



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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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

September 15, 2020

7:30pm

1. Attendance – Chris Levy, Sharon Davis, GlennAnne (GA) Chabala, Ben Eyer, Greg Waks, Paul Kubler, Deena Newman, Karen Huller
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of August 18th minutes - Sharon motioned, Chris 2nded Approved
4. Staff Report
 - a. Roof Project - Completely done
 - i. Manufacturer came out – approved for warranty
 - ii. No leaks
 - iii. Final work flow being done
 - iv. Code enforcer approved
 - b. Maintenance Update
 - i. Floor refinished
 - ii. Fresh paint applied
 - iii. Pickleball and badminton lines are there
 1. Courts are being used, but were not until Thursday of last week
 2. Very respectful – people were conscious of making sure their masks were up
 3. There are people going tomorrow morning
 4. It is still great weather outdoors and they will play outdoors as long as possible
 - c. Passholder Update
 - i. Down to 2603 passholder from 2859 at beginning of March
 - ii. Reminder of payments resuming did cause a flurry of cancellations
 - iii. 9% are cancelling; 11% are freezing their membership – total of 20%
 - iv. There may be more who will cancel or freeze as their payments approach
 - v. 7 new people joining
 - vi. Within the average of what other community centers are seeing

- vii. Greg – Have people frozen because of masks, but not cancelling?
 - 1. He had someone tell him they were cancelling because of the mask requirement
 - 2. GA – no one cited this as their reason
- d. Pool member update – 1400 down from 2400
 - i. Sold almost 1000 daily passes
 - ii. Budget numbers were adjusted based on limited programming
 - iii. Heather hit all of the budget numbers
 - 1. Membership
 - 2. Rentals
 - a. Rentals through October 2nd in evening
 - b. Only pool open for this
 - c. Rented in the morning, as well
 - iv. Open through this weekend 1-4 PM
- e. Pool feasibility
 - i. TV station made a video about the open house: It will go out on social media with link to survey
 - 1. Not a lot of traffic at the open house
 - 2. Feedback more confirmed first designs
 - 3. Hoping better data will come in from this survey
 - 4. Once this comes in, they want to wrap up the project
 - ii. Trying to get on BOS workshop agenda
 - 1. It's a busy time for budgeting
 - 2. Greg has not seen the October agenda
 - 3. Advises it to be in October or November because workshops may get shut down again
- f. Reopening
 - i. Smooth so far
 - ii. Not as much push back about the masks, except from teens who are not in compliance with basketball hoops and social distancing
 - iii. Rear entrance has not needed to be opened
 - iv. 535 people (traffic) total since opening
 - 1. Same period last year had 1730 people
 - 2. 30% as expected
 - 3. Programs will start next week and they expect an uptick
 - 4. If there is an uptick, the back entrance will have to open
 - v. Chris – temperature check scanner at door was amazing, gives mask reminders; is there a Plan B in case it malfunctions?
 - 1. Themroscan thermometer nearby as a backup
 - 2. It is a bit fickle
- g. Membership Fees/Structure - 2022
 - 1. 5th anniversary next year; no increase in fees as of yet
 - 2. It's not necessarily inevitable; There may be no changes made
 - 3. Segmentation is complex – over 80 categories of memberships
 - 4. GA invites this board to evaluate the payment structure, the categories, competitive fees; Goals:
 - a. Simplify membership structure

- b. Determine how to present it
 - c. What to do with current passholders (grandfathered?)
 - 5. Sharon would like to discuss it; Deena is interested
 - a. Paul thinks discussing next month would give people time to review the data
 - b. Chris recommends not making any changes until next year
 - i. This will not be something that will roll out until we resume some normalcy
 - ii. Budget information for 2021 was due this week
 - iii. Any changes would not be submitted to the board until September of 2021
 - iv. Paul – thought now was the right time to start discussing it
 - v. Deena – use of childwatch is something she will be interested to evaluate
 - 1. Parents were joining as single parents and getting free childwatch for cheaper than joining as a family
 - c. Official subcommittee for Passholder Fee Structure
 - i. Paul
 - ii. Deena
 - iii. Sharon
 - d. Ben would be interested in sitting in on the membership subcommittee
 - i. He is not a voting member
 - ii. Can the Student Liaison be on a subcommittee and have that not count toward numbers
 - iii. GA will get clarification from Joe McGrory, township solicitor
 - e.
- h. 5th year celebration
 - i. Budget still has to be approved
 - ii. A couple thousand was included for a celebration
 - iii. Do we start a subcommittee
 - 1. Only 3 members can be on a subcommittee
 - 2. Sharon - Can't make decisions now because we don't know what the conditions will be
 - a. Need a plan A, B, C
 - 3. Subcommittee
 - a. Sharon, Chris, and Karen
 - b. Sponsors – Gerry Vatimo will want to be involved
 - i. If you wanted to make t-shirts, could approach sponsors
 - ii. Think of measurable items to attract sponsors
- i. Budget
 - i. Cut \$1B

