

Upper Merion Park & Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes May 14, 2024

Attendees: Mike Trachtenberg, Paul Salamy, Neil Sardiñas, Mary Ann Ahearn, Kyle Marchese, Tina Garzillo, Kathy Garro, Mark Vondra, Dan Russell, and Todd Lachenmayer

1. Approved meeting minutes 04/09/2024
2. Comments from Chairperson, Mike Trachtenberg.
 - a. Thank you to our student representative Kyle Marchese for his service and best wishes for his future endeavors.
 - b. Joint BOS and P&R boards will meet on Thursday, 5/28, at 8PM in the township building.
3. Board of Supervisors Report - Tina Garzillo
 - a. First Farmers Market will be held on Saturday from 10 - 2 at Nor-view Farms.
 - b. Twelve firefighters/EMTs have graduated and began work. The township is now covered by professional firefighters 24/7.
 - c. New Asian Fusion restaurant opened in the mall in the old Outback space.
 - d. Township, in conjunction with USDA and PA Game Commission is still investigating the deer population.
 - e. The Township and School Board are working together for a site for new tennis courts. The courts will be lined for both tennis and pickleball. They will not have lights.
 - f. Community Boards are still accepting applications for volunteers. Check Township website for details.
4. Park & Rec Director Report - Dan Russel
 - a. Excellent turnout for Earth Day activities Township was again granted the Tree City Award. The Township Earth Day award was given to Mary Ann Ahearn for her tireless efforts on behalf of our community.
 - b. Concerts Under the Stars lineup has been released, starting on 5/17 and continuing through the summer. There will be a special concert on July 3rd at Heuser Park.
 - c. Aquatics - Pool open house to be held on 5/18. Expanded membership will be open to 3000. There are limited spots available.
 - d. All Adventure Day Camp and Camp Beechtree slots are full for the summer. Consortium for the Arts has an increase in numbers.
 - e. The Community Fair will be held on October 5, 2024.
 - f. The Farmers Market has expanded to 70 vendors and new tents were erected on the Nor-view Farm property to accommodate the event.

- g. The UM Police denied the request for additional parking on Brower Road for the McKaig Nature Center as the site lines for parking were deemed dangerous.
 - h. P&R has reached out to the UM Police Department to host a community event around bike safety and etiquette.
 - i. Community Center had issues with teenagers fighting. UM Police were involved and three students were banned.

- 5. Park Maintenance Department - Todd Lachenmayer for Jerry Recupido
 - a. New lights have been installed at Walker Field and additional lights redirected.
 - b. Waiting for ballast to repair two path lights at Heuser Field.
 - c. Ball field maintenance and grass cutting are continuing.
 - d. Trail at Bob White has been mulched.
 - e. Trees have been removed at Sweetbriar Park.
 - f. Lighting timer to be reviewed at Swedeland Park and plumbing repairs were completed.
 - g. Tents were set up at Heuser for lacrosse tournament.
 - h. Ordered benches, trashcans, bike racks and dog waste stations for Crow Creek and SRW trails.

- 6. Community Center Advisory
 - a. Membership and usage slightly down as weather improves.
 - b. BCA Grant of \$6000 was received for Child Watch.

- 7. New Business

- 8. Guests - Lydia Sardiñas and Josie Wallmuth.

- 9. Adjournment 9:34 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Garro
Secretary
UM P&R Advisory Board