

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 14th, 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 August 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.**
- 3. Guests-Barley Van Clief**
- 4. Board of Supervisor’s Liaison Report-Absent**
- 5. Park & Recreation Director’s Report-Dan Russell**
 - Community Fair planning is going well. There will be two stages with two different acts performing at the same time. A lot of vendors, activities for children, and a big concert at 5pm on the main stage will be followed by fireworks.
 - Volunteers may be needed from the community.
 - 2022 Budget discussion has begun. It is due in 1 week.
 - There was some minor damage to the community center in recent storms. Bags of salt (no sand was available) seemed to help.
 - McCaig Trail has some erosion and significant damage from the storm.
 - Upper Merion Boat House was destroyed, but the dock survived.
 - Walker Park- 5th time in 6 years with damages to the fence.
 - Discussion about possible solutions for the fence problem.
 - Halloween decorating contest is starting again.
 - DCNR grant reimbursement is in process to get \$300,000 back for the playground renovations.
 - Dan plans to have a walk through with engineers for Crow Creek Trail this Friday to address some of these issues.
- 6. Park Maintenance Report- Jerry Recupido**
 - Pickleball lines at Executive Estates should be done in the next two weeks.
 - Working on budget between public works and parks and recreation.
 - He will be assisting with Community Day.
 - Worked on replacing wood carpets that was washed away in a couple of the playgrounds.
 - Met with storm water engineer about erosion from storms over the years. This will be treated as a storm water management problem.
 - VF Acres and Merrill C. Young both have metal pipes that have rotted over the years and causing storm water issues.

7. **New Business**

- Act 65 if 2021 Fact Sheet
 - Reviewed how this act affects our meetings.
 - If a guest brings up an issue that is not under the agenda it could be under the public comment section.
 - The chairman needs to ask if there is any public comment before moving onto a new item.
 - If there is an item that is not on the agenda it can be brought up by an individual and a vote can be had to add the item to the agenda. The agenda will later be revised.

8. **Old Business**

- Community Input Heuser Phase 2
 - Reviewed and edited the survey intended to be distributed to the public to gain public interests for Heuser Phase 2.
- Memorial Flags
 - Paul Salamy noted that the township is already working on having these flags placed.
- The sports organization meeting will be taking place September 28th. Baseball, football, soccer, and lacrosse will be the initial group and other groups will be welcomed in the future.

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

- Passholder membership was up. An average of 130 visits on weekdays and 65 on weekends. The numbers are decreasing since the announcement of the mask mandate.
- There was a child watch survey. There were not a lot of people who responded.
- There were 2 more free memberships offered for a total of 5.
- There was a garden club established. A master gardener is going to come and train high school kids who are scheduled to volunteer and weed.

10. **Public Comment**

- Barley noted they are looking for volunteers for an upcoming tree planting as well as a day to help clear the weeds of previously planted trees.
- There will be a ribbon cutting for the arboretum at 4:30pm on October 21st.

Adjournment: 9:05 PM
Kindly Submitted
Deena Newman