



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 November 17th, 2020 7:30pm

1. Attendance: Ben Eyer, Evelyn Ankers, Chris Levy, Paul Kubler, Greg Waks, GlennAnne (GA) Chabala, Deena Newman, Sharon Davis, Karen Huller
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of October 20th minutes – postponed to provide ample time to review the minutes, which were sent late today
4. Staff Report
 - a. Passholder update
 - i. Passholder cancellations
 1. 676 cancellations – 23 6% of total membership
 - ii. Passholder freezes
 1. 581 freezes – 27%
 2. 2152 memberships including frozen
 - a. 1571 paying passholders
 - b. Average check-ins going up every week
 3. 27 new monthly members of 81 new passholders
 4. Spikes coincide with announcements about re-opening and reminders sent about payments
 - b. Reopening update
 - i. Daily average visits
 1. Weekday – 119
 - a. 11% up since last week
 2. 46.5 weekend – not much movement
 3. Opening week was high, then the couple cases happened
 4. Has been steadily growing since re-opening
 5. 25 people allowed in an active zone
 6. Not reaching that
 - c. Created a video to promote the safety of the center

- i. Planet Fitness is publicly refuting that gyms are responsible for spread and fighting restrictions with a study they funded
 - ii. Chris – if there is a gym closing mandate what happens
 - 1. Stay Health At Home rolling out December 1st regardless of changes in restrictions (tba)
 - 2. \$7 99 for residents \$9 99 for non-residents monthly
 - 3. If your membership is frozen, you can join this
 - 4. Using the Wexer On Demand platform
 - 5. Plan allows 15 zoom workouts per week
 - 6. Interface with a trainer
 - 7. Can transition seamlessly
 - 8. Tomorrow have a meeting on how to level up the virtual offerings and value
 - 9. Will be communicated across social media and the messaging service
 - a. Perhaps KOP-BID can help promote this to employees working at home
 - b. Sharon's employer allows her to join an online program
 - c. Suggests this be part of a corporate wellness plan
 - d. Only the school district joined at a special rate
 - e. Paul – how can we market this to corporations
 - i. May be a way to grow overall future-recovered passholders
 - ii. What would the messaging be?
 - 1. Paul gets value-offering e-mails
 - 2. Offering health education classes to kids on the weekend
 - 3. What kind of classes would help teens get through the winter
 - a. Ben – no one has offered anything yet
 - b. They would love to have a dedicated time to use the center
- d. Holly Jolly grab bag
 - i. Color your own mug
 - ii. Make your own ornament
 - iii. Other contests for what's in the bag
- e. Deena – will SHAPE have to close if gyms closing?
 - i. GA believes no one would be allowed in the building
 - ii. 1800 sq ft room with 10 people in it
 - iii. Depends on the restrictions
 - iv. If virtual school can happen, she hopes it can happen
 - v. Greg – Not sure if SHAPE would be allowed to continue
- f. Pool feasibility study
 - i. Postponed and have not heard about a reschedule date
 - ii. They are available 1 7 21
 - iii. No confirmation yet
- g. Membership Fees Subcommittee

- i. Student member does not count towards quorum
 - 1. Ben can join the subcommittee
 - ii. Sharon requested to set up a meeting
 - 1. Paul and Deena are the other members
 - 2. Offered next Tuesday, 11 24 at 7 or 7:30
 - 3. Does GA count toward a quorum
 - a. She can't host
 - b. Sharon suggests they meet as a subcommittee first
 - h. Free Passholder Program
 - i. Subcommittee met virtually
 - ii. Sharon sent an e-mail update with the flyer and application
 - 1. One update to application – minimum 25 visits in 4 month period
 - iii. We worked on the questions
 - iv. 2 more supervisors need to be briefed/convinced that it's ready to go
 - v. What are next steps? Do we forward the answers to the BOS?
 - 1. Greg suggests we get on a workshop agenda
 - 2. Isn't sure when the next one will be, perhaps January
 - 3. 2021 schedule is not posted and we don't know what status we'll be at
 - 4. Send the answers and materials with a to GA who will send it to Tony
 - 5. Sharon will draft and get the input of Karen and Chris
5. Board of Supervisors Liaison Report
 - a. Budget posted, difficult
 - i. It is public - online
 - b. Discussing Catalyst in Bob White
 - i. Heard from residents on both sides, though the opposers are much more vocal
 - ii. Planning commission in December
 - iii. They won't do anything non-emergency at this time
 - c. Demand at community cupboard is high, disheartening
 - i. A scout troop was organizing a drive
 - ii. Kids are not allowed to volunteer due to keeping kids who use the cupboard anonymous
 - d. Impressive that 55% of the passholders have stuck with the center even if they are not using it
 - e. For people having home heating issues, consider LIHEAP
 - i. 150% of poverty level to apply
 - f. Chris – what are they building at the high school track at the concession stand
 - i. Greg doesn't know
 - ii. A resident asked about a machine in front of the building, which was for iPad returns
 - g. Trail from Heuser to Valley Forge will begin in the next few weeks and will be under budget
 - i. Not paved yet, but easy to get there; not fenced off anymore
 - ii. Can come through the Lafayette and the trail becomes the path

