



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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GREG PHILIPS
GREG WAKS

TOWNSHIP MANAGER/ SECRETARY-TREASURER

ANTHONY HAMADAY

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

FIRM OF:
HAMBURG, RUBIN, MULLIN,
MAXWELL & LUPIN, P.C.

Minutes

Community Center Complex Advisory Board February 16, 2021 7:30pm

1. Attendance – Paul Salamy, Paul Kubler, Sharon Davis, Dennis Rudzinski, Chris Levy, Greg Waks, Karen Huller
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of January 19th, 2021 minutes
 - a. Sharon moves
 - b. Chris seconds
 - c. Unanimously passes
 - d. Sharon motioned to amend approved minutes to fix a typo
 - i. 10.A.b.3, first word should be “Guest”
 - ii. Chris seconded
 - iii. Edited, approved, re-distributed
4. Staff Report
 - a. Passholder update
 - i. Passholder cancellations - 1024
 - ii. Passholder freezes - 611
 - iii. 1933 passholders
 1. New members - up about 20 from last month
 2. Paul S. noticed Saturday morning it being very active, about 12 in pickleball and all the courts being used
 3. Last night some very young kids were playing basketball, maybe 15 or more
 4. It was positive to see the increased usage and activity
 5. Sharon – how can the board help?
 - a. Programmers are doing their job providing great programming
 - b. We hope that the people using the center build trust back in the safety of the center and invite their friends

- iv. We are down a person for the board
 - 1. Is there anyone who comes to mind who may make a good member
 - a. Asked Dennis to keep his eyes out for someone who frequents the facility
 - b. Asked Paul K. to keep his eyes out, too
- b. Reopening update
 - i. Daily average – 113 per day during the week
 - ii. 85 during the weekends
 - iii. Last week up to 137 and 98 on the weekends
 - 1. Up trending
 - iv. Chris – Any problems with basketball usage rules
 - 1. Staff is noticing them and enforcing the limits
 - 2. Some masks not being properly worn
 - 3. Overall people are compliant and cooperative
- c. Free Passholder Program
 - i. App is up online
 - 1. Shared on social media
 - 2. Some flyers are out at the community center
 - 3. No applications
 - a. Other places to post the flyer
 - i. Dennis will print 10 on regular paper
 - ii. Giant
 - iii. Township building/Library
 - iv. Daycare centers
 - v. Community Cupboard
 - ii. Donations
 - 1. A resident who was enthusiastic about the program wanted to know how residents can contribute
 - a. Gift card donations to Dicks
 - b. On the sign, perhaps we could put a QR code for Venmo or GoFundMe
 - c. No one has applied yet, no one to give it to
 - 2. We don't want to have the discretion of deciding where the funds go to, as we are uncertain of the need
 - a. Once we see that there is a need, we have to decide who gets the goods
 - 3. Let's determine the need
 - 4. Paul wonders if we can coordinate with the Community Cupboard – they already have the donation channels
 - a. Who is going to own this
 - b. How is this going to be communicated; how to explain it
 - c. If we communicate to them that if someone donates athletic gear
 - 5. Dicks has a program for 501(c)3 and they donate boxes of goods

5. Board of Supervisors Liaison Report
 - a. Annual meetings with citizen boards in April/May
 - i. They didn't happen last year
 - ii. Joint meetings will be discussed soon
 - iii. In person meeting or Virtual meeting?
 1. Not sure if they'll be pushed back
 2. Perhaps fewer board representatives
 3. Chris – what does the board have against virtual meetings
 - a. Virtual school board meetings and government meetings elsewhere have shown that people tend to not behave as well and they put things in permanent public records that reflect poorly on the community as a whole and tend to not be conducive
 - i. Chris - With the advisory board meetings, you know who is coming
 - ii. Paul K – idea to poll citizen boards to see what they would want.
 - iii. This board could do this virtually
 - iv. Sure P&R could as well
 - b. Looking at a digital version of a presentation is not the same was referring to the same large representation live
 - c. Dennis will let the board go
 - d. Paul S – Considering the nature of the meetings, Paul isn't sure how critical the meetings are
 - i. Greg doesn't want more than one year to pass without them, but they may be delayed.
- b. Greg mentioned that he hadn't started going back until recently
 - i. Last 3 weeks, there 2-3 times per week, mostly for pickleball, some walking
 - ii. Has become increasingly more comfortable
 1. Hospitalization rates down nationwide
 2. Fellow pickleball players are good at keeping their masks on
 - iii. He will return to promoting center programming over the next few weeks and months
 - iv. Chris wants to keep a look out for a C3AB board member replacement
 1. Needs to be a member of the center/pool
 2. Someone who uses the facility
- c. Former C3AB member, Rob DeFelice's, mom passed in the last few days
- d. Paul K.– Inquiring about masks
 - i. There are some outliers who are not as good about wearing the masks properly
 - ii. The staff reminds them of policies
 1. Some listen right away and some do not
 2. Some memberships were suspended after non-compliance
 3. Chris – do you provide disposable masks?
 - a. Yes, the center does offer them
 4. Greg noticed when he was walking around the track, some basketball players were aggressively not wearing masks

