

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
JOINT MEETING  
MAY 14 2015

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Joint Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015, in the Board Room, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Erika Spott, and Bill Jenaway. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Lynne Gold-Bikin, Chairperson; Mark DePillis, Maria Mengel, Mark Zadroga, Zoning Officer. Supervisor Philips and Supervisor Kenney were absent.

DISCUSSIONS:

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Ms. Gold-Bikin expressed appreciation for former Chairman Bill Clements' service and gave high marks to the current Solicitor Marc D. Jonas.

Mr. Mark Zadroga, Zoning Officer, handed out a spread sheet and went over some of the statistics from 2014. He noted the township received 30 zoning hearing board applications, one of which was appealed and has since been withdrawn. There are no active appeals.

Mrs. Spott asked for clarification on the variance statistics and if there is any common thread for the type of variance requested. Mr. Zadroga responded the most common request is for signage.

Mrs. Spott asked if the ZHB had any recommendations for the Board of Supervisors on any issues that are particularly troublesome or should be considered during the ongoing zoning code review. Mr. DePillis responded they have heard comments that the sign ordinance is outdated as it relates to commercial signs, specifically with respect to billboards.

Mr. Zadroga commented the new ordinances for the King of Prussia Mixed Use district as well as the commercial districts, and associated charts, have been very helpful. When he gets a call it is easy now to refer to a chart and see if a use is permitted, not permitted, variance, conditional use, etc.

Mr. DePillis noted the transition from a three member to a five member

Zoning Hearing Board has worked very well.

Mr. Waks, Mr. Jenaway, and Mrs. Spott thanked the Zoning Hearing Board for their service to the community.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Erika Spott, and Bill Jenaway. Also present were: David Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Rob Loeper, Township Planner, Scott Greenly, Associate Planner; Jaquelin Camp, Chairperson, Matthew Popek. Supervisor Kenney and Supervisor Philips were absent.

Ms. Jaquelin Camp, Chairperson, stated the Planning Commission held 14 meetings in 2014 which was a decrease of two meetings from 2013. Development activity continued at a faster pace in 2014. Many of the projects continued to be redevelopments of existing sites within the township.

- 530 Hertzog Boulevard, a 20,000 square foot gymnastics center
- The Upper Merion Community Center
- 251 DeKalb Pike (former Marquis Apartments)
- Bonefish Grille at the Plaza
- Perfect Pooch, 200 King Manor Drive
- JBG Rosenfeld Retail Associates, LLC, The King of Prussia Town Center at the Village at Valley Forge
- John Middleton, 418 W. Church Road
- Pet Smart at Valley Forge Shopping Center
- 1069 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, a lot line revision
- Simon Properties for changes to the mall parking garage and circulation
- 724 Fraley Street, a 3-lot subdivision
- Fed Ex Ground Distribution Center, 600 River Road
- I-Fly indoor skydiving at 300 Goddard Boulevard.

Summary of the meetings during the year:

- January: Planning Commission reorganized with Jaquelin Camp as Chair, M. Jonathan Garzillo as Vice-Chair and Mark McKee as Secretary
- February: Three plans as follows: 357 Ross Road, Village of Valley Forge, Bozzuto Development Company and 530 Hertzog Boulevard.
- March: Two plans: One was withdrawn and Upper Merion Community Center. Also reviewed SM District and King of Prussia Mixed Use District
- April and May: continued review and discussion of King of Prussia Mixed Use District.

- June: SALDO and the review of design standards for the KOP Mixed Use District.
- July: reviewed 251 W. DeKalb Pike, JBG Rosenfeld Retail Associates, and John Middleton Co.
- August: continued zoning review and some of the definitions that were being established for the changes to the zoning code.
- September: reviewed plans for the Valley Forge Shopping Center, demolition of part of that complex and replacement with a 14,000 square foot pet center
- October: reviewed plans for subdivision on Mt. Pleasant Avenue, changes to the parking garage and circulation for Simon Properties at the King of Prussia Mall.
- November: reviewed plans for a project on Mancill Mill Road
- December: reviewed subdivision on Fraley Street and started to look at the commercial districts in the zoning code.