6. Park and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Report
 - a. Crow Creek Trail preconstruction meeting happening
 - b. 90 guests at the meeting, including Catalyst
 - i. Most were opposed
 - ii. One person did express support privately
 - iii. Catalyst was trying to suggest other changes that were not received well
 - iv. Parking is already a problem and they don't want to attract outsiders
 - v. Pavilion plan means taking down trees
 1. Catalyst would plant replacement trees
 2. Shade tree commission rep present
 - a. There were a bunch of trees just donated and planted a year ago at Bob White
 - b. Concerns about them being taken out
 - vi. Concerned about property values
 - vii. Residents may have thought that they were attending a BOS meeting
 1. No questions were addressed
 2. They were not aware of previous meetings about Catalyst
 - viii. There were questions about competitors who may do the same as Catalyst
 1. For skilled work, it doesn't go out to bid
 2. The idea was brought to them by Catalyst; not a native initiative
 3. Catalyst is unique in how they partner with communities beyond just billboards
 4. There was general resistance about any changes to park
 5. Someone cited 11 different law suits with Catalyst
 - a. Greg is familiar
 - b. They are litigious when they are denied illegally
 - c. Not unusual for a developer to sue a municipality because they were denied their constitutional rights
 - d. UM is not new to these kinds of law suits
 - e. Greg doesn't see this as a concern because their current side in code is strong
 - f. Can't prevent someone suing, but sometimes suits are non-meritorious
 - g. Not worried about the township being sued, though he does not represent the township as an attorney
 6. Is this a done deal and there is no say for the residents?
 - a. Can the residents petition successfully?
 - b. Greg - Not a done deal
 - i. Residents can always petition
 - ii. Will always listen to residents
 - iii. Will decide in township's best interest
7. Senior Center Representative Liaison Report
 - a. GA e-mailed Dick today and no decision made
 - i. Sharon saw Terry at Wegmen's
 1. Wondered if the Community Center wanted to send a survey to see if people want it open
 2. No one ever asked members if they want to go back

3. Terry has not been successful reaching Dick
4. Deena – there are virtual options, but would need someone to set it up and potentially offer training
- ii. The township doesn't decide or suggest when they need to open
 1. Greg – they will decide for themselves
 2. Only role is to fund them
 3. No influence on operating procedures
 4. GA will ask Dick to consider a survey
 - a. Some are Silver Sneakers and can use the center with that
 - b. They are doing some things virtually, though there are challenges
 - c. P&R staff is willing to partner with them to create new virtual offerings
 - d. Sharon suggests telling Dick that his representative to the board requested to do a survey
 - e. Suggest asking: Is there anything we can do to help you come back for the few people who would like to come back?
 5. Having a rep on the committee
 - a. Sharon – Was the point to integrate and partner with the senior center?
 - b. GA – more of a way to bridge communication
 - c. Greg – BOS will not get involved in their operations
 - i. The senior center pre-dates the community center
 - ii. Might be good go try to get Dick and Terry together
 - iii. GA will try to start the conversation
 1. He may have a number of reasons and concerns, including his staff not wanting to return, that have led him to make his own determination about re-opening
 2. A survey might get people's hopes of reopening up while there may be no intention to do so
 3. If people disagree with how Dick runs the center, they can vote in a new president

8. Student Liaison Report

- a. Winter sports
 - i. Sidelining for 2 weeks
 - ii. Boys and girls basketball coaches advocated to continue drills, shooting, staying active
 1. May lead to an uptick in kids attending
 2. No one thinks they will go back to playing sports
 - iii. GA did have a conversation about not taking daily passes
 1. Most daily passes were used for basketball
 2. Not allowing games, so didn't want to encourage daily passes to people who would like to play a game but can't
 3. 15 people shooting today, about, following the rules with some reminders

4. These kids can be monthly members

9. Old Business

- a. Halloween and Harvest decorating contest
 - i. No public list
 - ii. So subjective – everyone going by a different rating scale
 - iii. Some UM moms asked for the list to go around to see the various houses
 - iv. More houses entered this contest than the holiday lights contest
- b. Why wasn't SHAPE more popular?
 - i. It was more costly, but it's meant to be what allows you to work
 - ii. People did comment on social media that it's costly
 - iii. Not making a profit off of it as it stands
 - iv. Deena sensed confusion about the program's relationship to the school
 - 1. People might need to understand there's no teacher
 - 2. Started with 7 participants – 3 left for Catholic school and 3 new
 - 3. All schools closing next week as per county mandate

10 New Business

11 Adjournment – Chris moves to adjourn; Sharon seconds - Adjourned