



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

175 WEST VALLEY FORGE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-1802
610-265-2600
FAX: 610-265-0482
www.umtownship.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WILLIAM JENAWAY, PhD
CHAIRPERSON
CAROLE KENNEY
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
TINA GARZILLO
GREG PHILIPS
GREG WAKS

TOWNSHIP MANAGER/ SECRETARY-TREASURER

ANTHONY HAMADAY

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

FIRM OF:
HAMBURG, RUBIN, MULLIN,
MAXWELL & LUPIN, P.C.

MINUTES

Community Center Complex Advisory Board December 17, 2019 7:30pm

- 1) Attendance: Sharon Davis, Evelyn Ankers, Chris Levy, Greg Waks, Terry Stevens, Deena Newman, GA Chabala, Karen Huller, Paul Kubler, Dennis Rudzinski
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of October 15th minutes – Chris motioned, Sharon second. Passed
- 4) Approval of November 19th minutes – Evelyn moved. Chris second. Passed
- 5) Staff Report
 - a) Passholder update
 - i) 829 new members to date in 2019
 - ii) 55 new members for the month
 - iii) 2733 total members
 - b) Revenue
 - i) \$688,679 to date
 - ii) 24% above projections
 - (1) Paul – Has been confirmed we operate at a loss
 - (2) Any surplus goes right into operating budget
 - (3) A conservative citizen inquired about if the center is supporting itself, spurred by concerns over increasing taxes
 - (a) Every community center operates at a loss
 - (b) Being ahead of projection is great
 - (c) We are providing services to the community, which come at a cost
 - (d) Membership is one of seven revenue accounts
 - (e) Helps to offset expenses
 - (f) Pool doesn't make money, operating costs covered by memberships
 - (g) Reason we're not making money is because we subsidize membership rates to make it more affordable for more of the community
 - (h) Upon annual reconciliation, will determine what the loss was this year

- (i) We could narrow the gap by raising rates significantly
- (j) BOS stance – We are willing to operate at a loss to keep this affordable for the community
 - (i) It is hard to measure good will
 - (ii) What does this save the other departments
 - (iii) Value of friendships made here
 - (iv) Providing a safe place for youth
 - (v) Increased quality of life
 - (vi) Proven correlation between P&R and less crime and higher property values
- iii) Snow days
 - (1) No plans to be a warming center/drop off location
 - (2) Township building is that site
- c) Pool feasibility study update
 - i) Contract mailed to Tony Hammaday
 - ii) Solicitor approved
 - iii) Once it is signed, subcommittee will convene
- d) Personnel Update
 - i) Dennis Rudzinsky is new Recreation Superintendent
 - (1) Still in programming role
 - (2) Tomorrow interviews for programmers
 - ii) Identified a PT staff person to do interim financial functions
 - (1) They will end first Monday in February and may transition into FT
 - (2) Stephen Dudas
 - iii) Gwen found new job, front desk customer service
 - (1) Last day is January 2nd
 - (2) Found a better lifestyle fit
 - iv) A lot of turnover
 - (1) HR does an exit interview
 - (2) Each case had individual reasons for moving on
 - (3) Not a trend, not based on discontent
 - v) Someone came to the P&R meeting who was interested in employment
 - (1) Paige Durflunder
 - (2) She was not among the candidates presented to GA by Sibyl
- e) Wall decals
 - i) Number 1 won
 - ii) Tie between 5 and 6
 - (1) Majority picked 5
- f) Saturday outcome
 - i) Fumes in building almost caused evacuation, mostly concentrated in child watch area
 - ii) PECO came (not Paul)
 - iii) Gerry Testa came in
 - iv) Air recovery system/unit on top of building was malfunctioning
 - v) Once it was turned off, zero reading achieved
 - vi) 3-years-old and out of warranty
 - vii) Water had gotten in unit and fried circuit board
 - viii) Gerry will call manufacturer
 - (1) Should be a sealed unit

- (2) Was not turning off signal to turn gas off through unit even though it wasn't working
- g) Program Preview
 - i) Not well attended
 - ii) It's a hard month for an event
- h) Holiday village was December 7th
 - i) Paige Willison, Rec Assistant, was super involved
 - ii) Did a great job
 - iii) Well attended
 - iv) Vendors were happy
 - (1) More international vendors
 - (2) More donations to various causes
 - v) TV recap
 - vi) Swedesburg Fire Department delivered Santa and Mrs. Claus
 - vii) Paul - Could we ever make it a several day event?
 - (1) Board has never proposed, but they could
 - (2) Where could it be?
 - (a) If it were bigger, could it be at Heuser Park?
 - (b) Wonder how successful it would be
 - (c) 4th of July works better with stop and start
 - (d) How many people would come from afar if it were several days
 - (e) Could we have Friday night fireworks the night before, like Bridgeport?
 - (f) Someone would have to take the lead on it
 - (g) Would need some heavy sponsors, like PECO
 - (h) Drone show is a new trend and could attract people
- 6) Board of Supervisors Liaison Report
 - a) Done meetings for the year after tonight
 - b) BCA application process is open
 - i) It's early to apply
 - ii) 2 applications came in today
 - iii) Significantly more money this year because state law increased number of slot machines
 - iv) Deadline is April 1st
 - v) By December 31st need updates on how grants were spent, receipts
 - c) Community Service Coordinator
 - i) Will start in March
 - ii) This is someone who could vet candidates who would benefit from passholdership
 - iii) They will most likely spend time at Senior Service Center
 - iv) Envisioned that they will be out in the community, not behind a desk
 - v) Hope to start receiving applications
 - d) There will be a new chair, but not expecting major switches in liaisons to citizen boards
- 7) Park and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Report
 - a) Riverfront Park subcommittee
 - i) November 25th meeting
 - ii) Township manager is reaching out to real estate developers about obtaining parcels of land

