

**UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

175 WEST VALLEY FORGE ROAD
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MINUTES

**Community Center Complex Advisory Board
November 20, 2018
7:30pm**

- 1) Attendance: Paul Kubler, Rob DeFelice, Karen Huller, Terry Stevens, GlennAnne Chabala
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of October 16th minutes – Approved
- 4) Staff Report
 - a) Update on flood damage repair
 - i) Mind Body room is repaired and is being used
 - ii) 2 multi-purpose rooms flooring will be done near December 28-30
 - iii) Reopened week of Dec 10th
 - iv) Back door functioning again
 - b) Passholder update
 - i) At 813 new passholders
 - ii) 2212 total
 - iii) Seem to plateau between 2210 and 2220
 - iv) Only 2 good years of data
 - v) Tracking conversions from annual to monthly
 - (1) 1 week trial – 17% converted
 - (2) 1 month trial – 21% converted
 - vi) Personally contacting those who cancel and those who don't renew
 - vii) Phone campaign to 1 week trial and month members who did not join
 - viii) Taken in \$353K for memberships so far. \$88K over projections
 - ix) Last year on this date were at \$44K
 - x) Hope to make \$400K
 - xi) Are within budget, except for building maintenance because not yet reimbursed
 - (1) How can we use that?
 - (2) It all goes back into coffers
 - (3) Can increase budget increase next year with higher revenue projections
 - c) Capital budget update

- i) Received approval for pool feasibly and shade structure
 - (1) \$20K for shade structure
 - (2) Understands it to be permanent
 - (3) Department heads were involved in budgeting
- ii) GlennAnne doesn't know what else was approved
 - (1) 177-page report is not yet available online and it was not downloaded
- d) BCA grant
 - i) Start thinking about what will benefit passholders
 - ii) Had discussed doing a joint ask with senior center
 - (1) Paul recommended GlennAnne, Sudha.
 - (2) Terry asked someone to attend the Senior Center board meeting to discuss it there
 - (a) 1st Wednesday is board meeting at 9:30 AM; general meeting is the 3rd Wednesday
 - (b) Meeting minutes get posted; board meetings are not open to the public
 - (3) GlennAnne asked that the Senior Center board come up with their own ideas and then come together
 - (4) GlennAnne will ask Dick about his ideas
- e) Roof repair
 - i) Don't know when grant money will come through
 - (1) We still owe state paperwork; Dan Russell and Sally Slook complete
 - (2) Then we have to wait for the state
 - (3) 3-5 years is norm for RCAP money
 - (4) Rob: We just received \$300K from an application that was sent, but that was a different grant
 - ii) Contingency plan for roof
 - (1) No tarp
 - (2) BOS is not doing any remediation
 - (3) Center will deal with individual issues on individual basis
 - (4) Rob made motion to recommend to BOS to put a tarp over the ridge cap to prevent leakage caused by snow fall and ice
 - (a) Last year did it and it was good
 - (b) Karen 2nd, Paul 3rd, Terry 4th
 - (c) Tarps are cheap, 3 tarps for \$150 total, maybe \$300
 - (d) It doesn't cover all the way down; just 10 feet on either side of cap and go straight down
 - (e) Can use cinderblocks to counterbalance and weigh it down
 - (f) It could leak on the center courts; can't control the side leaks
 - (g) Could lose membership – insurance doesn't cover lost revenue
 - iii) Metal roof installation
 - (1) Bid has not gone out
 - (2) Hal will come to meeting once board decides on system they're using and what they're using
 - (3) Drainage and downspouts has increased scope of project
 - (4) Nothing will be done (leaks) until the roof is repaired
 - (5) Downspouts and leaks will then be dealt with in one fell swoop
 - iv) HVAC-related leaks
- f) Pickleball tournament
 - i) Was cancelled

- ii) Foundation is regrouping
 - iii) How to make it more attractive
 - (1) Rob believes after 6 PM on Saturday night will attract people
 - (2) It's what Conshohocken does
 - (3) Maybe the time wasn't good?
 - (4) Too many categories?
 - (5) Could get sponsors for t-shirts
 - iv) Rob spoke with a few players
 - (1) Will try to re-offer in the spring
 - (2) Feedback
 - (a) Players' understanding was that it was a one and done game; was round robin
 - (b) \$30 expect 3-4 games and a t-shirt
 - (c) Radnor and Havertown players like the facility, but thought the \$10 fee was too much
 - (d) Staff are visible, friendly, presentable; coaching is paying off
 - (3) Radnor got flooded out and used our court
 - (4) 40 people were here last weekend
 - g) Senior Center door repair
 - i) Valley Forge Lock employee reported that they have come out multiple times to look at the door and provided estimates with no response, so they will not come out again to give an estimate
 - ii) They have done a lot of work at the center
 - iii) SMJ put door in; it's never been right, and it's in litigation
 - iv) Problem is not with the lock, but the door
 - v) Two doors, one doesn't work at all. It takes a trick to lock it, and only certain people are able to make it work
 - vi) Trying to mitigate what we can, especially those that are safety issues
 - vii) You can exit without trouble
- 5) Board of Supervisors Liaison Report
- a) 2019 Budget items –
 - i) GlennAnne reported approval; Will bring completed next month
 - ii) Pool shade structure
 - iii) Pool feasibility study
- 6) Park and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Report
- a) Aldi's is coming to where Bottom Dollar was
 - b) EAB project in punch list stages
 - c) Dec 1st 12-3:30 holiday village at township
 - d) Gerri Vattimo gave presentation about branding at last P&R meeting
 - e) Rob Devers gave update on high school stadium turf track access
 - i) Access is 6-7:45 AM on weekdays
 - f) A diner is coming at the former Joe's Crab Shack
 - i) Lease not yet signed
- 7) Senior Center Representative Liaison Report
- a) 800 or so members, but not nearly that many attendees
 - i) Paul is a member and doesn't attend because of work

