

Upper Merion Park & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

September 13 , 2016

Tuesday - 7:33 PM.

Attendees : Tina Gazillio , Robert DeFelice , MaryAnn Ahearn , Eileen Connelly , Neil Sardifias ,

Dan Russell ,Bill Schutter .

Guests : Barley Van Cleif, Jonathan Black.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes - August 9, 2016. APPROVED 5 - 0.

Park & Recreation Board Chairperson ,Tina Garzillo, welcomed all board members and attendees

to the board's new meeting location at the township's new Community Center.

Park & Recreation Director's Report

Dan Russell reported and /or made the following comments :

~ A very successful Ribbon Cutting Event for the township Community Center.

Group tours and memberships were available through out the Labor Day weekend.

~The Official flag raising ceremony of The American Flag at the Community Center.

~The overwhelming media presence and coverage at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

~The Park & Recreation Department had received an enormous amount of compliments from residents,proclaiming "it was worth the wait!"

Residents complimented the new front desk staff at the Community Center and

the outstanding fitness staff and state of the art fitness equipment.

~ 794 memberships, as of this meeting, were reported to have joined, with three (3) month

memberships now available.

~ The Park & Recreation budget for 2017 is currently being worked on to be presented to the BoS in October,2016, for approval.

Board of Supervisor Liaison Report

BoS Chairperson Bill Jenaway provided the following report and comments via e-mail.

~The past month had been very Park & Rec intense for the BoS.

- Weekly meetings and Ribbon Cutting / scheduled Grand Opening of the Community Center

-Review of the Park & Rec Master Plan.

-Researching and passing the alcohol consumption policy.

-The Allen Meyers agreement.

-Recomemendations from the P&R Advisory board to Dan Russell on implementing various parts of the Park and Recreation Master Plan is important as the Board of Supervisors plan capital spending in the future.

Park Maintenance Report

Park Maintenance Superintendent, Bill Schutter, reported on maintenance performed by his staff at the following township parks : Baxter Park , McKaig Park , Sweetbriar Park , Township building park, Walker Field , Swedeland Park , Swedesburg Park , Bob Case Park , Merrill C. Young Park and Heuser Park.

Old Business

~ Board member MaryAnn Ahearn reported the goats at Bob White Park have been removed.

MaryAnn reported on the remaining poisonous plant growth not eaten by the goats and suggested soliciting local residents and community group volunteers to cut and pull the remaining (poisonous) vegetation.

Board members questioned whether or not Larry Cihanek and his "green goats" met the original contractual agreement.

~Dan Russell gave a follow-up report on the security installation costs at Heuser Park and how it would impact the eight(8) sports organizations grant monies.

Assuming the BoS approves the grant monies in the 2017 Park & Recreation budget, grant monies will be disbursed to the sports organizations in the first quarter of 2017.

New Business

~ Upper Merion township Shade Tree Commission member, Barbara Van Clief, reported Montgomery County was detected positive for Emerald Ash Borer in 2013, effecting Ash trees.

It takes about 3 - 5 years from initial detection for widespread damage to become evident.

Once an Ash tree dies, it becomes brittle ,and starts to fail very quickly. These Ash trees will pose a significant safety hazard around township parks and especially the surrounding trail system at Heuser Park.

Barbara Van Clief informed board members she ,along with fellow Shade Tree Commission members, will report to the township board of supervisors the Department Of Conservation and Natural Resources recommendation to implement an Ash management plan to tackle the impending issue of dying Ash trees.

~ Chairperson Tina Garzillo reminded board members their ideas regarding the Parks

Master Plan will be discussed at the Park & Recreation board's November meeting.

~Board member Eileen Connelly commented on the direction of the special education program at the Upper Merion Middle School. "Autistic kids need social skills...with other kids."

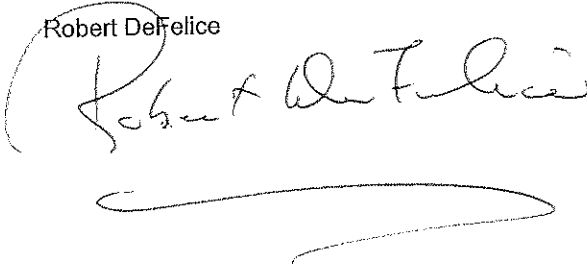
Eileen Connelly proceeded to informed board members she is resigning from the Park & Recreation Board. Eileen expressed enjoying and sharing many accomplishments during the twenty-three years she served on the board, especially with Baxter Field.

Chairperson Tina Garzillo and board members thanked Eileen for her dedication serving on the board and wished her well. Tina extended an invitation to Eileen to attend future board meetings to offer her input...and that she was always welcome.

Adjournment : 9 : 38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert DeFelice

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert DeFelice". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name. There is a large, sweeping underline stroke beneath the signature.

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