



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 March 16, 2021 7:30pm

1. Attendance – Sharon Davis, Karen Huller, Dennis Rudzinski, Chris Levy, Ben Eyer, Paul Kubler, Greg Waks, Paul Salamy
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of February 16th, 2021 minutes
 - a. Sharon moved; Chris seconded
 - b. All in favor
 - c. Approved
4. Staff Report
 - a. Passholder update: 1957
 1. Steady increase
 - b. Passholder cancellations – 1066 since beginning of March
 - c. Passholder freezes – 598
 1. Expect numbers to improve over time
 - d. Reopening update
 1. Daily average – 156 during the week
 2. 108 on the weekends
 3. Moving in the right direction
 - e. Mask policies
 1. Mask needs to be worn correctly
 2. Intervention is sometimes necessary
 1. First warning
 2. Repeated offenders will be put on a record
 3. 2nd or 3rd offense they may be suspended for the day
 4. Further offenses are expelled
 3. How will vaccinations affect mask policies?
 1. CDC says everyone in the room has to have their vaccine to be maskless

2. It's too early to change the masking policy
 3. Not much push back from passholders
 - a. Less than previously
 4. Hard to prove who is vaccinated
- f. Summer Camps
1. Getting info and registration info out Monday March 22
 2. Adventure Day Camp/Camp Beechtree
 1. Using the community center and the middle school
 2. Looking at Baxter Field for more risk averse families
 3. CDC and state health department has put out new guidelines
 - a. Smaller groups
 - b. Little intermingling
 - c. Also working with P&R organization
 3. Other weekly specialty camps
- g. BCA grant deadline is April 15th
1. Deena suggested resurfacing the shuffle board/basketball courts at the pool
 1. Gary estimated \$3-4K to resurface it
 2. Dual purpose
 3. Pickleball or basketball
 4. Is it just putting more money into it when it will eventually change?
 - a. Will serve various players
 - b. Paul S believes it will get some use
 2. Arborvitae for privacy
 1. Paul talked to Tina; they did a walk through on the path
 2. They are discussing putting a solid white fence
 - a. Can add some to the chain link portion
 - b. Can still do a fundraiser to donate money for small plants that can grow larger
 - c. Park and Rec could also apply for BCA grant
 - d. Chris – arborvitae vs. fence
 - i. Aesthetics complimented by plants and be greener
 - ii. White fence would be PVC, low maintenance
 - iii. Fence or not, we could add plants
 - iv. Thinks by the senior center they could use more shrubbery, but it's not eye-level
 - v. There were discussions to add a connection from the senior service center to the pool
 - vi. Paul S. thinks there should always be a BCA submission
 - vii. Paul S. can complete the application for us.
 - viii. P&R is applying for informational displays
 1. \$600 each
 2. Will apply for 2-3
 3. Historical display for the gallery
 1. We haven't figured out where that would go, what it would look like, and what we need

4. 5th anniversary party
 1. P&R has been busy with camps
 2. In a few weeks they will start thinking more about it
 3. Nothing will be decided in time for the application due date
5. Chris asks Dennis – what is his wish?
 1. Can't think of anything they want outside of what is in the budget
 2. Baseball would love a batting cage
 - a. Not sure there would be any good place
 3. Basketball backboard issues due to general use and how they are lowered and raise manually
 - a. If it were automated it would alleviate
 - b. Dennis thinks it might have been about \$10K
 - c. Dennis will see if there was a previous quote
 - d. Has been needing a repair crew to come in
6. Greg – mentioned that there are fewer funds this year due to the Casino having been closed and not reopening at full capacity
 1. Thinks that the board should apply to stay top of mind
 2. May or may not get it
 3. He does not make recommendations as liaison
 4. Some board members do ask additional questions and that is an opportunity
7. Chris feels other organizations have larger needs
 1. Greg feels the board will be deferential to need-based organizations
 2. Paul S. – what if other organizations think the same way
 - a. Greg - It's possible some funds will be unused
 - b. Some organizations will get money because of what they do for the community
8. Are there grants available to get more efficient/green lighting?
 1. That type of application that is timely and topical and the BCA may look at it seriously
 2. Perhaps the C3AB could partner with the Environmental Advisory Board – Zack Davis.
 - a. RF 100 – Sierra Club commitment to make us as green as possible
 - b. Chris – can we get the estimate in time?
 - c. CC: Carol Kenney as Supervisor Liaison to the EAC
 - d. Could be huge long-term savings to the center and tax payers
 - e. All C3AB members support this initiative

5. Board of Supervisors Liaison Report

a. Crow Creek Trail

1. It's obvious that the contractor overcut and removed things that were not supposed to be removed
2. Trying to find the opportunity in this
 1. Possibly extending the senior center patio
 2. Retaining wall may not be needed anymore