- ii) Programs they do have, like bingo, mahjong, a poker group attracts the same people
 - iii) Terry would like to introduce programs that might bring the younger new members in, perhaps in evening, because some of them still work
 - (1) Joint programming is not the problem
 - (2) Parking in evening is worse in the evening than in the morning; programs start around 5:30 or 6
 - (3) The center is also trying to attract active older American demographic
 - (4) GlennAnne proposed a survey to find out what programming would attract them
 - (5) Perhaps a book discussion or current events group meeting at night
 - (6) Also want to make them more aware of what is happening at the center
 - (7) Put info/updates in the newsletter
 - (8) Bring it up at the general televised meeting
 - (9) Let them know what's available
 - (10) Board has to decide how to program; Terry would bring it up at televised general meeting
 - b) Snow plow piles snow in handicapped spot
 - i) That is a township function
 - c) Only financial information provided by senior center is what comes in and what goes out; no idea if there is a surplus or deficit
 - d) Hand rails are installed and beautiful
 - e) Terry made request for another dumpster
 - i) Still being told it's too hard to get her trash into the dumpster
 - ii) Solution offered was to half fill bags and cart them over to the dumpster
 - iii) Then they can pick up bag by bag to empty it
 - iv) Feels that its awkward to tell volunteers to half fill bags, and it uses a lot of bags
 - (1) It's still the best solution
 - (2) Perhaps a sign would help
 - (3) They were using kitchen sized bags and now they have to cut up their trash to fill it in, which came from inside the building
 - (4) They are supposed to get the big, black 55 gal trash bags and fill them 1/3 of the way
 - f) Saw someone going wrong way in the one-way drive
 - i) There already is a sign
 - ii) More effort won't change that
- 8) Old Business
- a) Temporary sign is up and looks great, especially in the day
 - i) No lights on it
 - ii) 2 years from now \$7,500 for backlighting of the sign will be in the budget
 - b) Sharon mentioned proposing joint programming with school district
 - i) This is not the time for us to present to school district
- 9) New Business
- a) Rob would like to see Gerry Testa have full authority to hire contractors
 - i) BOS has to decide that
 - ii) Fewer people dealing with contractors is better
 - b) UM rowing renting some space downstairs for workouts starting December 10th.
 - i) Next week they'll use the basketball court

- ii) They had asked to put up erg machines on court
- iii) No, but they can put in downstairs activity room
- iv) More and more athletic programs are going to need space during high school construction
- v) Reminder to not undervalue the space and facility
- c) Snow emergency
 - i) Last Thursday Township had snow emergency
 - ii) Park and Rec was told not to close by BOS
 - iii) Only closed when instructors cancelled
 - iv) Dan makes recommendation to Sally, Sally passed to BOS, and they make the decision
 - v) Sidewalks were shoveled and salted
 - vi) Staff was concerned about travelling in; most live outside the township
 - vii) Do have money in budget for outside contract snow removal
- d) Family dance class –
 - i) Kids waiting for court were watching the class
 - ii) Instructor stopped several times to tell them to wait where they can't look in
 - iii) Gym attendant did not come by
 - iv) Class probably being moved now that mind body room is done
- e) 3 new people came into play pickleball and they thought they could use a court on their own for a half hour
 - i) Strong words were exchanged
 - ii) Pickleball etiquette is posted and people have to police themselves
 - iii) Will enlarge and put rules on outside court nets
 - iv) Will talk to gym attendant to make sure people aren't standing on the track
 - v) It's hard because it gets crowded
- f) Dennis is going to start family time is going to start for pickleball in earlier part of the evening
 - i) Dennis and GlennAnne about making joining these sports as a newbie less intimidating
 - ii) Suggested an introduction to the open court sports
 - iii) Will be able to educate people on etiquette
 - iv) Pat and GlennAnne did speak about it

10) Adjournment