Ms. Camp stated the major accomplishments of the year were continued efforts to update the zoning code to meet the goals of the township.

Mr. Loeper stated the planning commission remains very much involved in the zoning code update. He said in moving forward it will be necessary to take another look at the comp plan which dates back to the early 2000's. Because of the extensive work involved in drafting a full blown comp plan it has been suggested to obtain a contract with the county for this purpose.

With regard to upcoming developments, Mr. Loeper indicated it is anticipated the Arcadia Group will be coming in with a land development at the golf course for about 74 townhomes (between Wegman's and CHOP). The Hanover Group, a large multi-family developer out of Houston, has a contract on a piece of land (between where Bozzuto is building and CHOP) for 300 rental units. Closer down to Swedesford Road Bozzuto has an option on another property for some age restricted development. Mr. Loeper also noted the Bentley Homes proposal on Vandenburg and a parcel at First and Moore for a probable mixed use development. It appears the property on Caley Road is in play for single family dwellings.

Mrs. Spott commented on the talent, qualifications and diversity of the members of the planning commission that have taken the commission to a whole new level. As the planning commission moves forward in reviewing plans, Mrs. Spott asked that the Shade Tree and Beautification Commission be included as part of the review.

Mr. Loeper indicated he will be meeting with Bill Schutter, staff liaison to the Shade Tree and Beautification Commission next week. A drop box is being set up so that this commission can review the plans as it suits their schedules.

Mrs. Spott asked if there are any trends in planning and redevelopment the supervisors should be aware of and considering.

Ms. Camp commented there is already a lot being done that is part of the trend in general such as becoming less car centered, accommodating people who are looking for other transportation options, closer attention to stormwater management and water infiltration issues.

Mr. Matthew Popek commented the Board has been aware of the number of large projects and ideas for new ways of doing development. He noted the Parks and Recreation master plan that is going forward, the trail networks that are being built, zoning rewrites to incorporating better street design and more complete streets as well as treatment for bicycle, pedestrian and automotive travel. He said he is proud of how Upper Merion has been on the forefront of many of the positive changes that are happening in planning.

Mr. Loeper reported on the meeting held last week by the Montgomery County Planning Commission entitled, "Reinventing Old Business Centers." The discussion focused on the interchange projects along the turnpike and the promise it holds for some of the business districts such as the King of Prussia Business District and in working and thinking in a more regional fashion.

Mr. Jenaway commented that the planning commission interest in stormwater management, sustainability, and walkability is consistent with everything the Board has been trying to get developers to consider when they submit plans. The consistency in that message has established the tone where applicants now realize they are going to have to meet those expectations. Mr. Jenaway said there were three projects that were extremely challenging and expressed appreciation to the planning commission for their work on the Village at Valley Forge/Town Center King of Prussia, the King of Prussia Mall extension, and the Fed Ex Ground project.

With regard to the need for a comp plan referenced by Mr. Loeper, Mr. Jenaway said he assumes this will be part of the Goals and Objectives meeting scheduled in July.

Mr. Jenaway noted at the recent PSATS conference for supervisors Upper Merion stands ahead of or right with all of the trends to make communities sustainable, livable, walkable and environmentally conscious of stormwater management.

Mr. Waks commented how much he appreciates the planning commission's efforts to emphasize to developers the importance of stormwater management and sidewalks which is reinforced when they come before the Board of Supervisors.

## FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES BOARD

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Erika Spott, and Bill Jenaway. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Bill Daywalt, Deputy Fire Marshal; Jim Gallagher, Vice Chairperson and Chief, King of Prussia Fire Company; Bill Gittins, Secretary; Jerry Recupido (Swedesburg Fire Company), Charles Rossi; Bernie Gutkowski; Pam Forster, Lafayette Ambulance.

