

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

7:30 PM

Attendees: Mike Trachtenberg, Mary Ann Ahearn, Neil Sardifias, Kyle Marchese, Dan Russell, Tina Garzillo, Paul Salamy, Deena Newman

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of the March 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.**
3. **Guests- Brett Montich, Donna Montich, Sam Montich, Mike Scioli, John Baessler**
4. **Board of Supervisor's Liaison Report-Tina Garzillo**
 - Introduction of Kyle Marchese, new student member of P&R board
 - Sewer rehab ongoing. Candlebrook residents will be informed of upcoming service interruption.
 - The Farmer's Market season kickoff on May 14. New vendors & musicians this season.
 - BCA grant application deadline is April 14.
5. **Park & Recreation Director's Report-Dan Russell**
 - Staffing shortages at Community Center and summer camps. Staffing was a main issue at PA P&R conference.
 - The summer program guide has been sent to the printer.
 - Earth Day event on April 23 from 11-2 will include shredding and recycling at the Middle School, and 50 vendors at the Township Building Park.
 - Upper Merion received the Tree City USA award again.
 - Pool membership is at 1500 now. 2500 is the maximum.
 - Consortium of the Arts in collaboration with Theater Horizon starts this week.
 - The Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) is looking for volunteers for the "Scrub and Pub" event on May 26 at 5pm. at the Bridgeport Water Trail Access to clean up along the shores of the Schuylkill River at the boathouse.
6. **Park Maintenance Report- Jerry Recupido**
 - Grass cutting started today in 30+ properties.
 - .They will take down a tree in Merrill C Young Park.
 - Water runoff issues in Valley Forge Acres, Whitegate Park
 - Bullpens built at 90ft field at Heuser
7. **New Business**
 - Eagle Scout Proposal from Sam Montich to replace the shed at Baxter Park to benefit the Prussians Soccer Club.
 - The team will maintain the shed, and all money & effort for the purchase and installation will be donated or raised.
 - Shed will be 10' x 10' (\$4342) or 12' x 16' (\$6006).
 - Jerry's team will take away the old shed.
 - Boy scouts, Prussians and UMASD are all part of the effort.
 - Car wash fundraiser on April 24th
 - UMASD has approved the larger shed.
 - Park & Rec board unanimously approved the project.

- **UMBA scoreboard request.**
 - Donation of a scoreboard for Heuser field #1 has been offered.
 - Name of donating family will be on the scoreboard
 - It will be good for tournaments and for girls' softball.
 - Installation issues include running electricity and avoiding the irrigation system.
 - UMBA will pick up any extra costs the donor doesn't.
 - Dan will get sketch from company and send to BOS. Need to get permit. Need to follow up with township engineers.
 - Dan and Mike will work together on the process.
 - Park & Rec board unanimously approved the project.

- **Basketball court at William Wall Park.**
 - Neighbors asked for court to be lined for pickleball months ago and have offered to do it themselves.
 - Note: only township employees can paint or stripe a sport court. No others can do so without permission from township.
 - They should talk to West End Civic Association to get their opinion.
 - They can use Executive Estates courts.

- **Joint Meeting with BOS on May 19 at 9PM. Mike will join via Zoom.**
Possible topics:
 - Mike – UM Youth Athletic Assoc.
 - Mary Ann – partnership with shade tree
 - Deena – survey trends
 - Kyle – signage at parks
 - Paul – relationship with School District

8. Old Business

- Bat boxes – we have 6 that need to be installed. Bat box man has not responded but Deena will reach out. Possible sites were discussed.
- Hometown Heroes banners will begin installation on May 26, 4 pm at Township Building. There will be an Inaugural Dedication Ceremony at 5pm the same day at the Scrub & Pub event.

9. Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report- Paul Salamy

- 1869 active members, up from 1783 in February
- 262 daily visits, up from 238 in February
- 5 year anniversary party will take place at Concerts Under the Stars.

10. Public Comment

- Look at making tennis courts multi use: Executive Estates and Kingwood courts are not used much.
- A possible way to introduce Kyle to all of our parks is for him to survey the park signs.

11. Adjournment

Kindly Submitted
Mary Ann Ahearn