

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 11th, 2020

7:30 PM

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

Guests: Brian Schlorff

1. The Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the January 14th, 2019 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 4-0.
3. Guests
 - Brian Schlorff – Upper Merion Soccer Club
 - Making a lot of changes
 - The younger program is now 3-5
 - Starting a new program for ages 6-9
 - Three new levels of travel teams for the fall
 - Registration is already open for some of the programs
 - Working on starting an adult league
 - No current issues for field space
 - Working with Rob Devers for the fall and sharing space
4. Board of Supervisor's Liaison Report- Tina Garzillo
 - Kingswood Fire
 - 42 residents were displaced
 - Three units completely destroyed
 - So far \$4800 raised by the community
 - There is a green bin on the upper level of the township building for gift card donations
 - Everyone received housing that night and all injuries were minor
 - Lowest responsible bidder on UMCC roofing project is Detweiler for \$847,000
 - Village of Valley Forge came forward with another development plan for another housing project
 - 102 units total on Green Valley Lane
 - Pool feasibility study was approved
 - Reminder that winter farmer's market continues
5. Park and Recreation Director's Report- Dan Russell
 - Staff update
 - Formally offered full-time position to Stephan Dudas for front desk supervisor
 - Two program coordinator positions have been filled

- The farmer's market manager position is moving to the Parks and Rec Department
- There have been several applications for the position previously held by Gwen at the community center
- Summer preview was last week with about 200-250 people attending
- Concert Under the Stars program schedule is almost full
- July 4th activities have been planned
- Conversations with Gilmore and Associates indicate that permits are prolonging the process with the Crow Creek Trail
 - We are working on asking a state representative about ways to keep things moving
- Schuylkill River West Trail connection to Valley Forge Historic National Park
 - Conversations continue with PennDOT regarding the retaining wall
 - No date for construction
- DCNR talking about 2 grant opportunities
- Ongoing statistical report and highlights from this past month
 - January – 9,900 visits to the community center and center rented out 11 different times to various users
 - Group exercise offered 193 different classes with over 2300 participants
 - 237 paid guests for the month
 - Montco Guild of professional arts had their first show
 - Total revenue for January for the Parks & Rec Department was 110k

6. Park Maintenance Report- Jerry Recupido

- Monthly maintenance at all parks
- Christmas tree collection – 305 to date
- Tree clean-up performed
 - Jefferson and Flint Hill Road
 - Jefferson and Columbus Streets
 - Third and River Road
 - Gypsy Woods
- Prep snow equipment for snow events
- CDL training
- Ordered and picked up new chainsaws/hedge trimmer
- Perform equipment maintenance
- Measure square footage for wood carpet replenishment
- Power washing of play equipment beginning

7. Old Business

- Dog Park Update
 - Township has \$25,000 budget for the park
 - Township engineering firm put together a proposal for design (8k) and to oversee construction (7k)
 - Dan met with Tony regarding concerns about there being a shortage in funds for construction
 - Neil – does it have to be fancy? Can we do it for less money?

- Dan – needs to meet ADA requirements in order to be called Upper Merion Dog Park
- Can the design be done and the dog park group raise money for the rest of the costs?
 - a. Help with ownership of the group and get the community more involved
- Discussed Dan possibly getting permission to get other quotes from other engineers
- Pickleball Courts
 - Spoke to Alice Hope regarding pickleball lines on their new UMASD tennis courts – she agreed and has sent a request to their designer to include the lines
 - Any tennis courts that will be rehabbed going forward in the township will be lined for pickleball
 - School district may not be using Heuser as extensively this coming spring as previously thought
 - A meeting with all the sports organizations took place to collaborate with the school district and it went well
 - A ball-stop to catch fly balls are being installed for safety

8. New Business

- Pool Feasibility Study subcommittee met last Thursday
 - Questions regarding what the study is looking for
 - Introducing some activities such as a rock-climbing wall, zip line, etc. to attract teens
 - Maybe having one side of the 50m pool deeper for meet availability
 - Thinking about ways to create a zero-entry pool for the baby area and splash pad ideas
 - Balcony/deck area to extend usage throughout the year
 - More shading areas discussed
 - They will present the second week of March to give an idea of how much everything will cost

9. Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report- Deena Newman

- A subcommittee has been created to address the community center roof project
- The presentation to the Board of Supervisors for membership for those with low income can be presented

Adjournment: 9:20PM

Kindly Submitted
Dana Augustine

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