Fire Chief Jim Gallagher reported third party consultant study for the strategic plan has been ongoing since 2014.

Mrs. Spott said the strategic plan and the third party consultant will be looking for ways in the future to ensure our fire and rescue services stay sustainable and vibrant and cover the needs of our community. It was pointed out emergency volunteers save the taxpayers \$8-9 million.

Chief Gallagher indicated some capital purchases in the past year which include: three new SUV's that are used as chief's vehicles for Swedeland Fire Company, Swedesburg Fire Company and Lafayette Ambulance, a new ambulance for Lafayette Ambulance, and a ladder truck which is on order as a replacement for Swedeland Fire Company.

Grant updates are as follows:

- King of Prussia received a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant for \$46,500. The 10% match will come from the Relief Association.
- The regional radio grant was initially applied for in 2012/2013 and awarding is almost complete (\$814,000) to purchase portable mobile radios. Upper Merion's cost was about \$65,120.
- The Firemen's Association of the state of Pennsylvania awarded Upper Merion Emergency Services a grant for \$5,500 for a recruitment and retention grant. This was used to develop a PSA which can be used locally and state wide. The Upper Merion Government Access Chanel participated and developed this PSA.
- Swedesburg received one of the BCA grants to assist with building upgrades.

Other Regional Initiatives:

- Continue to participate in the Southeast Pennsylvania five-county Fire Task Force.
- Several members continue to participate in the Montgomery County Incident Support team which provides management and oversight support

at major incidents.

- Continued participation and development of the Southeast Montgomery County Technical Rescue Task Force which provides a coordinated response to technical rescue incidents in Upper Merion, Lower Merion and Norristown. One member of that Task Force was selected to be a team member of the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Team and the newly formed Montgomery County Urban Search and Rescue Team.

Awards during the past year:

- King of Prussia received recognition from the Pennsylvania Department of Health as Rescue Service of the Year for 2014
- Chamber of Commerce recognized King of Prussia Fire Company as their first Responder Organization of the Year for 2014
- The three fire companies received Fire Prevention Awards at the annual convention of the Firemen's Association of Pennsylvania. Swedesburg received 1<sup>st</sup> place for the fire prevention and public safety education category, Swedeland received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their respective category and King of Prussia received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their respective category.

Some emergency response projects:

- Lafayette Ambulance is continuing their training and response coordination with the Upper Merion Police Department to enhance the EMS response for tactical shooting incidents.
- Due to recent potential threats at the malls across America, fire and EMS officials reviewed their emergency response plans and coordinated with the Police Department.
- Fire officials have also increased their training and are participating in response planning regarding the threat created by the transportation of Bakken Crude Oil through the township.
- Swedesburg and King of Prussia implemented mandatory burn training program for firefighters.
- Swedesburg added the crew chief position to their officer ranks designed to focus on training and interior fire operations.
- Five members completed the fire fighter one certification program at the Montgomery County Fire Training Academy.

Additional items:

- New state law mandatorily requires the performance of criminal background checks and child abuse clearances for first responders. There are some costs involved and the deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Researching ways to streamline the process and possibly fund the background checks through the Relief Association.

Mr. Jenaway said public safety which includes law enforcement, fire, emergency services and public works are the keys to making communities good places to live, work, worship and play. He expressed appreciation to the Fire and Rescue Services Board for their efforts in keeping these public safety services in place which serve as a model throughout the state.

Mr. Jenaway mentioned the inordinate number of mulch fires that have occurred this year due to carelessly discarded cigarette butts along our roadways creating a serious hazard. In the month of April there were 87 fire incident calls and 27 of them were mulch fires.

