

## UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October <sup>8</sup>~~1~~st, 2019

7:30 PM

**Attendees:** Mike Trachtenberg, MaryAnn Ahearn, Robert DeFelice, Paul Salamy, Dana Augustine, Dan Russell, Moira Ryan & Tina Garzillo

**Guests:** Darren Hardel, Rich Lachenmayer, Bob Wochele, Chris Falcone, Linda Moser, Jason Jones, Brian Schlorf

### 1. The Pledge of Allegiance

### 2. Approval of the September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.

### 3. Guests – Volunteer Groups

- Brian Schlorf – King of Prussia Soccer Club
  - Need to repair soccer goals which is very expensive
- Darren Hardel – Upper Merion Aquatic Club
  - Need to replace connectors for lane lines
  - Coaches laptops are too small
    - Used for timing and scoring
  - Club didn't get to do a fundraiser because of the threat of a snowstorm
  - All high school swimmers swim for free
- Linda Moser – Upper Merion SPRING/SNAP
  - Provides variety of sports options to special needs students
  - Money goes towards t-shirts and scholarships
- Rich Lachenmayer – Valley Forge Generals Senior Legion Baseball
  - Money goes toward fees and insurance
  - Hoping to reduce program fee this year
- Jason Jones – Upper Merion Lacrosse Club
  - Money keeps registration fees low and outfits children with equipment
  - Need to replace equipment as it gets older
  - Also need updated bounce back nets and back stop nets
- Bob Wochele and Chris Falcone – Upper Merion Youth Wrestling Association
  - Dropped a tournament that traditionally made a lot of money due to slowly diminishing profits
  - Wants to put younger kids into tournaments and give them more experience
- Motion to approve and split remaining dollars among all groups attending
  - Approved 5-0

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

- Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> was the Park & Stream cleanup
  - Trout Run Stream has fish!

- A lot of new people took part in the cleanup
- October 5<sup>th</sup> is the Community Fair and Fall Fest
  - 11am – 3pm at Heuser
- October 12<sup>th</sup> is the Fall Fest at the Farmer's Market
- October 26<sup>th</sup> is the next tree planting
- Trees planted recently at Heuser are brown – not a lot of rain recently
- Rob inquired about Volpi Commons being re-deeded to the township
  - Tina has no update

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

- Community Fair and Fall Fest on October 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Lockheed Martin allowing for overflow parking
- Budget season in full swing – everyone is very busy
- End of Oct/Beginning of Nov -- public meetings with BOS for budgets will be held
- Bob White playground rubber will be completed by end of the week
- Belmont playground will be completed before the winter as well
- Discussions with PennDOT for 422 project
  - Finishing bridge quickly
  - Discussing finishing the trail from the Schuylkill River Trail to Valley Forge Park

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

- Continued maintenance on all township parks
- Delivered bandwagon to Limerick Twp.
- Installed tent for flag football league
- Performed equipment maintenance
- New scale house shed construction on-going
- Trimmed SRWT
- CDL training with new employees
- Hauled compost in preparation of leaf collection season
- Trimmed Gypsy Woods trail
- Trimmed Brownlie Road bridge
- Continued regular mowing of all locations

#### 7. New Business

- No new business

#### 8. Old Business

- Dog Park
  - Dana presented potential dog park rules for the Parks & Rec board to look over
    - Would have to be approved by many channels
  - Possible roadblocks
    - Catalyst proposal – library would go on Mullen Tract, which is where the dog park is supposed to go
      - a. Catalyst structures nowhere near being approved – a few years out at least if at all

- Crow Creek Trail – Storm Water Management site was proposed at the bottom of the Mullen Tract near the baseball field – again where the dog park is set to go
        - a. Possible to build over area once completed
        - b. Trail is still years out, which delays the dog park even further
    - Dan recently attended a Parks & Rec conference and received a lot of information on establishing dog parks
      - Dana and Dan will meet to discuss
    - Merrell C. Young park suggested by Dan
      - Located on Gulph Mills side of 202
      - Over 2 acres and plenty of space
      - Park rarely used
      - Could be a good possibility for the dog park – may even be able to keep playground for kids
  - Bat Houses
    - Dan is ordering more – does not want to buy an overstock and not need them
      - Prices vary greatly
    - May just purchase a few and give some money back
    - Could always use some of the money towards bird houses and let them know we are reallocating
  - Pickleball
    - Rob suggested if the Park & Rec board is going to entertain the thought of constructing outdoor pickleball courts, we need to have more promotion of pickleball inside the community center
      - Not just lessons listed in the activity guide, but advertising open play
      - Perhaps a live web cam so people can watch pickleball and other programs being played on the multi-recreation courts
  - Township Park Usage/UMASD
    - Schedule still not completed for the school
    - Parks & Rec Department waiting to sit down with them
    - Possible partnership with another school district for field use
    - Will work to make sure both parties are satisfied with agreements
    - Making repairs to irrigation system
    - Will speak to school about skinning of in-field of 90' field
    - Rob suggested removing or fixing up sheds near the baseball fields
      - Paul said if there are any specific suggestions, he will bring them to the team
      - Maybe one day per team at Heuser next year for cleanup

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

- Roof update – as mentioned, the project is being bid differently
  - Rob requesting P&R board see all bids
- 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 families and get them to attend CC
- Rob asked Tina why the BOS did not get a second opinion on another roofing system
  - Tina confirmed they did from the township public works director, Geoff Hickman

#### 10. Additional comments

- ECDC Subcommittee Meeting
  - Met for the first time today
  - Additional 22 acres owned by Norfolk -- connected to Heuser
    - Recommending BOS purchase this land
    - Rob asked how it would be funded
    - Others are interested in the land so subcommittee working on getting it -- would be part of the park group
    - Must be rezoned
    - Motion to have the subcommittee move forward with purchase of property
      - a. Paul Motions, Maryanne seconds 4-1
      - b. Rob opposed -- we just received this information this evening and he would like more information on the property to make an educated decision
        - i. Some of his concerns include how will the property be financed? Is the property contaminated?
- Rob requesting Deena forward the Community Center Advisory Board minutes to the Parks & Rec board as soon as they are approved

Adjournment: 9:42PM

Kindly Submitted  
Dana Augustine