

## UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 13th, 2019

7:30 PM

**Attendees:** Mike Trachtenberg, MaryAnn Ahearn, Neil Sardifias, Deena Newman, Robert DeFelice, Paul Salamy, Jerry Recupido, Dan Russell, Tina Garzillo & Tony Hamaday

**Guests:** Robert Devers, Scott Sibley, Molly Duffy, Rich Lachenmayer, Jackie Powers, Brian Schlorff, Mike Scioli, Randy Waltermyer

### 1. The Pledge of Allegiance

### 2. Approval of the July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 4-0.

### 3. Guests

- Molly Duffy and Randy Waltermyer (traffic design) from North Gulph Road Trail Feasibility Study
  - Presentation by Randy:
  - Shared drone images of trail.
  - Lots of barriers including: National Historical Park, getting over/under 422, Villages of Valley Forge requesting this, PA Turnpike, the county and township are not yet recognizing this project as part of their plans.
  - Want to tie in the Schuylkill River Valley Trail, Chester Valley Trail, and Crow Creek Trail.
  - PA-23 Relocation- The old road bed will be reassigned to the park for the trail.
  - Looked at Trout Creek-and recommended an individual trail bridge.
  - 422-over North Gulph Rd-proposing a sidewalk for cyclist to go under the bridge.
  - For First Ave, considering Septa plans and newly implemented road diet.
  - Top Golf has made a commitment to the trail.
  - The Village of Valley Forge-trying to retrofit where the trails will be placed. Increases the width of some already existing sidewalk.
  - Altogether, the development cost range is from \$3.9 million to \$9 million based on the scenario selected. Would be broken into \$2-3 million segments.
  - Implementations and next steps including who will these trails belong to?
- Motion to support the initiative of the North Gulph Rd Trail to the Board of Supervisors was made by Deena Newman and seconded by Paul Salamy. Voted 4-0

### 4. Board of Supervisor's Liaison Report- Tina Garzillo

- August is National Wellness month!
- Outdoor pool season ends and has limited hours the last week of August.

- Sat Aug 24th is the last smoke alarm blitz.
- Ambulance subscription service is available at reasonable rates with senior discounts.
- There is a portal to request for services (i.e. request a yard cleanup, ask about a library program, make others aware of things going on in the township).
- Mall popups- Wayfair and Dormify. Not to sell things but to help customers become more familiar with the brand.

#### 5. Park and Recreation Director's Report- Dan Russell

- Tues August 27th there will be a 10am session and a 6pm session for the public at Freedom Hall for an open house to discuss the Crow Creek Trail project.
- The Community Center will be upgrading and renewing the lease for the cardio equipment and some new pieces will be added. The changes are expected by the end of the year.
- Summer Season winding down. It's been a busy and successful summer!
- Fall Preview Party and brochure release on August 22, from 6pm-8pm. Registration and brochure will come live this night. Instructors will be available to meet.
- Swedeland playground was completed. Waiting for the installation of the trash receptacles. The ADA pathways for Swedeland and Bob White will go out to bid next week.
- Next playground is Belmont which will start the beginning of September, followed by Bob White.
- Regarding the 422 project to complete the 400 ft connections into the trail, the VFP has requested the trail design.

#### 6. Park Maintenance Report- Jerry Recupido

- Submitted a report.
- The wood chipper stopped working today and is 23 years old. He is looking into renting one until it can be replaced.
- He is looking into getting workers to be licensed sprayers for the ballparks.

#### 7. New Business

- Rob Devers- Wants to give an overview of the construction project and additional field usage as a result of construction.
  - All of the fields will be shut down on campus starting in the spring. This will affect boys and girls Lacrosse for middle and high school. And boys and girls baseball and softball for middle and high school.
  - Will drop from 7 to 4 fields after the project will be completed. The final outcomes will have 2 turf fields, a grass baseball, and a multipurpose field.
  - Planning to use Heuser, Candlebrook, and Bob Case, Memorial Park, Baxter
  - The ground crew will be spending more time on the community fields with the maintenance during the construction process.
  - Have batting cages that will be taken down that can be donated to the fields they will be utilizing during the 4 years during the construction.
  - Currently, tennis courts don't fit in any current plans. They would like to use Volpi commons. Other possible locations are Candlebrook or Belmont.
    - Rob Defelice stated he is against tennis courts or other development on Volpi Commons as property was donated as open space

- Rich Lachenmayer who was visiting expressed his concern regarding the UMSD lack of turf fields for the use of baseball and softball. Rob noted that this has been considered but noted that the fencing will cause the loss of space from the multipurpose field. He noted other upgrades for the baseball and softball field will be made.
- Paul Salamy- want to make sure we are working together for field maintenance.
- Rob DeFelice-He wants to know how permission for the use of township fields is completed. He would like to know about field maintenance. Rob Devers is willing to do the work necessary to maintain the fields. He is happy to return and give us updates in the future.

## 8. Old Business

- Heuser Baseball Field
  - Question of skinning the 90ft field. Rich Lachenmayer gave his opinion regarding the current problem with the maintenance of the field. He believes the drainage problem is caused by the wrong type of material on the infield. The pitcher's mound should be reconstructed, raised, and realigned. He feels that the mounds need to be constructed better. He doesn't feel it makes a difference between a skinned infield or grass infield, just needs to be maintained better.
  - Possibly bring in more experts regarding what would be more easily able to maintain.
  - Perhaps have the organizations come together to make a short-term plan to increase the quality of the fields.
  - What ways can we increase revenues to help with field maintenance without charging residents/local groups for using the fields.
- Bat Houses
  - Deena met with Jeffrey Uhlenburg and set a meeting time with Jerry to look at specific locations to place the bat houses. He brought in a bat house to show what he uses and shared two resources as well as provided more education about bats and the effectiveness of bats in reducing the insect population.
- Riverfront Access/Joint Subcommittee with ECDC
  - An initial meeting determined there will be a committee starting with Neil and Mike and Paul will be an alternative while Neil is unable to make the meetings. Members of the ECDC board will be appointed as well as some individuals not currently serving on a board.

## 9. Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report- Deena Newman

- A decision was made regarding a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for MKSD to complete the pool feasibility study.

Adjournment: 10:06PM

Kindly Submitted  
Deena Newman



||

||

||