With regard to the new state law requiring background checks, training programs, and fire prevention education, Mr. Jenaway pointed out in addition to emergency response, there are many administrative tasks that are now required in the fire and emergency services which represent a tremendous number of volunteer hours. He commended all the emergency responders for their service above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Waks indicated he had an opportunity to see the outstanding Public Service Announcement (PSA) and it is available on the township's Facebook page. He said more ways should be found to encourage our residents to become volunteers. It was noted that discounts at the new community center will be offered to emergency responders. Mr. Waks encouraged additional ideas to support recruitment efforts.

Mrs. Spott noted the passing of Gene Lonchar this past year and recognized his many years of service to the Fire and Rescue Services Board and our three fire companies.

Pam Forster, Lafayette Ambulance, stated with regard to the technical training that was done with the police, Lafayette is continuing that training as new people come on board. She pointed out last year Lafayette along with the Police Department were the lead in Montgomery County with the policy in place as well as 100% compliance for training of staff and volunteers. On behalf of Lafayette Ambulance and the Fire Board Ms. Forster expressed their appreciation to their partners during National Police Week. It was also noted next week is National EMS Week and thanked all of the EMS providers.

Mrs. Spott commented that volunteer recruitment is an issue and she encouraged the viewing residents to consider volunteering in the local volunteer fire and EMS service. As a former EMT, she emphasized what a great opportunity this was to learn leadership skills in these rolls.

Mr. Jenaway asked for details on the fire camp this year. Mr. Bill Daywalt, Deputy Fire Marshal, responded fire camp will be held the last week in July for those in the 8-14 age bracket.

With regard to the third party consultant referred to earlier in his presentation, Chief Gallagher stated after reviewing all the proposals, narrowing down the initially four proposals, and conducting interviews the Fire and Rescue Services Board had a vote earlier this evening to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that their number one candidate for this proposal is Municipal Resources Incorporated, second choice is Mission Critical and third choice is Tri-Data.

Mrs. Spott thanked the Fire and Rescue Services Board for all their hard work on the consultant proposals and stated the Board of Supervisors will review all three proposals and give serious consideration to their recommendation.

## TRANSPORTATION/GENERAL AUTHORITIES

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Erika Spott, and Bill Jenaway. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager and Executive Secretary to the Authorities; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Michael Santillo, Chairman, Tom Kohler, Assistant Sec./Treasurer, Carlton Stuart, Secretary. Supervisor Greg Philips and Supervisor Carole Kenney were absent.

Mr. David Kraynik, Executive Secretary, stated the Authority works with multiple stakeholders to design and construct transportation projects to assist the motoring public in traveling within the township in the most safe and efficient way possible. These stakeholders include residents, businesses, Board of Supervisors, PennDOT, Montgomery County, the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration and elected officials from the county, state and federal levels.

Mr. Kraynik discussed projects in two categories: recently completed or current projects underway and future projects that are on the drawing board somewhere in design and hopefully accomplished within the next five to ten years.

The recently completed and current projects include:

- Valley Forge Roadway Improvements (currently under construction) and in coordination with construction of the new community center on West Valley Forge Road
- Overall US 422 River Crossing Complex projects (part of it is currently under construction and other phases in design)
- Church Road Bridge over SEPTA Route 100 Line (in design)

Future Projects Include:

- PA-23 Trout Creek Bridge Replacement.
- Community Center potential multi-use trails (after opening of Community Center)
- Prince Frederick Extension
- Potential and/or modernized PA Turnpike Interchanges at Henderson Road & Valley Forge Interchange
- Phase III Henderson Road Widening (to encompass South Gulph Road to Queen Drive) and the South Gulph Road Widening (Crooked Lane to I-76 East Ramps)
- South Gulph Road Widening – Church Road to Long Road

**Recently Completed and Current Projects**

Valley Forge Roadway Improvements

This is a project has been under construction for about two weeks and is in the vicinity of Caley Road and Valley Forge Road near the new Community Center which is also under construction and is scheduled to open in the fall. This project includes new sidewalk. It calls for removal of the crown of the roadway downward so that site distance will be very much improved. It will include the installation for the first time of a traffic signal at the intersection of Caley and Valley Forge Road. These roadway improvements should be completed by August which will be in advance of the opening of the Community Center

Overall 422 River Crossing Complex Project

Project 1 - US 422/PA 363 Interchange Improvements Project (PennDOT) - construction began fall 2014 and will continue through 2015.

