

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 9th, 2020

7:30 PM

Attendees: Mike Trachtenberg, MaryAnn Ahearn, Paul Salamy, Deena Newman, Neil Sardiñas, Tina Garzillo, Jerry Recupido, Dan Russell

Guests: None

1. The Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the March 10th, 2019 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.
3. Guests
 - No guests
4. Board of Supervisor's Liaison Report- Tina Garzillo
 - Still continuing to have new cases of COVID-19 in Montgomery County
 - Upper Merion township seeing new cases as well
 - MaryAnn – how is the township doing with the mall closed?
 - 2021 will see the impact
 - Significant decrease in revenue
 - Casino also feeling the impact
 - Jerry – is the shade tree committee still receiving a third truck as promised earlier in the year?
 - Now have 8 employees and need three trucks to fit everyone
 - Will know more about the truck at the end of the month
 - BOS is drawing ordinances to allow more restaurants to have more outdoor seating
 - Some restaurants need to get creative
 - May close roads in the future
 - Rioters and looters – 300 people converged on the mall
 - 200 officers came to help
 - Also helping with future activity
 - AT&T, Macys and L&T breached but nothing taken
 - Costco windows broken
 - Protests at 202 and Henderson
 - All remained peaceful
 - Residents getting annoyed at the travel inconvenience
 - Still going on in the evenings
 - Paul was there one of the nights and said there was very good dialog
 - Elections – everything went okay
 - Mail-in didn't go well
 - Some people still did not receive their ballots

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

- Community Center closed in the middle of March as well as the Senior Center
 - All still closed
 - Furloughed a good portion of employees
 - Parks remain open, although facilities and playgrounds closed
 - Had to cancel a big portion of spring programs
 - Sent all refunds for canceled programs - amount has reached \$300,000
 - Canceled Concert Under the Stars and July 4th Festival
 - Community Center roofing project began which is good timing since the center is closed
 - Should be done in the next three weeks
 - CC has staff meeting twice a week for programming ideas
 - Releasing new camp info shortly
 - Outdoors at a few different locations
 - Came up with a plan to open pools – opening Monday, June 15th
 - Hoping to salvage some of summer
 - Preparing different operating budgets this year
 - Fireworks still going off, but in the fall for Community Day
 - Saving some money because of lack of programs, less employees and expenses
- Crow Creek – all permits received
 - Gilmore finalizing bid preparations
 - Received extension for grant
- Development off Ross Road
 - Relocating Ross Road park
 - Dan working with attorney over what it will look like
 - First version wasn't acceptable – requesting changes
- Farmer's Market
 - Implementing new guidelines for yellow phase
 - Most significant change is 10 to 25 people allowed
- Youth sports can begin practicing in yellow
 - Been talking to the Patriots and UMBA
 - Putting together a safety plan for controlled practices
- Norview Farms
 - Nursery remains closed because the bulk of sales are in spring so it doesn't make sense to open for summer
 - Water is open as well as Petrucci's
 - People are not allowed to touch the animals

6. Park Maintenance Report- Jerry Recupido

- Been very busy
- Hired two more employees
- Bollards were fixed at Heuser
- Township building – installed permanent trash cans
- Installed 14 new doggie trash cans at various parks
- Power washing play equipment and courts
- Has gotten a lot done with no sports field maintenance
- Wood carpet spread on playgrounds

- 19 lights out at Heuser
- Fixed mud issues at township playground
- Derecho – lots of township damage
 - A lot cleaned up already but more to go
- Would like to start coating our own courts
- Deena – plans to put up more bat houses
 - Jerry will put them up when all the damage is cleaned up from the storm

7. Old Business

- No updates currently

8. New Business

- Dan has been involved in a lot of meetings on how to implement reopening some facilities – wants to discuss plans for six areas with the advisory board
 - Playgrounds – Dan feels they should remain closed
 - Would need daily cleaning which is not feasible
 - Would have to work 7 days a week and nothing else would get done
 - Hard to implement social distancing with children
 - Tennis Courts – Dan feels they should be opened
 - People bring their own balls
 - Deena would like more lines for pickleball
 - Basketball Courts – Dan feels they should be opened
 - Again, people provide their own equipment
 - Must be small groups but no real way to police this
 - Skate Park – Dan thinks it should open
 - Concession stands and pavilions – Dan thinks these can open, but no renting out
 - Only for lunch, shade, etc.
 - Athletic fields – following guidelines from the state but no games, tournament or organized play yet
 - Just small practices
 - Paul – lacrosse asking to have small practices – will be treated like the other sports in terms of rules
- Motion to approve all of Dan's recommendations – Paul motions, Dana seconds
- Mike – start assessing parks for the month of July
- Parks & Rec moving to a virtual brochure
- New athletic director for UMASD, Paul, working with Dan on shared maintenance program
- Mike would like to bring the new athletic director to a meeting in the fall
- Pool – not prorating memberships this year
 - May be adding weeks after Labor Day
 - Deena concerned about reaching capacity
 - Usually don't hit 400 so most likely won't be a problem
 - Pool has done a significant amount of refunds for people uncomfortable keeping their memberships this year

9. Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report- Deena Newman

- Didn't meet since March

Adjournment: 8:55PM

Kindly Submitted
Dana Augustine