Access/Joint Subcommittee – Joe Brophy
 - Schuylkill river is the northern boundary of KOP and there is no access for residents
 - Opportunity to gain access to 75 acres
 - Township owns 5 acres and can possibly acquire additional 70
 - ECDC and Parks & Rec should work together
 - Looking for a motion to form a joint subcommittee – Approved 7-0

8. Old Business

- Bat Houses in Parks
 - Deena emailed us a bunch of information
 - Need to decide how much to spend
 - Wooden boxes last four years
 - Plastic lasts much longer
 - Lots of restrictions so we must find the best places to put them

9. Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report – Deena

- Pool feasibility study being done
 - Two companies presented and another one presenting soon
 - Very different views – great info
- Rob wants to update field use agreement
 - Dan and Paul feel it's going really smoothly
 - Agreement was updated a few years ago
- Rob would like to change the Heuser Park baseball field to an all dirt infield so softball can be played
- Scoreboard at Heuser still doesn't work
- Rob – is someone keeping a spreadsheet of all expenses for the CC?
 - Would like an update

Adjournment: 10:15pm

Kindly Submitted

Dana Augustine



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