Project 2 - US 422 Schuylkill River Bridge Widening and PA 23 Interchange – final design and construction anticipated to start by end of 2015.

Project 3 - Old Betzwood Multi-Use Trail Project (Local Stakeholders with PennDOT funding) - construction began fall, 2014 and will continue through 2016.

Project 4 - North Gulph Road Relocation - final design proceeding through Transportation Authority.

Church Road Bridge over the SEPTA Route 100 Line - This is a PennDOT Local Bridge Program project - in final design. It is a joint project by the Upper Merion Transportation Authority, PennDOT, Montgomery County, and the Federal Highway Administration. A detour will be established. The project reconstructs the Church Road Bridge over SEPTA Route 100 Trolley line. It will

remove drainage pipes below Church Road and install new culverts to reduce flooding. Funding sources are at 80% for federal level (FHWA), 15% state, 3% county and 2% Upper Merion Transportation Authority for soft costs of designing the project.

### **Future Projects on the Horizon**

PA-23 Trout Creek Bridge Replacement – is a full replacement of the bridge which has been deemed structurally deficient. The cost estimate is approximately \$15 million and will add additional PA-23 westbound lane to allow for a continuous two-lane configuration. Restrict left hand turns onto Beidler Road to improve traffic flow and signalize the intersection of PA 23 and Mancill Mill Road.

Creation of Potential Multi-Use Trails at the Community Center - would run from behind the Community Center. One would be at General Maxwell Road, run down to General Armstrong Road and the other one would run from behind the Community Center down to Keebler Road which would allow for grade connection with the Middle School. These are two multi-use trail projects that depending on funding will hopefully be constructed in the very near future.

Potential PA Turnpike Interchange Projects – This is a concerted and joint effort with other communities along the Turnpike in Montgomery County. Transportation Authority is working very hard with the county and with the Turnpike Commission.

1. The construction of an interchange at Henderson Road would allow the interchange to come off the Turnpike, and run down to South Henderson Road at Saulin Boulevard. It will provide some very significant improvements in traffic throughout the community and in particular around the US 202 corridor.
2. Redesign of the current Valley Forge Interchange. One of the key aspects of this project would allow for direct access right down to Moore Road and First Avenue into the business park. It is something the turnpike and the county believe has a lot of merit as the township works with the private sector to reinvigorate the business park. The Board of Supervisors recently approved some very significant zoning changes. We are already starting to see a lot of activity at the Business Park as a result of these zoning changes. Both interchange projects are being well received and considered by the turnpike.

Prince Frederick Extension – Prince Frederick Street currently ends at North Henderson Road in the vicinity of the new Target. This proposal would extend Prince Frederick Street from North Henderson Road down to Saulin Boulevard and end at US 202. This would not only improve traffic flow, take a lot

of traffic off of US 202 and improve that flow, but it would also give a lot of the businesses and property behind US 202 and North Henderson Road a lot of opportunity for some very fine development. This is a project the Board of Supervisors has asked the Transportation Authority to undertake and study.

I-76 West Ramps/Henderson Road/South Gulph Widenings – Phase I of this project was for ramps coming off of I-76 West at Henderson Road and was completed in 2011 as an Economic Stimulus project. Phase II was completed in the summer of 2013 for the South Henderson Road widening, northern portion of that roadway (Transportation Authority project). Phase III is under design pending funding to allow for the south portion of Henderson Road to be widened from South Gulph Road to Queen Drive and from Crooked Lane to the expressway east ramps.

