

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 14th, 2020

7:30 PM

Attendees: Mike Trachtenberg, MaryAnn Ahearn, Paul Salamy, Deena Newman, Neil Sardiñas, Dana Augustine, Dan Russell

Guests: Donna Heckscher, Maurice Heckscher, Tom Kozuchowski, Paul Barnhart, Brian Rogers, Drew Newman, Steve Gillette, Monica Pedano, Jerome Ocker, Brian Schlorff

1. The Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the November 12th, 2019 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.
3. Reorganization
 - Marianne – motion to make Paul temporary chair for reorganization
 - Mike nominated as chair by Paul, approved 4-0
 - Marianne nominated for vice chair, approved 4-0
 - Dana nominated for secretary, approved 5-0
4. Guests – Pickleball Presentation by Deena Newman
 - Discussed the benefits of pickleball and how it affects the community
 - Many Community Center players showed up for support
 - Group would like the board to consider adding pickleball courts at Heuser Park as part of the phase two development plan
 - Would also like temporary solutions
 - Bob White
 - Other parks where conversion or shared courts is possible
5. 2019 Year in Review
 - Crow Creek Trail
 - Continue working toward construction
 - Demolition of Mullen Property
 - Township building pond dredging
 - Heuser Park surveillance equipment installed
 - Schuylkill River West Trail – five benches installed
 - Park inspection program
 - Heuser Park clubhouse painted
 - Tree plantings
 - Bat Houses
 - Heuser Park shared maintenance program
 - Input given for Catalyst billboard proposal
 - Riverfront access joint subcommittee with ECDC formed
 - Supported North gulph road trail study

- Working with UMASD for use of township fields
 - Usage, maintenance, sharing and upgrades
- Moira Ryan appointed as our senior member
- Distributed grants to many township organizations
- Rob DeFelice – acknowledgement of his many years of service to the P&R board
 - He served as secretary for many years as well as the first liaison with the Community Center Board
- On-going projects
 - Dog Park
 - Pickleball Courts
 - Crow Creek Trail
 - Riverfront access land acquisition
 - Heuser Park expansion

6. Board of Supervisor's Liaison Report- Tina Garzillo

- No updates

7. Park and Recreation Director's Report- Dan Russell

- Still moving forward with Schuylkill River Trail West to Valley Forge Park
 - All permits approved
 - Start date still TBD
- Meeting with school district and sports organizations Thursday morning, the 16th
 - Setting up scheduling and maintenance for shared fields
- Roofing project has been put out to bid again
 - Project will start Mar/Apr
 - 150-day project
- ADA pathways for Swedeland and Bob White are out to bid
 - Part of the park renovations
- Norfolk Southern Land Opportunity
 - 60 days to submit an offer
 - DCNR looking into grants
- Dog Park
 - Township engineer is working on a quote for land survey and scope of the park

8. Park Maintenance Report- Jerry Recupido

- Majority of parks had leaf cleanup as well as trash empties and dog bags filled
- Lighting timers checked on December 4th and January 7th
- Assisted with holiday village event
- Brush clearing beginning in the near future at multiple locations
- 2020 park survey/projects completed

9. Old Business

- Riverfront Park
 - BOS took tour of the property
 - Appraisals being worked on

10. New Business

- Pool Feasibility Study
 - Paul helping with this

11. Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report- Deena Newman

- Total passholder members has reached 2733 with 129 of them new
- 24% above projected revenue for the year
- New decals in the weight room look great!
- Incident with fumes in child watch – taken care of quickly and nothing dangerous
- During roof project, members can freeze memberships
 - Will give ample notice
- Holiday Hóoplah was successful
 - Some attendees recommended a multi-day event
- Seniors as more time to walk on the track
 - Currently \$5 to use the track
 - Silver Sneakers is free

12. Additional comments

- Vacancy on the board

Adjournment: 9:13PM

Kindly Submitted
Dana Augustine

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