- iii) An offer was made from truck company for a 22-acre portion of that tract
- iv) The township can counter, and has time to do due diligence and come up with an offer
- v) Will have to get an estimate and will have to decide about max
- vi) There is money in the budget for Heuser park and can float a bond to pay for some of these parcels if we want to acquire it
- vii) Most supervisors are interested
- viii) Norfolk Southern is selling these parcels
- ix) Collective interest in avoiding industrial use, but that is how it is zoned
- b) Nutritionist attended the last Park and Rec meeting
 - i) Wanted vending machines removed immediately
 - ii) Advised that it won't happen quickly
 - iii) She attended the program preview and voiced her disapproval of the Candyland theme
- c) Request for more mirrors downstairs in fitness room
 - i) Haven't had this request before
 - ii) That wall is supposed to have some fitness/nutrition image upgrades
 - iii) Could they go on a mirror?
 - iv) Will happen soon after the meeting, now that images were voted on

8) Senior Center Representative Liaison Report

- a) Some members made inquiries about track restrictions
 - i) Tuesday and Thursday mornings
 - ii) Could they use the track on other mornings when track is empty?
 - iii) Has been discussed as a staff, was in September minutes
 - (1) Usage is a privilege to seniors
 - (2) It's a paid service for passholders
 - (3) Silver Sneakers users get passholdership
 - iv) Senior center members are not asked about their insurance or if they are offered Silver Sneakers
 - (1) Do members know that they can have a full, free membership with Silver Sneakers
 - (2) Maybe something in the newsletter
 - (3) Daily fee is \$5 for track usage
 - (a) Could there be a reduced rate for senior center members during certain hours?
 - (b) Restrictive with software
 - (c) Requires a new tier of membership
 - v) Senior membership is \$21/month for monthly membership
 - vi) The long hallway in the center is a good walking area
- b) BCA Grant
 - i) Terry was not included in the discussion
 - ii) Suggest asking for a pool of money to help seniors join as passholders
- c) They see the pool out of the windows
 - i) Why aren't there sophets?
 - (1) They were replaced once
 - (2) With the feasibility study, spending is limited to only what's necessary
 - ii) Could lattice fencing be added to hide the view?
 - (1) See C (ii)

- d) Is there any influence on Senior Center hours?
 - i) Closed last 2 weeks of the year
 - ii) The Senior Center Board decided on them/ Township not involved in senior center hours
 - iii) Members are upset
 - iv) If the members don't like decisions made by the board, they should run for board positions
- e) Garden center donating storage cabinet
 - i) Does P&R want input on where it goes?
 - ii) Will ask Gerry

9) Old Business

- a) BCA
 - i) Confusion last year around who is applying for what
 - ii) Lost opportunity to gain additional funding
 - iii) Rock wall is one possibility, but want to coordinate first
 - iv) The four units (P&R, pool, senior center, community center) that comprise the community center complex need to communicate and coordinate
 - (1) Paul asked Terry to tell Dick that he would like to be involved in conversations
 - (2) Paul asked GlennAnne to also keep this board informed
- b) Birthday parties
 - i) Greg has kept in touch with Mom from mothers club and all is good
 - ii) No more complaints
- c) Passholder Scholarship Committee
 - i) Not on January workshop, agenda is full
 - ii) Greg was awaiting info from this board on how it will work and be executed
 - iii) Greg will probably not be at February workshop,
 - iv) The business meeting in March is a possibility
 - v) The rest of the BOS knows it's being worked on
 - vi) More specifics
 - vii) Sharon will send out the slide deck to get feedback questions, make updates
 - viii) Concerns of board, programs funded by township and grantees don't take advantage of it
 - (1) What are we losing if they don't?
 - (a) Funding
 - (i) This doesn't require funding from the foundation
 - (b) Just our time

10) New Business

- a) Good energy in the center
- b) Child watch
 - i) Does the staff know what to do about an inconsolable child?
 - ii) They do have a manual and go through training
 - iii) Will make sure they know how to handle
 - iv) Perhaps some signage in the center to reinforce to parents that they need to be reachable to pick up child if necessary
- c) Free personnel memberships
 - i) 43% of those eligible in beginning of the month joined

- ii) Current members will take advantage when their memberships expire
- iii) Even those who don't live close by or have other memberships were appreciative that it was offered

11) Adjournment - Chris moves. Evelyn seconds. Approved

Kam H
2.18.2020