South Gulph Road Widening – from Church Road to Long Road and will add one eastbound lane on South Gulph Road that becomes a right turn lane to Brooks Road. It will add one westbound lane on South Gulph Road through Brooks Road intersection to allow for a double left hand turn from Brooks Road. Also being considered is potentially signaling South Gulph Road and Church Road, if warranted and approved by PennDOT. Residential sidewalk and driveway aprons will be reconstructed. Temporary construction easements will be required. Right-of-way for some of the widening has been obtained from Valley Forge Memorial Gardens. When this project gets funded and off the drawing boards it will do a lot to improve the traffic flow along South Gulph Road.

Mr. Stuart stated the Authority works hand in hand with the Board of Supervisors who have been extremely supportive of these efforts to ease traffic congestion in Upper Merion Township.

Mr. Kohler commented the many of the projects outlined in Mr. Kraynik's presentation are joint projects with dozens of stakeholders. He said it is important to note that the Transportation Authority is unique in that not every municipality has such a resource. Mr. Kohler pointed out the Montgomery County Planning Commission looked to Upper Merion to take a lead role in working with the Montgomery County Commissioners and Montgomery County Planning Commission to help facilitate the Turnpike study throughout the Corridor.

Mr. Kohler referred to the Transportation Authority's project for the Valley Forge Roadway improvements in the vicinity of Caley Road and Valley Forge Road which was coordinated with the construction of the Upper Merion Community Center.

Mr. Kohler stated the Authority's engineer, Jack Smyth, Jr., Boles, Smyth Associates, has done a fantastic job in working with the Transportation Authority to realize the many infrastructure improvements in evidence throughout the

township.

As an example of the high regard in which the firm of Boles Smyth is held, Mr. Stuart noted that Montgomery County turned to this firm to assist with the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Study.

Mr. Stuart also commended the longstanding service of Mike Santillo, Chairman of the Transportation Authority, who has served the Authority from its inception when it was first known as Highway Traffic Authority [1985].

Mr. Santillo commented the Transportation Authority has completed these projects without taxpayer's money.

Mr. Waks pointed out the economic value of transportation projects that have been completed in this township since the Authority's formation in 1985 totals over \$1 billion.

Mr. Stuart commented many of these transportation projects will be helpful to the new Mixed Use zoning district. He pointed out the interchange to the First Avenue business park will bring not only a host of new businesses to the area, but it will allow people to live, eat, play and work in the same area which is a trend that is working for many communities all across the country.

Mrs. Spott mentioned in traveling to other communities in Montgomery County it is much more congested and considering the amount of cars passing through this township and the internal vehicular movement, traffic moves well which is a testament to the foresight of the Transportation Authority.

Mr. Waks pointed out another benefit of the turnpike slip ramps providing ingress and egress on Henderson Road and to Moore Avenue/First Avenue area. In addition to alleviating congestion, he said residents would no longer have to overshoot where they live by a few miles in each direction. This will save residents time and money, wear and tear on their vehicles and also be good for the environment.

Mr. Kohler invited the viewers at home to check out the Montgomery County Planning Commission's website for more information on the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Study.

Mr. Jenaway mentioned at the recent PSATS meeting for supervisors other municipalities in the Commonwealth heard what Upper Merion has done on roadways as a result of the Transportation Authority and inquired how they could do the same. He noted the leadership of Mike Santillo who deserves great credit for his service since the inception of the Authority.

Mr. Jenaway joins Mrs. Spott in her observations and experience in

traveling to the eastern part of Montgomery County. He said the traffic in Upper Merion does not compare to the traffic problems in other parts of this county which he attributes to the Transportation Authority and to good planning.

Mr. Kohler said while historically a lot of these projects are automobile based, there are also the trails, the intersection improvements at the community center, and sidewalks for pedestrian safety. He pointed out the Transportation Authority focuses not only on roads, but also other modes of transportation as well.

