

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 12th, 2019

7:30 PM

Attendees: Mike Trachtenberg, MaryAnn Ahearn, Neil Sardiñas, Deena Newman, Dana Augustine, Robert DeFelice, Dan Russell & Tina Garzillo

Guests: Brian Schlorff, Mike Scioli, Joe Brophy

1. The Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of the January 8th, 2019 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 6-0.

3. Board of Supervisor's Liaison Report – Tina's report included the following:

- New PennDOT center in the old wine store location off Gulph Road
- Four more indoor markets left – first outdoor market will be on May 18th
- Pink's Hot Dogs is open in the Savor Food Court
- Jared Jewelry Store on 202 has closed with no notice
- Swedesburg Firehouse having lenten dinners every Friday during lent from 5p-8p
- KOP Restaurant Week and Shop for CHOP is this week
- Mckaig Nature Center has an Orienteering Event on 3/16
- Road Closures on Brownlie and Church
- Meeting regarding new high school on 3/13 at the high school
- April 13th is Earth Day and there will be a tree planting event on 4/27 at Heuser Park

4. Park and Recreation Director's Report

- Department and staff working on summer hiring for all programs
- Crow Creek – second meeting with Gilmore on 3/13
- Applied for another tree vitalize grant this year but have not heard back
- DCNR – meeting next week regarding Parks and Rec grants
- Board of Supervisors meeting – approved demo of Mullen property
 - KOP company won the bid
 - Property has been cleared out
 - Rusty the dog has been saved!
- Pond dredging should be complete by Friday, 3/15
- Meeting with PennDOT last week
 - Friends of VFP had a feasibility study for connecting Gulph Road to WF trail
 - Lots of thing still up in the air
 - No funding identified yet
- Moving forward with surveillance at Heuser Park – budgeted in 2018
 - Cameras cover outdoor portion of clubhouse
 - Camera at scale house to keep track of license plates
 - Wifi will also be available in the park
- Start date for dog park is still up in the air

- Dana reaching out to Linda Franchi regarding ideas
- Safety concerns regarding retention pond now that dredging has made it deeper
- UMCC working on roof repair over the summer
 - Starting May
 - Back lot will be shut down
 - Parking concern for summer with the pool and camps

5. Old Business

- Walker Park – working on ideas for water issues
- New high school being unveiled at meeting on 3/13
- Moving away from doing a joint park project with the schools and community clubs
- UMCC working on roof repair over the summer
- Joe Brophy unhappy with the status of the fields – down 19 fields since the 60's and field quality poorer
- Mike Scioli for UMBA
 - Planting grass on fields will help control water
 - Field lighting needed – still too dark especially when leaving the field and lights turned off
 - Would like new stands
 - Possibly consider engineer to come look at preventing water problems at Walker Field
- Schuylkill River West Trail
 - Awarded grant for five benches
 - Neil helping to pick the spots
 - Discussion about planting and mulching at Heuser and Bob White
- Heuser Park Shared Maintenance program
 - Football and lacrosse on board but waiting for better weather
 - Paul reaching out to soccer and baseball
- Park inspection list went out last week with assignments
- MaryAnn informed us that Bob White now has a sign
- Clubhouse painting at Heuser will take place in the spring
- Rob recommended making the grass infield an all dirt/clay infield on the full-sized baseball field to allow additional recreation programs to use of the field
 - He would like to see more adult recreation scheduled at Heuser Park, i.e. adult coed softball one night a week
 - Concern that all dirt will lead to water issues

6. New Business

- Neil – resident requesting scavenger hunt in community
- Deena – Shared Greg Wak's Facebook post on what is most important to members of the community
 - Splash Pad and outdoor pickleball courts top of the list

Adjournment: 9:47pm

Kindly Submitted,

Dana Augustine