3. Could put a cut in with benches to overlook the trail when it gets reforested
 - a. Paul can imagine what the view will be like once trees are replanted and hopes the fished project will please residents
 - b. Shade Tree and Beautification Committee is involved
4. Touches various boards
3. Will be done in a few months, faster than expected
4. BOS is pushing contractor and project engineer to make good on this error
5. Paul S's idea to sponsor trees may have a good application here
6. Thinks the wildlife will return
 1. Wild turkeys spotted near the Towers
- b. Proposal at BOS zoning workshop meeting
 1. 2 Indoor hockey rinks, 2 soccer fields, 1 outdoor hockey rink
 1. Locker rooms/concierge
 2. Right near Steelyard sports, Renaissance Boulevard
 - a. On site of Shorty's junkyard
 - b. It will clean up an area and be used heavily
 2. Supervisors usually don't step into zoning, but they are unanimous in supporting this proposal
 3. If variance is granted, goes to land development for planning
 4. Will go on formal workshop or business agenda
 5. Local restaurants and hotels will benefit
 6. Sharon – private or big business
 1. Private, it involves Shorty and Steelyard Sports
 2. He would provide a long-term lease and may have stake
 7. Building rinks are expensive to build and maintain
 1. Rink time is very expensive
 8. Sharon – what kind of remediation?
 1. The rinks would not overlap, but yes – significant remediation
 9. Timeline?
 1. Sooner rather than later
 2. Needs zoning changes
 10. Can they throw in roller skating rink?
 1. There's a rink in Bob White; it was on the slot to resurface this year
 2. Chris used to operate one and would love to open one in UM
 3. Sharon – there are more activities available here that can happen than is talked about
 - a. Found out there was a park and tennis court in Executive Estates
 - b. Also courts in Whitegate
 - c. P&R does have a park map
 - d. Is there a schedule for social media where these little known features and amenities are promoted?
 - e. Greg – suggests Paul and PIO can work on that
 - i. Some people don't want their park promoted
 - ii. They are township properties

- iii. The P&R board tours parks once a month and learns something new every time
 - c. Historical Society potential display
 - 1. BOS is pleased that we think it's a good idea and they agree
 - 2. Next steps are to find space and objects
 - 3. There was an Historical Commission citizen board that formed last year
 - 1. Will partner with them
 - 2. Everything will be run through P&R
 - 3. Subcommittee?
 - a. Nominations – Sharon, Paul K., Karen
 - b. Pat Jordan is the Chair
 - c. Greg will provide the contact information
 - d. Tina Smith, Dave Montalvo, Eileen Council, Sarah Ceipel
6. Park and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Report
 - a. Some residents were unhappy with where the path was going and some of the trees that had to be removed
 - 1. Reparations are being made
 - 2. Township is making a good attempt to address some of the issues, which are valid
 - 3. 9-10 trees will be added and some will be relocated
 - b. Belmont school plans
 - 1. May be losing a softball field
 - 2. It is the school property, school plans
 - 3. The school redesign left out tennis courts
 - 4. Option was to put them at Belmont
 - 5. There's an issue with water run off or zoning – needs a variance
 - 6. There were concerns about the design and losing the field
 - 7. There's a zoning hearing coming up this or next week and it's getting press
 - 8. Dennis – P&R would no longer have access to use the property/field
 - 1. P&R is running very short of softball fields
 - 2. Only Bob White for adult softball
 - a. This limits teams
 - b. Chicinno field is possible
 - c. It pushes the need to move into Heuser phase 2, but COVID has impacted funding
7. Senior Center Representative Liaison Report
 - a. Dick McCann catch up
 - 1. Asked about reopening plans
 - 2. The seniors he's talked with are not anxious to return
 - 3. That may change in the coming months as more people get vaccinated
8. Student Liaison Report
 - a. Was asked about mental health opportunities for kids
 - 1. No one wants any more online offerings

2. When time allows, perhaps there could be a mental health activity with animals – alpacas, other emotional support animals
3. Karen will ask Trinity about the farm that would visit
- b. Is there an opportunity for high school students to get together and do a community service project that benefits the center or community parks?
 1. Student Council – people are big on earning grades for projects
 2. Thinks they would like to make as big of an event as is safe
- c. Ben goes to college in August – Thinking Pitt – not official
 1. When is his last meeting?
 2. Ben will think about someone who can take his place
 3. We probably found Ben through social media
 1. Citizen board vacancies are promoted by the board members

9. Old Business

- a. Signs for free passholdership

10. New Business

- a. Paul S. did a walk through at the pool with Heather
 1. Getting ready to paint the pool
 2. Memberships are coming in
 1. UMLY doubled their fees; we may get people from there
 3. Is the pool open to residents and non-residents
 1. Yes
- b. Board Presentation
 1. We go in May 20th at 7:30 PM to present
 2. Will be online
 3. Present where were vs. where are we now
 4. Make it fun, like a slide show
 1. Looking to Dennis for pics of construction
 2. Phases – what it used to be
 3. Karen will contribute a slide about the conceptual stage
- c. Merrill C. Young Park (Hughes Park, Karen's neighborhood)
 1. Defamatory language, hate speech, profanity, people called out by name
 2. He was notified – Dan Russell gets notified
 3. Email it to Dan, copy Paul S. and Dennis

11. Adjournment