

7:30 PM Tuesday

March 9, 2016

Upper Merion Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tina Garzillo, Mike Trachtenberg, Rob DeFelice, Neil Sardiñas, Mary Ann Ahearn, David Burns, Dan Russell, Glenn Anne Chabala, and Bill Jenaway.

Guests : Jonathan Black ,John Weilnau, Kelly Sborlini, Mark Sborlini, Blayre Scorzetti, Mike Reid, and Joe White.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

-Meeting minutes from January 12, 2016 approved 5 - 0

Board of Supervisors Liaison Report

- Bill Jenaway commented on the tremendous construction progress of the Community Center.
- The Board of Supervisors are moving forward with the Advisory Board for the Community Center. It will be a seven (7) member board consisting of five residents, one senior service member, and one park and rec board member. All members of this advisory board must be Community Center Passholder members.
- A referendum may be needed to fund future Heuser Park developments. The Board of Supervisors will take under advisement when capital park improvements are raised.
- Encouraged residents to attend the Septa High Speed Rail meetings.

Director's Report

- Dan Russell commented on the appointment of Asst. Park and Recreation Director, Glenn Anne Chabala as the staff liaison to the future Community Center Advisory Board which will include the Community Center as well as the township swimming pool and the grounds.
- Our township is looking forward to the Community Center opening in Spring 2016.
- Community Center Passholder membership is over 400. Tours of this facility are sure to increase Passholder membership.
- Our township is waiting on state legislation to turn over parcel of property to extend the Schuylkill West Trail into Valley Forge National Park.

Old Business

1) The Park and Recreation Master Plan

- Board member Mike Trachtenberg expressed his delight with the Master Plan. He was impressed with the detail given to the individual parks, map illustrations. Implementation of the Master Plan would take place over time. Time, effort, and money as well as meeting with individual groups and organizations, are all part of the process. He thought the Master Plan

captured the Community's wants and needs.

Mike Trachtenberg made a motion to approve The Park and Recreation Master Plan as presented
Mary Ann Ahearn second the motion. Motion passed 5 - 1. David Burns voted against the motion.
He expressed his disappointment citing the athletic fields were not addressed - which was a major let down.

Chairperson Tina Garzillo replied the fields were mentioned. The athletic fields would be further
addressed during the next scheduled phase of The Master Plan. "The Master Plan gives us some place to start.
It offers suggestions and ideas."

- Dan Russell expressed his sincere thank you to all Park and Recreation Board and subcommittee board members for all their feed-back. He looks forward to working with all board members in the future keeping the best interests of the residents and community in mind.
- Residents may view the Park and Recreation Master Plan once it is adopted by the Board of Supervisors. This is a planning document.
- Residents in attendance expressed their concerns about the future of Walker Park.
- David Burns expressed concern about the hanging branches that need removal at Walker Park along the side of the road.
- Mary Ann Ahearn gave an update on "The Bob White Park Goats". Approximately 20 goats will be grazing a specially marked park area sometime in May thru September.
Larry Cihaneck from GREEN GOATS will be in attendance with his goats at our township's Earth Day celebration.

New Business

1) BCA GRANT discussion with Environmental Advisory Council

John Weillnau gave a brief presentation to install a water bottle filling station
at Heuser Park. The Planning Phase, model, the location inside the park and costs were discussed. He will
revisit the board once plans and ideas are finalized.

- 2) Chairperson Tina Garzillo discussed recommended guidelines for the Park and
Recreation department when issuing athletic field permits, fees and time limits. It was noted that
" outside organizations" (organizations with rosters less the 51% township residency) would be charged
permit fees, and township residents would have priority on all field use.
Neil Sardiñas made the motion to recommend these guidelines to the P&R department
Mary Ann Ahearn second the motion. Motion passed, 6 - 0.

* The approved Athletic Field and Facilities Permit guidelines are recommendations and not policy.

The guidelines are listed below:

- A) To be considered a Township group or organization, you must have 51% residency, which includes
Bridgeport and West Conshohocken.
- B) If considered an outside organization, a field and or facility use fee must be charged to that organization.
If these are excessive, and is a hardship to an organization, consideration will be made to discount
the fees. This is not automatic, but will be considered.
- C) Priority will and must be given to Upper Merion Township residents and organizations. If there is

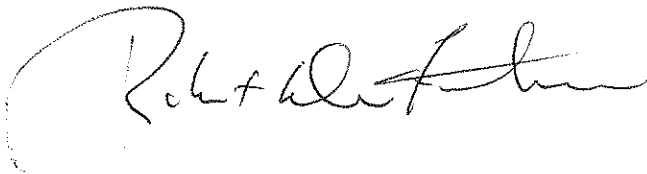
- availability, outside organizations may apply for permits but this is not automatic.
- D) There can be use and time limitations assigned to requested use of fields and facilities. Requested time must be approved first. Again, priority is given to Upper Merion residents and organizations.
 - E) Any alterations or improvements done to fields or facilities must be approved first by the Parks and Recreation Department
- 3) A discussion by board members followed regarding the issuing of field permits and fees to "outside organizations", the overuse of athletic fields, and the importance of charging field permit fees to offset park maintenance and capital improvement costs.
- 4) David Burns expressed interest in forming an "Athletic Fields committee." This would involve all athletic fields within our township parks and school district. He noted the importance and need for turf fields to maximize play space. "This should be all about partnerships within the community".

PARKEVALUATIONS

Tina Garzillo suggested new park evaluation guidelines to specifically target the needed maintenance and improvements of individual township parks. Board members Mary Ann Ahearn and Eileen Connelly will assist Tina with the guidelines.

Adjournment : 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob DeFelice

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob DeFelice", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the typed name and is enclosed within a faint, hand-drawn oval shape.