

## **UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

7:30 PM

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

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Approval of the July 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.**
- 3. Guests-Dave Craig, Mark Krieg**
- 4. Board of Supervisor’s Liaison Report-Tina Garzillo**
  - Review of presentation regarding the s-Irwin House property. The proposal was withdrawn. The report regarding the Moore-Irwin House damage will be released soon.
  - Recently had 2 developers proposed personal care facilities.
- 5. Park & Recreation Director’s Report-Dan Russell**
  - The partnership with Rosemont College started and a fall schedule has been finalized. The representative from Rosemont College will meet with UMBA and Upper Merion High School to talk about field maintenance and expectations moving forward.
  - P & R has started to work on the budget for 2022.
  - Crow Creek trail had a change order to extend project completion to allow for an extra 30 days due to supply chain issues.
  - Dan is keeping up on mask requirements and meeting with other departments. As of now the township is not changing policy but will continue to monitor.
  - The fall festival will be October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm.
  - The Parks & Recreation department will have their own table. They can help with having citizens complete the survey for Heuser Park Phase II.
  - Camps are going well. Budget transfers will take place as a result of the success and revenue that can support other activities and programming. Revenue this time last year was about \$600k for the entire year and so far, this year the budget is \$811K.
  - Baxter Park lights need to be replaced. The soccer club received a grant towards the replacement of the lights and the soccer club was able to raise the rest of the money for a total of 14k.
  - Park maintenance has been doing an excellent job resurfacing several of the park courts and has saved the township a lot of money.
- 6. Park Maintenance Report**
  - Valley Forge Acres courts are resurfaced and completed.
  - Pickleball lines at Executive Estates were not completed yet. They will be done once weather cools down.

- The trashcan installation project will be completed tomorrow.
- Walker field's relocation of the playground project will be completed tomorrow.

#### 7. **New Business**

- Discussion about the future of the arboretum and Moore-Irwin House and ownership.
- Paul is working on helping football and soccer get sponsorship from League Side who previously have sponsored lacrosse.
- Paul is interested in having a memorial similar to the flags seen in Bridgeport.
  - BOS is also working on this project.
  - Do we have a citizen's board sponsor it? Or a township department?
- A group has approached Mike regarding honoring two former Parks and Recs directors: Phil Scott & David Broida.
  - Some ideas include dedicating a street sign at Heuser Park, an award, a park, and a baseball field named after them.

#### 8. **Old Business**

- Community Input Heuser Phase 2
  - Shade tree suggested adding a map to identify the area and park to increase clarity. They suggested asking people "How would you like to use the park?" Also, have a place to check off if there is any interest to volunteer for planting and if they would they like to be notified for opportunities to be involved in the future.
- Benches were not yet purchased for the BCA grant.

#### 9. **Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report- Paul Salamy**

- Pool membership at an all record high.
- Less busy now that swim team is complete.
- Community Center pass holders went up in July.
- Free passholder program has been given out to 4 families.

#### 10. **Other issues**

- Is there any way to create a cricket league? It's a way to increase inclusion.
- A discussion was held regarding accountability, management and communication for township capital projects.

Adjournment: 10:25PM  
 Kindly Submitted  
 Deena Newman