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Erika Spott, and Bill Jenaway. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager, Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Scott Greenly, Associate Planner; Jenn Lyons, Chairperson; Alanna Strohecker, Vice Chairperson; Scott Sibley, Secretary; Daniel Yarnall; Evelyn Ankers; Supervisor Philips and Supervisor Kenney were absent.

Alanna Strohecker discussed how the idea to obtain feedback from the community morphed into the Volunteer Fair and include such organizations as the fire departments and other volunteer organizations. The time frame under consideration is September, possibly in conjunction with Community Day.

Ms. Evelyn Ankers discussed "Love My Local" campaign to recognize local businesses and community members utilizing township publications.

Daniel Yarnall discussed the Transition Workshop to assist recent high school and college graduates in transitioning into a career field. One idea would be to encourage local businesses to offer a free service to learn some of the basic interview and resume writing skills.

Ms. Jenn Lyons offered the idea of a township Beer Garden which could be done next summer with a test this year for either a day or weekend. Some considerations are finding a location, permits, and a brewery for serving alcohol.

Alanna Strohecker discussed New Ideas and how best to promote the exciting development activity ahead of time and how best the ECDC could help build that excitement.

Evelyn Ankers asked if there is a way, in addition to the Chairperson's Breakfast to have some sort of clearinghouse or group to help share information among the various citizen boards. Mr. Waks asked that the ECDC remain mindful of the Sunshine Act provisions as they proceed.

A discussion followed about the viability of utilizing Social Media to vet ideas for ECDC.

Mr. Waks mentioned that at the last PSATS meeting he taught the course on Social Media from the local township and individual's perspective. He noted it is surprising what an individual supervisor on their own can do versus what a municipality can do because there are concerns about personnel time, what might wind up appearing on a page and what the legal ramifications might be. He pointed out the information sharing idea is good in theory, but any final plan should be vetted with the Township Solicitor.

With regard to the development proposal, Mrs. Spott referred to the drop box being set up for the Shade Tree and Beautification Commission and suggested exploring the idea of ECDC being included. Mr. Greenly, the staff liaison to the ECDC will pursue the idea.

As Board Liaison to the ECDC, Mrs. Spott said she has known about some of these ideas and recognized the hard work on the part of the ECDC. She commented that the beer garden is envisioned as a family place in a park or close to a river or trail where there is food (possibly inviting a food truck), and music.

Mr. Jenaway suggested a couple of venues for the beer garden. He noted the Rotary and the King of Prussia Fire Company partner every year for the "Taste of the Suburbs." The fire company has the liquor license because they have a club and it is allowed to be used for off-site fund-raising purposes. Mr. Jenaway said logistically there are a couple of ways it can be done; however, it needs further discussion about venues, time frames, liability insurance, and is very doable.

Mrs. Spott said the Volunteer Fair is excellent idea. She referred to the previous discussion earlier this evening with the Fire and Rescue Services Board and the challenges of the fire and rescue squads getting volunteers. Mrs. Spott commented the timing would be ideal to schedule around Community day, e.g., the Thursday night before the Friday events might be an interesting idea. She suggested coordinating with the Library to make sure they do not have any conflicts on their schedule.

With regard to the "Love the Local" idea, Mrs. Spott said she has seen other towns do this and it would help dispel the misconception that King of Prussia is just the Mall and concrete and help people realize, even our own residents, what a rich community we have. Mr. Waks suggested coordinating with the Chair of the Media Communications Board about using the E-newsletter and *Township Lines* that come out quarterly. Mr. Jenaway suggested checking with Don Herbert, UMGA-TV, about creating a PSA similar to what was done for the fire companies which could also be placed on the township website. He also

encouraged contact with the Public Information Office about the welcome new resident publication being drafted. Mr. Kraynik commented the electronic version of that should be on the website shortly.

Mr. Jenaway asked the ECDC to give some thought “out of the box” to focus on next generation initiatives that would make Upper Merion the total community.

Mrs. Spott thanked the ECDC for their volunteer time, effort and great ideas.

