

## **Upper Merion Shade Tree Meeting May 17, 2022 At UM Township Building and Remote**

**Attendees:** Tina Garzillo (Supervisor Liaison), Chris Marshall, Jerome Ocker, Jerry Recupido (Staff Liaison), Sue Ridgeway, Barley Van Clief (remote)

Guests: Mary Ann Ahern

**Called to Order:** 7:20 pm due to technical difficulties. Unable to start the Zoom because no one in attendance was the “owner” of the meeting. Continued with Facetime with Barley remote.

**Approval of Minutes:** The meeting minutes were approved from the March meeting.

### **Supervisor Liaison Report:**

\*Tina reported that the Farmers Market started – but not full capacity yet because it is the start of the growing season.

\*On Tuesday, May 24, a Storm Water Management Forum will be held in 2 different time slots: 12:30- 1:30 and 7-8pm in Freedom Hall. To help the Township meet state MS4 mandates, an assessment will be levied to Residents & Businesses. Grant Money is also being sought through Senator Cappelletti. Flooding in the area has been analyzed, leading to recommendations for improved infrastructure.

\*The Chief of Fire and Medical Services was sworn in - James Johnson, a 35-year veteran.

\*The DEI resolution proposed from the ECDC Citizen Board – Diversity, Equality, Inclusion – was approved by the Board of Supervisors/.

\*Hometown Heroes Signs – fewer than 90 places are left – about 50 signed up to Honor UM Veterans. The forms are available on the website.

### **Staff Liaison Report-**

\*Jerry reported that two of the Parks employees have finished studying and will take the ISA Certified Arborist exam- waiting for approval from ISA.

\*One employee is attending tree climbing school in Reading.

\*Valley Forge Acres – taking 2 trees down and will finish tomorrow. There are also 2 trees at MC Young that are rotted.

\*Jerry would like to get 15-16 trees in the Fall – and use 5 or 6 at Bob Holland and the rest at Heuser Park. Barley will talk with Jerry in the summer and decide which species.

### **Boy Scouts/Eagle Scout Project:**

\*Andrew Fadgen’s project is completed and very well done. At least 15 trees at the Arboretum were weeded, mulched and labeled. The QR code leads to Arboretum information, which we will need to continue to populate. Andrew’s Eagle ceremony will occur this summer.

\*Michael Gibbon – we are giving up on him – he never got back to us.

**Arboretum** – The Clean Earth company held an employee volunteer day with about 35 people on April 28. Their intention is to return possibly quarterly.

- Mulched trees – continued the work that Andrew Fadgen began.
- Cleaned up trash and debris.
- Bamboo stand -- cleared out dead bamboo debris.
- Also, when he was there, Jerome noticed a group harvesting bamboo- inside the containment. Barley will call the bamboo guru and see if he says it is helping or hurting the bamboo.
- Jerry said that the Highway Department cleaned out some of the collected debris from the volunteer day and will probably get the rest.

**April 9 Volunteer Day at Heuser** went well. It was rainy but they got a lot done weeding and mulching the area along the trail near the compost site access. The regular and tried and true volunteers showed up for the event. Neil and Lydia Dan-Sardinas are ½ way through the Tree Tenders program!!

**Earth Day** – Sue staffed the STC and Tree Tenders table and got a list of people interested in planting trees and will resend to Barley. Jerome did a great job with the tree planting demonstration – about 25 people attended.

#### **Bare Root Planting –**

\*Spring planting: Girl Scout Troop 771 planted 9 trees along Henderson Road – currently the Red Buds are struggling, and one sugar maple may be dead, but others look good. Jerome planted trees for the Ross family – Kudos to Jerome and to Barley, who planted 3 trees & bench at Heuser Park as a memorial by a family who lost their Mom– looks really good.

\*Switchback trees behind the community center are doing well – but one of the Volpe Commons trees is not.

\*The group decided that we should we offer trees to the community again in fall. They will arrive Nov. 15 with a Nov .17 pick up date. We will require that residents watch the planting video and will list this on the sign-up sheet. We will again offer planting assistance to those who need it.

**Schuylkill West Trail Connector** - Jerome visited and reported that they removed every tree and hadn't built the retaining wall yet. The trail will be 60x70 foot long and 12 feet wide and is currently almost connected. Jerome thinks too many trees were removed but the engineering firm indicated it was necessary. It's possibly because of access for the large equipment. In future we would like to have the Shade Tree Commission walk the trail and specify in the plan the number of trees taken down. Wondering if they are going to replant trees? Grant funded.

### **Crow Creek Trail**

- \*Pretty much done – Jerome said, after a lot of rain, when the pond fills up, it dribbles down and puddles on the bridge. Needs drainage.
- \* The trees we planted at Covered Bridge are all alive!
- \* There is still a lot of room to plant at bridge – Rail fence is in there.
- \* Kenney still hasn't planted the 6 trees he owes the Township. He also needs to clean up large cut logs at Volpe Commons. Jerry's crew cleaned up similar large log debris at Covered Bridge.
  
- \* The Township applied for Crow Creek Trail Amenities, including benches, signage, dog waste stations, trees – via Infrastructure funding. If it is awarded we will plant in the Spring.
- \* Perhaps we could use trees that are available from the Flower Show teardown. Barley and Jerry will arrange, with help from Sue and Dawn Heefner.

### **Thomas Road Property –**

- \*People continue to walk across the corner property and the owner wants a berm, a fence at the top of the trail and buffer plantings. We've made species recommendations.

### **BCA grants –**

- \*We have submitted a request for \*\$1000 for the watering system for the tree nursery.
- \*We also submitted a request to fund removal of a diseased maple trees at the Arboretum.
- \*All previous grants were accounted for/completed and reports submitted.
- \* On June 8<sup>th</sup> the award event will be held at VF Casino.

**Beautification Awards** due May 20. Some residents nominated. Commercial Winner is 367 S. Gulph, UHServices per Jerry Recupido. The Distinguished Tree is Willow Oak at 445 Stacey Drive.

### **New Business:**

**July meeting** – needs to be rescheduled – make it the week after (thus July 27) since members are not available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday that month.

### **Volunteer Work Days** for Fall –

- \*Barley will check with Gerri Vattio and Jerry R to determine when it works for their schedules.
- \*Continue the weeding, mulching and pruning at Heuser Park.
- \*Oct Days at NorView – no volunteers wanted to come back – won't be happening this year.
- \* Suggesting a Winter volunteer day with the Tree Tenders Day– pruning (see video) and cutting vines

### **Tree City Growth Awards**

- \*We have often directed activities with this award in mind, but we never have any trouble getting the award – we do a lot!

**Linear Park – First Ave –**

\*The KoP BID has asked for a meeting about the Linear Park plan, which will pass the Arboretum on Moore Avenue. BID affects the Arboretum. Barley, Jerome & Tina will attend.

**Fee in Lieu of Planting**– Chris mentioned that many municipalities he works with have made the cost of “Fee in Lieu” high enough to discourage the removal of viable trees. He asked whether the price go up in accord with the actual cost of the trees (e.g. currently a 2-inch caliper tree costs \$250 and \$450 to put it in. ) We all agreed that this would help to save mature trees.

**Park & Rec Board report –**

\*Mary Ann Ahern reviewed notes from the recent meetings. Park rentals are popular. Results are in for the Residence Survey for Heuser Part 2 – lots of information

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:47 pm