

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 13th, 2021

7:30 PM

Attendees: Mike Trachtenberg, Mary Ann Ahearn, Paul Salamy, Deena Newman, Neil Sardiñas, Dan Russell, Jerry Recupido

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of the March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.**
3. **Guest- Covered Bridge- David Craig**
4. **Board of Supervisor’s Report-Tina Garzillo (via Mike Trachtenberg in her absence)**
5. **Park & Shade Tree Report- Jerry Recupido**
 - Walker field’s playground is being relocated to prevent some issues with flooding. Some of the equipment is new.
 - School dropped off in-field mix on basketball court and will clean it up.
 - Executive Estates- Areas are being replaced where flooding is an issue.
 - Gorecon is starting to mow some of the parks.
 - Bamboo barrier at the arboretum was placed.
 - Some courts are going to be redone.
 - Fountains in the township building pond are being installed tomorrow.
 - MC Young Park- There is a pipe at the end of the park that is exposed and is starting to get washed out and eventually something will need to be done.
 - Heuser has 20 lights out. Baxter has several out. Eventually they will need to be replaced.
 - 15 new trees are being planted on the portion of the trail by Covered Bridge.
6. **Park & Recreation Director’s Report-Dan Russell**
 - Working on ADA improvements for Swedeland and Bob White.
 - Parking spots at both to meet ADA requirements. A trail is being placed at Swedeland and repairs are being made at Bob White.
 - The trail project is still moving forward.
 - Relocation of Walker Park playground.
 - Park rentals have been in high demand. Small parties less than 50 people are being permitted. Everything is outdoors only (no indoor spaces are being rented out.) No rentals at the Community Center right now.
 - Pool registration is going well.
 - Summer camp registration took in a \$100,000 on the first day. There are still a couple spots left at middle school and community center. Other camps are full. It’s been a little more difficult finding staff that are comfortable working with the kids.

- A meeting is setup with township supervisor to relax some restrictions at the community center. Doing a 2-phase approach to allow open gym following new PIAA standards. Next phase is to open the community center to general public to allow people to buy day passes. No dates yet.

7. Old Business

- Resume Park Inspections
- BCA Grant Application
 - Discussion of the information kiosk vs park benches.
 - Motion by Mary Ann Ahearn to apply for 5 park benches. Seconded by Deena Newman. Motion passed 5-0.
- Joint Meeting with BOS May 20th 7pm-7:30pm.
 - Deena will discuss working with Parks and Recreation to have events that are no cost to get more community involved.
 - Mary Ann will discuss her partnership with Shade Tree.
 - Mike- Revisiting the issue of having an athletic youth organization to help with fundraising for the park.
- Eagle Scout Future Project Guideline
 - The troop needs to take responsibility of the project after the person graduates.
 - Dan will present some ideas at the next meeting.

8. New Business

- Heuser Park Clean Up Date April 17th
- There have been positive conversations with the township supervisor regarding having more leadership and follow-through with projects including the public works director.

9. Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report- Paul Salamy

- 2000 passholders now, steadily increasing.
- Daily average was 156 during the week and 108 on the weekends.
- Mask wearing has improved.
- Fifth anniversary party discussion continued, but still on hold due to COVID.
- No BCA submissions at this time.
- They are considering a historical society display in the community center and plan to reach out to historical commission.
- Pool was painted.

10. Additional comments

- Talking about limitations to what we can discuss with others (i.e. Facebook or with others). As long as you don't identify yourself as a board member you are permitted to comment on whatever you would like.
- Who is making the call for football to cancel games when it is raining? Parks and Recreation will make the call.
- Football leadership is parking in the weigh station area. Is this problematic? There should be no parking there.
- Football did a good job cleaning up trash following their field use.

- Soccer is in the process of finding a new president.
- Dave Craig-suggests having a name associated with each project to help with follow through. Having a checklist.
 - Neil asked him to submit a template regarding his ideas of what this might look like.
- The Bullocks are concerned that the path is coming onto the property.
 - Dan stated this is not the case and he is aware of the issue.

Adjournment: 9:46PM

Kindly Submitted

Deena Newman