## CONSIDER OFFICIAL NAME OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Erika Spott, Bill Jenaway, and Carole Kenney (via telephone). Also present were: David Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Dan Russell, Director, Park and Recreation, GlennAnne Chabala, Assistant Director, Park and Recreation; Gerri Vattimo, Marketing and Special Events Director. Supervisor Philips was absent.

Mrs. Spott stated over the past several months there has been discussion and debate about naming the community center. The Upper Merion Park and Recreation Board discussed it and has made a recommendation to name the facility “*Upper Merion Community Center.*” This matter is now in a position for a vote by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Waks stated he has made it clear in previous workshop meetings and elsewhere that he prefers the name “*Upper Merion Community and Senior Center*” because it reflects a status quo that we have a preexisting senior center. He also likes the idea of including senior center in the name which would be a positive feature and selling point when people can say they live near the Upper Merion Community and Senior Center as opposed to just the Community Center.

Mrs. Spott stated the senior center which is currently located at the Gulph Road School will be moving into the new community center and is delighted that the seniors will now have a permanent new facility in the community center no matter how the vote goes tonight. She emphasized the Board of Supervisors feels very strongly about the value of the senior center in Upper Merion Township and that will not change no matter what the name is.

Mr. Jenaway commented while he fully understands Mr. Waks’ position he has a slightly different thought process in that the property will have three key occupancies – the community center, the senior center and the swim and tennis

club. He said although it does not have to be part of the motion it does need to be a key consideration that there will be three distinct mailing addresses so that each has their own identification and that signage is independently noted both on Valley Forge Road and on the facilities. This will bring a much greater sense of ownership to those that will use the recreation and meeting center, the senior center and pool and tennis facilities. Mr. Jenaway made the motion to call this facility "*Upper Merion Community Center*."

Mrs. Kenney agreed with Mr. Jenaway's comments and pointed out that for many years the senior center has been located at the Gulph School which they share with a day care center. When anyone referred to the location as the Gulph School it was always very clear where they were going whether they were going to the senior center which was clearly marked or taking their children to the day care center. She said this is not the exact same situation and noted the word "community" in *Upper Merion Community Center* says it all. Mrs. Kenney emphasized the entrance for the senior center should be clearly marked as well as clear marking on the front and at the driveway that it is the *Upper Merion Community Center* and the *Upper Merion Senior Service Center*. Mrs. Kenney does not see any confusion about directions to the senior center since they are part of the community and will know it is located at the community center just as they do now at the Gulph School. Mrs. Kenney indicated another reason to have a clear distinction made with the signage is the confusion some seniors have about the amount of money they would have to pay to belong to the senior center and if it is somehow tied in with the membership for the community center.

Mr. Waks commented everyone is in agreement that this is going to be a fantastic addition to the community regardless of the name. He noted there will be an opportunity to purchase naming rights and eventually the facility will be known under another name.

Mr. Jenaway said he is looking forward to the fall when he can go to the community center and take advantage of the walking tract, exercise, possibly have a meeting, stop over at the senior center and have a cup of coffee in the café.

Mr. Waks emphasized people will be able to do these things and get there more safely because of the traffic light [at Caley] and the secondary ingress and egress.

Mrs. Spott stated there is a motion that was made for the name as *Upper Merion Community Center* with the caveat of good signage, separate addresses and support for the senior center in making the transition. Mr. Jenaway agreed to amend his motion to that effect.

With reference to the signage, Mr. Russell stated he has had a conversation with the architectural team of Buell, Kratzer and Powell and once

the decision is made on the naming of the center, Joe Powell is ready to move forward on the signage package which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors so they can see exactly what the signage package looks like and provide any feedback.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Jenaway, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, to approve the naming of this facility "*Upper Merion Community Center*" as amended above. Mr. Waks opposed. Motion approved 3-1.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Jenaway, seconded by Mr. Waks, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the joint meeting at 10:00 p.m. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

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DAVID G. KRAYNIK  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered: