

## UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

7:30 PM

**Attendees: Mike Trachtenberg, Mary Ann Ahearn, Deena Newman, Neil Sardiñas, Dan Russell, Paul Salamy, Michael Cusack,**

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of the November 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.**
3. **Guests-Teresa Hancock and Danny Sanderlin**
4. **Board of Supervisor’s Liaison Report-Tina Garzillo (via email)**
  - Mask mandate in all township parks will remain in effect in January.
  - Grand Lux Café in the mall will be closing.
  - Township purchased a small parcel in Swedeland on Summit Street, at the end of a cul-de-sac. We can have the board discuss possible use of the purchases as we move forward with trying to secure an open space.
  - Slight tax increase of \$47 on average per home.
  - Board of Supervisors will re-organize in January.
5. **Park & Recreation Director’s Report-Dan Russell**
  - The Holiday Village event on December 4<sup>th</sup> was a great turnout.
  - They decided to print some copies of the activity guide.
  - The consortium of the arts program will start soon. A BCA grant was received for Theater of Horizon for the acting portion for some students who want to apply for the theater portion of the program.
  - There was damage to one UMCC door by an intoxicated individual. He is being charged with institutional vandalism. He caused significant damage to two of the doors that need to be replaced.
  - Our board will reorganize in January.
6. **New Business**
  - Discussion: RE: Tabak Park
    - 2 neighbors have been very disruptive and using the park inappropriately for their personal use and business.
    - We do have money budgeted for this park since the playground could not be updated do to a lack of ability to make it ADA accessible.
    - A motion was made to recommend safety and codes moves forward with citations due to multiple violations. Motion was seconded and passed 5-0.
  - Facility Usage Discussion

- The Upper Merion Youth Wrestling reached out to Dan a couple of months ago due to the high school not allowing him to use the gym. Chris Falcone, who runs the program, is also the coach for high school wrestling.
- Dan was able to make the clubhouse at Heuser Park work for them.
- Upper Merion Lacrosse coach made a request to the school district to use their turf field once a week. The school district came back with a rate of \$275/hour.
  - It is noted that the school uses the fields at Heuser that Lacrosse spends a lot of time and resources maintaining.
- Next Meeting 1/11/22-Reorganization

#### **7. Old Business**

- The Upper Merion Youth Athletic Association Update
  - The group agreed to formalize and create a group with 501C nonprofit status. They agreed on the benefit of sharing fundraising, volunteerism, etc.
  - They are in the search of finding an attorney and an accountant.
  - This is not a township entity, but an independent organization.

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

- Memberships continue to grow.
- The daily and weekend use continue to increase as well.
- Programming and attendance have increased. The last two weeks of November and first week of December is the highest number of attendances since pre-pandemic.
- Some issues with teens and mask wearing as well as kids sneaking in downstairs. There was some property damage.
  - This has improved since school sports started. Some teens were suspended.

#### **9. Public Comment**

- Barley from Shade Tree noted that 30 trees were planted on the switchback on the new trail and 2 more trees at Swedesburg Park.
- Two new Eagle Scout programs are working with the Shade Tree Commission.
- For the April Earth Day event- are there costs associated with some of the recycling that was discussed?
  - Currently, there is a plan to provide residents with shredding, Neighborhood Bike Works (bike recycling), electronic recycling, unused pharmaceuticals, and hazardous household items.
  - There are some companies that will offer these services for free for big township events.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Adjournment: 9:28 PM  
 Kindly Submitted  
 Deena Newman