

Upper Merion Park & Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes January 9, 2024

Attendees via Zoom: Mike Trachtenberg, Paul Salamy, Neil Sardinas, Mark Vondra, Holly Meade, Mary Ann Ahearn, Kyle Marchese, Tina Garzillo, Jerry Recupido

Attendees in person: Dan Russell, Kathy Garro

Guests: Vytas Masalaitis, Barley VanClief, Josie Walmuth

1. Approved meeting minutes 12/12/23
2. Board Reorganization:
 - a. Chair - Mike Trachtenberg
 - b. Vice Chair - Paul Salamy
 - c. Secretary - Kathy Garro
3. Guests
 - a. Vytas Masalaitis, McKaig Nature Center. Moonrise "snow" Full Moon Hike on 2/24/24
 - b. Josie Walmuth - Friends of Sweetbriar Park. New information kiosk to be constructed as an Eagle Scout project. Deer population study will be looked into by the township board.
 - c. Barley VanClief - Shade Tree Commission - needs volunteers, specifically from sports teams, to help with work on parks on 1/20/24 for vine cutting and 3/23/24 at Heuser for a work day.
4. 2023 Year in Review - Chair, Mike Trachtenberg
 - a. Parks & Recreation Board Accomplishments 2023
 - b. Board reorganized January, 2023
 - c. Chairperson: Michael Trachtenberg
 - d. Vice Chair: Mary Ann Ahearn
 - e. Secretary: Holly Meade
 - f. We discussed goals both short term and long term:
 - i. Dog Park
 - ii. PDF Map of Heuser
 - iii. Heuser II- walking tour
 - iv. Invite organizations we serve to our meeting
 - v. Tennis courts/pickle ball
 - vi. Board members assisting Park & Rec Department by being advocates for
 - vii. the various programs with schools, businesses, etc.
 - g. Continued our inspection of our parks
 - h. We met with the UM Senior Center, UMBA, UM Youth Football & Cheer and King of Prussia Soccer Club
 - i. Attended the annual BOS meeting
 - k. Walking tour of Heuser II
 - l. Proposed a sports recycling program
 - m. Curb cut at General Maxwell Road approved

- n. Participation in Shade Tree meetings- Mary Ann
 - o. Participation on the Community Center Board- Paul
 - p. Committee formed to seek grant for historical markers on the Schuylkill
 - q. River West Trail- Neil
 - r. Thank you to Mary Ann Ahearn for serving as Vice Chair for so many years.
 - s. Thank you to Holly Meade for serving as Secretary for an extended period
5. Board of Supervisor Report - Tina Garzillo
- a. BOS reorganization meeting held in January
 - b. Update on Township development projects
 - c. Meeting with School District officials to discuss tennis courts
6. Park&Rec Director Report - Dan Russell
- a. Community Center very busy - adding cooking classes, youth basketball ongoing, and weekend rentals
 - b. Swim instructors needed for spring session
 - c. Summer Camp Guide coming out soon
 - d. Farmer's Market December event very successful, January 19, 2024 will be Cocktail Night at Nor-View Farms
 - e. Joint effort with UM Mother's Club ongoing
 - f. Sweetbriar Park kiosk being done as Eagle Scout Project
 - g. Welcome to new Assistant Township Manager Amanda Lafty
7. UM Park Maintenance Report - Jerry Recupido. All parks cleaned and maintained. Ongoing projects for spring scheduled
8. New Business - none
9. Old Business - Historical Markers Project headed by Neil Sardinias
10. Community Center Advisory - Paul Salamy. Membership is up, classes are being added. Vandalism was addressed with the help of the UM Police Department
11. Public Comment - none
12. Adjournment 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Garro
Secretary
UM P&R Advisory Board