

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10th, 2019

7:30 PM

Attendees: MaryAnn Ahearn, Deena Newman, Robert DeFelice, Paul Salamy, Jerry Recupido, Dan Russell, Moira Ryan & Tina Garzillo

Guests: Brian Schlorff, Peter Henry, Ari Christakis, Marianne Infante

1. The Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of the August 13th, 2019 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.

3. Guests

- Moira Ryan is the new student member
 - Senior from Upper Merion High School
- Catalyst Experiential
 - Company focuses on outdoor advertising using landmarks, experiences and infrastructure
 - The goal is to incorporate structures to beautify target areas
 - Digital billboards can be utilized as a communication tool for Upper Merion Township
 - Catalyst will pay Upper Merion Township to lease each location
 - Four different locations
 - Bob White, Betzwood Bridge, a location on 422 and the Mullin Tract area
 - Benefits
 - Create aesthetic gateways to reclaim unusable land
 - Each display is on a 2-minute loop
 - Messages change every 7 seconds
 - Township gets one slot each rotation
 - Catalyst will supply artwork if needed
 - Township can pre-empt ads with amber alerts, snow closings, emergencies, etc.
 - Catalyst pays for everything and the township pays for nothing
 - Bob White Park Landmark
 - Reclaim overgrown wooded area
 - Create Trail
 - Add permanent restrooms
 - Requesting feedback from the board
 - a. Suggested location for the pavilion is not in an ideal location – too far from parking and restrooms
 - b. We would like ADA accessibility

- c. We would also like to see an increase in parking – may not be possible
- d. Trail should be wide enough for a pickup truck
- e. Would like to incorporate LED lighting as it has been added to many of the other parks
- f. Want to have a natural canopy over some trails
- g. Tennis courts will be used more now that the HS courts will be knocked down soon
- Rent paid monthly could help pay for some other projects (like pickleball courts or dog park)
- Sign will be 45 feet wide and 17 feet tall
- Unit monitors ambient light levels – creates contrast instead of glare
- Timeline
 - a. Catalyst has to meet with BOS for zoning changes
 - b. Catalyst will come back another time to discuss the other three locations
 - c. Would like to designate 1-3 people for a subcommittee to consult with on the side – Maryanne, Dan and Neil volunteered

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

- Allison Pimm had her baby!
- PennDOT began on 202/76 project
 - EB lane blocked – 4 large sinkholes being fixed through April 2020
- PennDOT also doing traffic study on municipal roads in the area
 - August 2019 through January 2020
- Citizen Board mixer at Workhorse Brewery on Thursday, 9/12
- Farmers Market on 9/14 is focusing on Health and Wellness
- October 5th is the Community Fair and Fall Fest
- Moore Road is still not open due to issues
- Brownlie bridge has delays as well
- Saturday, 9/14 is a tree planting day
- Waste Water bids coming in soon
- Rob asked about Volpi commons – BOS still working on issue
- UMPD – construction on driveway for safety issues
- Simon rezoning issues are still up in the air
- Rob heard property taxes are going up – nothing is set yet

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

- Community Fair and Fall fest is 10/5 at Heuser Park
- Crow Creek Trail had two info sessions
 - 45 residents attended with primarily positive feedback
- Budget season for Parks & Recreation
- Sent emails for sports organization grants
 - Will have for October meeting
- Board appreciation lunch will be on 11/10 at Fogo de Chao
- Rob questioned why pickleball was not mentioned in the Fall 2019 UMPR Community Center activity guide. No photos or play times were posted.

- Patricia Andrien, financial supervisor for the Upper Merion Community Center, has resigned

6. Park Maintenance Report- Jerry Recupido

- Submitted a report on all parks
- Continuing with grass cutting
- Lined pickleball courts at Bob White
- Construction of new playground at Bob White has begun
- Installed tent for flag football
- Performed maintenance at Heuser
 - Edged softball fields
 - Placed topsoil
 - Aerated
 - Fertilized and seeded
 - Irrigation system maintenance
- Cleaned flowerbeds at Kingwood Road and Whitegate Parks
- Continue to line football and soccer fields weekly
- Filled ruts at Bob Case Park
- Worked scheduled
 - Bench installation at William Wall
 - Bat House installation at Heuser Park
 - Tree planting this weekend at Heuser and Whitegate

7. New Business

- Lisa Harding from football asked about people using the fields and press box that are not part of the team
 - Was probably the security company
 - Paul suggested a key fob so a limited number of people have access
- Fall maintenance program starting
- Deena wants to know what needs to be done to move forward with pickleball courts
 - Wants to see an actual facility for tournaments and recreational play
 - Would like to start discussing next steps for Heuser Park development
 - Money budgeted for design only – not construction yet
- Rebidding roof at community center
- Rob asked for an update on the million-dollar grant for UMCC
 - They were awarded the grant and will get it by the first of the year
- Ventilation in bathrooms at UMCC needs to be addressed
- Rob commented that the 90-foot baseball field in-field has still not been discussed

8. Old Business

- Bat Houses
 - Jerry and Deena met with Jeffery and are putting up two houses tomorrow
 - Green poles will be used to blend in with nature
 - Deena will suggest to board where to add more
 - Also suggesting adding a blurb about the bat houses in a newsletter to let residents know what they are
 - Should also thank Jeffery for his help somehow
- Township Park Fields

- Rob Devers working on suggested plan on field use
 - Who uses what and when?
 - Maintenance
 - Additional concerns
- Filling middle school pool so there will be one less pool in the township

9. Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report- Deena Newman

- Roof update – as mentioned, the project is being rebid
- Passholders are up
- Pool attendance is up
- Subcommittee met for ideas for teen attendance
 - Still discussing rock wall
 - Adding space to child watch
- Still discussing ways to include low income family and get them to attend CC

10. Additional comments

- Tina suggested having a section during the meeting for comments and possible time limits – may depend on the number of guests
- Adding Moira to the distribution lists

Adjournment: 9:56PM

Kindly Submitted
Dana Augustine

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