

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 9th, 2019

7:30 PM

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

Guests: Brian Schlorff, Mike Scioli, Mark Volpi, Jerry Recupido, Chris Burkett

1. The Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of the March 12th, 2019 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 7-0.

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

- Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company is hosting free smoke alarm installation days
 - Three smoke alarm blitzes in 2019
 - First event will be April 27th from 9am-1pm
 - Will install over 100 free smoke alarms
- Saturday April 6th was the Spring cleanup event – over 2 tons of trash collected
- Tree planting event at Heuser Park on April 27th
- Earth Day celebration on Saturday April 13th at the Township Building from 11am-2pm
- April 20th and May 4th are the final indoor markets
 - May 18th will be the first outdoor market
- UMBA had opening day on Saturday April 6th
- Rob asked about the zoning request by Simon
 - Tina said no decision has been made yet

4. Park and Recreation Director's Report

- Pond project is complete
 - Still brainstorming about fencing options
- Tree Vitalize grant awarded for \$21,415 – will go towards April tree planting
- Starting Mullen property demo soon
 - All contracts executed and insurance complete
- Earth Day celebration has schedule of events
 - Tree City USA award will be given at 12pm
 - 43rd year in row!
- Rob was worried about lack of frogs and turtles at the pond
 - Also feels a few additional items are incomplete at pond
 - Requesting the contract with the landscapers be changed to help with park maintenance
 - Leaves and debris
- Deena – gave reminder about the poster competition for Earth Day for kids

5. Park Maintenance Report

- Jerry Recupido's first day was March 18th

- Visited every park and gave a list at the meeting of things he noticed
- Will be diligent in checking on parks to keep up with maintenance
- Mike let Jerry know about our park assignments
- Rob asked how many people are working with Jerry
 - Jerry and 5 others for now
- Jerry received an email from a concerned citizen
 - Resident worried no one knows the community garden is there because it's blocked by trees
 - Wants the trees cut down so residents can see it from the road
 - Most park members disagreed

6. New Business

- Gilmore and Associates Crow Creek update from Chris
 - Did an update for the supervisors last week
 - Showed map of road crossings on areas of the trail
 - Couldn't cross any wetlands
 - Need to make sure any flood planes could be built over if on original route
 - Issues near the community center
 - Can't go behind the center or the original way from the middle school
 - Had to adjust these routes
 - Trail will be on upper community center lot near pool instead
 - Less slope and greater chance users will cross at crosswalk
 - Mid-block crossing now in front of middle school
 - Deviated around Walker as well to have less slope
 - Board was not in agreement – players warm up between the fields and we'd rather have the slope so it connects to neighborhood up above Walker Park
 - Everyone agreed to keep original plan up to Mullen Tract/Thomas Drive
 - Jerry asked if bridge can be replaced with something strong enough and wide enough to get a truck over – would be costly
 - Other existing bridges will need work as well
 - Impact of trail on adjoining properties
 - Will have public meeting soon
 - Bob Case has zig zag on north end – Neil requested to make it straight so it's easier for bikers
 - Chris looking into this

7. Old Business

- Thank you to Neil for helping with the park benches along Heuser Trail
- Thank you to Deena for championing the bat houses
 - More research to be done on these
 - Where to put them
 - Best ways to install
- Volpi Commons/UMASD Project
 - Mark Vopli is present to discuss
 - Volpi Commons was donated by Chuck Volpi to the community for open space in the 70s
 - Property was dedicated to the township in the 80s
 - Listed as a park
 - Mark is not and has never been on board for Volpi Commons to become anything other than open space
 - Rob would like the board to donate a plaque for Chuck Volpi

- Built the original ice-skating rink where the present Community Center is located, including the swimming pool
 - Mr. Volpi was also responsible for many other endeavors throughout the township
- Heuser Park Shared Maintenance Program
 - Paul started putting fertilizer and seed down
 - The fields are looking good
 - Paul needs clarification on who cuts what – township vs. sports groups
 - Scoreboard at Heuser has crooked numbers – needs fixed and has a lot of little screws
- Security cameras going up at Heuser in the next few weeks
 - Paul reported that dog walkers are throwing poop bags on the ground instead of trash cans
- Nice new weigh station shed
- Community Center meeting update – Deena
 - Discussing ideas for older kids
 - Rock wall or game room
 - Asked board for ideas
 - Roof going to bid next week
 - GlennAnne had the idea to have people sign the roof as incentive to members to stay during construction
 - Senior Center is aware corridor will be shut down
- School district has been lining fields at Heuser for Lacrosse to use the space
- No update yet on the Brownlie Road bridge project

Adjournment: 9:58pm

Kindly Submitted,

Dana Augustine

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Augustine". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

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