- a. The UMCC workers handled the matter very well
 - i. The offenders were expelled
 - ii. He did not hear the conversation
 - iii. First the offenders were given a reminder
 - iv. They were asked to go after the 2nd time
 - iii. Paul S - No one comes in without a mask
 - 1. The people he sees who take their mask off to talk to someone
 - 2. Paul has approached mostly teenagers to remind them to wear the mask over the nose
 - 3. 99.9% have a mask and it's a matter of them pulling it down and not replacing it properly
 - 4. He has also seen the staff go out and address people
 - 5. The rules are the rules; no one likes them
 - 6. You do adjust
 - 7. Staff is doing a great job
 - e. BCA open right now until 4.15
 - i. Funds will be tighter
 - ii. C3AB should think about a need-based project and applying
- 6. Park and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Report
 - a. Covered Bridge residents' concerns about Crow Creek
 - i. Trees
 - 1. Addressed
 - 2. Township will grab trees from other township properties
 - a. A property next to the community center with trees that will be replanted
 - ii. Privacy
 - 1. Will be somewhat addressed with the trees
 - 2. They will block some of the open space
 - 3. Some of the residents that were concerned this time were also concerned in the past when there was work
 - iii. Many showed up to P&R board meeting Tuesday with good ideas on how to work better in the future
 - b. Chester Valley Trail
 - i. Has been cut
 - ii. You can walk from 5th Street (near Ross Road) in Bridgeport Ross Road to 202 about Kabuki/Pep Boys across from Saulin Boulevard where the Chester Valley Trail goes forward from there
 - iii. There is a stream and a bridge in place already
 - c. ADA construction at Bob White being done
 - d. Staff is working on the summer camp configurations
 - e. Three groups work together for Lacrosse field time
 - i. School District
 - ii. Lacrosse Club
 - iii. Township
 - iv. The baseball team is coordinating in the same way
 - f. Schuylkill River Trail will move forward after talks to Norfolk Southern
 - i. Paul is looking forward to it
 - ii. Thinks it will be done by spring

- iii. Norfolk Southern has been more amenable
 - iv. Not very bikable as is, but it can be walked
 - g. No 4th of July or Community day for 2021
 - i. Trying to think of alternatives
 - ii. Would be hard to limit numbers, except for free pre-printed tickets
 - iii. Looking for ideas from the community
- 7. Senior Center Representative Liaison Report
 - a. Dennis – The center is still closed and no updates on re-opening
 - b. Any Vaccination Assistance?
 - i. Not through the Senior Center
 - ii. The FB group has been helpful, including our own Evelyn.
- 8. Student Liaison Report (not in attendance)
- 9. Old Business
- 10. New Business
 - a. Friday Night Flights
 - i. Sounds like a special event
 - ii. Sharon agrees that much of the community efforts fell off after the summer
 - iii. Online offering?
 - iv. Karen will Send Dennis trainer's information
 - b. Chris – How is the mall doing?
 - i. He notices as he walks in the mornings many stores are empty
 - ii. Greg has not been
 - iii. Another supervisor was surprised at how packed it was
 - iv. Isn't sure how many stores closed
 - v. He remembers 2008-2011 many stores closing
 - c. Paul K.
 - i. Can we augment the displays at the community center with historical displays?
 - ii. Chris learned how the farm area has changed
 - iii. Perhaps the historical society has something we could procure and exhibit
 - iv. Paul will find out
 - v. Dennis likes the idea
 - 1. Think about what kinds of media and where to display it
 - d. Paul S. - The Crow Creek trail cuts through the pool property corner that wasn't used much
 - i. A new fence will have to be put in
 - 1. Dan and contractor will discuss a large gate for maintenance vehicles and to let people out during big events where people will use the middle school for parking
 - ii. Now that there is new fence, the pool members may want more privacy
 - iii. Paul S. suggests fundraiser to sponsor a tree or arborvitae for along the fence, as was done before.
 - 1. Fundraiser would benefit the swim team and the pool for buying new equipment.

2. \$50 donation might fund a tree and the donor gets a plaque
3. Paul K– does the township do anything for Arbor Day?
 - a. Greg recalls tree planting events put on by the UM Shade Tree Commission
 - b. Paul S. remembers a goal years ago to plant 1000 trees
 - c. Thinks maybe BCA funds were used
 - d. Remembers there were 100 trees for Heuser
 - e. Does anyone have connections to a landscaping company who would potentially donate trees?

11. Adjournment

- a. Chris moves
- b. Sharon seconded
- c. Adjourned