- ii. All capital programming cut
 - iii. Park budget is \$182K and there are 7 parks still to be done
 - iv. Doesn't expect much of that will go to the community center
 - v. Township building needs quite a bit of work
 - vi. No personnel cuts
 - vii. Current programming can continue
 - viii. Maintenance and upkeep, snow removal covered
 - j. Shape Program
 - i. Have only 7 in the program, K-2nd grade
 - 1. Not the volume expected, but it makes a difference for those 7 families
 - 2. They decided to include K after all when registrations were low
 - 3. Deena didn't know and they made a different choice; it's working
 - ii. Using the multi-purpose room 2
 - iii. No IT issues
5. Board of Supervisors Liaison Report
- a. 2nd round of BCA closed today
 - i. Senior center did send an application for separate desks to allow for socially distanced programming
 - ii. Assumes Dick must be thinking about opening at some point
 - iii. Not a large amount of money
 - b. Budgeting has not started yet, but things will be tight
 - i. There is still a large cumulative surplus, they expect to go through it during lean times yet to come
 - ii. No furloughs, layoffs
 - iii. Next month there will be a lot to cover that will effect the township
 - c. Deena was asked about Halloween
 - i. Greg was asked the other day
 - ii. Halloween is not the township's to cancel
 - iii. Still 6 weeks away, but so many things cancelled
 - iv. Doesn't know if Hope Church will do the trunk or treat
 - v. Some private events (MDP private event) have been allowed to move forward
 - 1. The plan met all the criteria that the township put forward
 - 2. No complaints about non-compliance
 - d. National Night Out is virtual
 - e. Chris - Labor Day street racing, fire works
 - i. Car groups post a pop-up event on social media
 - ii. If you see this, report it to the police non-emergency phone number
6. Park and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Report
- a. Crow Creek – 8 bidders from \$1.8M to \$5.75M
 - i. Huge variance; not for multiple trail segments
 - ii. Dramatic increase in amount of storm water that will be captured by the creek over what is captured now
 - iii. This is expected to reduce the flow/flooding
 - iv. High school redevelopment includes greater storm water capture

- v. This won't prevent ALL flooding, but much of the flash flooding
 - b. Walker
 - i. Motion passed to allow workers to go through the park at Sweetbriar
 - ii. Need to remove 8-9 large ash trees
 - iii. Possibly removing the fence put up 10-12 years ago
 - 1. \$7K-\$13K to replace every time it floods
 - 2. That playground may be relocated
 - a. Not sure where they'd put it
 - b. Parents use it with little kids during games
 - c. 422 bridgework is on hold because of COVID
 - i. Complete by the fall
 - ii. Hoping VFNP connection is finished
 - iii. Greg – it's close
 - 1. Took much longer due to protections for a peregrine falcon nest
 - 2. Sullivan's Bridge had been delayed for turtles
 - 3. 4-6 weeks estimated completion
 - 4. They are moving the dirt that blocked the river
 - 5. PennDot will complete the trail later this year/early next year, after the bridge is done
 - 6. Township pays for and have to reimburse \$470K
7. Senior Center Representative Liaison Report
 - a. No date they are looking to open; definitely not in next 3 weeks
 - i. Struggling with concerns
 - ii. They don't want to open and then have to close again
 - b. Doing some admin work, supplies arriving
 - c. Hoping for grant, but getting tables regardless
 - d. Sharon – do they want to come back?
 - i. Investment group is meeting on zoom and they like it
8. Student Liaison Report
 - a. Confirming – all parts of the center are open
 - b. How have the areas been used?
 - i. GA – 30% of the attendance and it's across the board
 - ii. Saturday – 12 on basketball court just shooting hoops
 - iii. 9 in the fitness center one night
 - iv. 63 is the occupancy limit and they're nowhere near it
9. Old Business –
 - a. GA – Was looking for socially distanced community ideas
 - i. Need to go to the P&R board
 - ii. Staff talked about giving a neighborhood point of contact a template to have their own trunk or treat
 - 1. Do people who don't have trunks participate?
 - 2. Find a parking lot, show them what a trunk or treat looks like
 - iii. Fall decoration contest –
 - 1. Can have a hard time finding judges
 - a. One person from each citizen board to vote?

- b. Deena was a judge
 - c. Deena could get someone from the moms club
 - d. Could be a daytime and night time version
 - iv. Farmers market does Halloween activities and this year Halloween is Saturday
 - 1. Dog costume contest
 - 2. Tina Garzillo leads kids on a little parade to all the vendors
 - 3. Could do a scarecrow contest –
 - a. Pick up a kit
 - b. Bring it to the farmers market
 - c. Display and vote
 - d. Would still abide by social distancing guidelines
 - v. Police department is not doing their trunk or treat
 - a. Heuser trunk or treat?
 - b. Cars could be on every other spot
 - c. It would be a car parade
 - d. Deena – can you split up time slots by last name or some other measure
- b. Free memberships
 - i. Has been promoted?
 - 1. Free pool membership had been promoted
 - 2. A couple people expressed interest, not need-based
 - ii. Greg couldn't remember about Bridgeport and West Conshohocken
 - 1. Yes. Transportation qualification is a question on the application.
 - 2. Not eligible for BCA moneys
 - iii. Thinks it will be needed
 - 1. Sharon didn't reach out to schools – no availability
 - a. Meetings are virtual
 - b. Reach out to Pres or VP of School board
 - i. Gary Ledebur, Pres
 - ii. Alice Budno Hope – VP
 - 1. Name drop/CC Greg
 - c. Shouldn't promote at school without caveat of BCA UM residency requirement (not eligible, not relevant)
 - 2. Flyers printed up, not posted anywhere
 - 3. Next steps?
 - a. GA – mention to Tony that C3AB wants to move ahead, approved by BOS
 - b. Remind Bill, Carol at a weekly chair meeting
 - c. Who would meet with the nominee
 - d. Google document that they could do that online
 - e. Flyers need communications approval?
 - i. P&R can make copies without approval
 - ii. Sharon will re-send
 - iii. Once approved Karen will send to School Board

11. Adjournment – Karen moves, Deena seconded, all approved