

UPPER MERION PARKS & RECREATION VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 11th, 2020

8:30 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 July 14th, 2020 Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 5-0.**
3. **Guests**
 - No guests
4. **Board of Supervisor’s Liaison Report- Tina Garzillo**
 - Starting to do interviews again for the Park & Rec vacancy – two next weeks
 - Trying to get the board rounded out again
 - Thermal scanners were put up in the township building – tells temperature
 - If you have a fever and are an employee, you are to talk to your supervisor
 - Last week with the storms – 14 water rescues
5. **Park and Recreation Director’s Report- Dan Russell**
 - Storm damage
 - Some damage in the parks but not as bad as previous storms
 - Roof at the Community Center held up well
 - Crow Creek did overflow again and flood out the lower level of the center
 - Garage bay had three and a half feet of water
 - Pretty sure there was no damage to floors because of the new flooring put in after the last big storm
 - Senior Center had some water backing up from the storm water management system due to roof not being finished in that area
 - Looking into ways to prevent water from coming in
 - Crow Creek
 - Project is out to bid
 - Concern during COVID regarding the amount of interest there will be – it’s been downloaded by 80 different companies so we are hopeful
 - Opportunity to purchase the bridges off Costars – bidding already done so you save money this way
 - Moving forward with playground renovations
 - Starting Valley Forge Acres today
 - Swedesburg, Executive Estates and M.C. Young
 - Ross Road Park through the development company

- Township moving into budget season
 - Difficult in the middle of a pandemic
- Community Center
 - Moving forward with opening – date coming out in the next day or two – targeting 9/8 and bringing staff back with a series of training
 - Floors have been refinished in the gym, permanent pickleball lines
 - Will be opening in phases – all contingent on changes from the county
 - Working directly with the PIO office to streamline communications
 - Deena – can people pause if they aren’t ready to go back yet? Yes – they want to have good community service
- Governor’s Recent Mandate
 - Shutting down sports until January
 - KOPSC was planning a 36-team tournament – was to take place on 8/8 and be a huge fundraiser for the group
 - Lots of rumors as to why it was canceled
 - Township didn’t find out about it until one week before it was to take place
 - Dan reached out to the soccer club to get an understanding of their plan and all the details – they reviewed it and felt there wasn’t enough time to allow the tournament to take place safely
 - Canceled because of this reason
 - School district also supported this decision as they were to host a few of the games as well and were also not comfortable
 - As a result, they are no longer allowing any tournaments to take place in the township until we are past the green phase
 - Very controversial issue that came up – Brian Schlorff resigned, so we will have a new point of contact for KOPSC
 - Changing the permit process for tournaments – some groups fill out a permit for the season, but they are making groups fill out a separate permit for each event
 - KOP youth football not having a season
 - Dan is working on a program for the schools but cannot get into it too much – want to help parents that work – also some legal hoops to jump through so it’s not a “daycare.”

6. Park Maintenance Report- Jerry Recupido

- Walker Field and Executive Estates hit the hardest with the last storm and they are working on fixing them
- UMBA cleaning fence lines at Walker
- Reconstruction of playgrounds ongoing
- Received price back for resurfacing courts – Swedesburg, Bob Holland, Valley Forge Aces and hockey rink/basketball court at Bob White – hoping to get some money to do it in house
- Prices came in for roofing replacement at Baxter Field
- Timer on the tennis court at Executive Estates might be bad – keeps adjusting it and it keeps going on during the day – will replace it
- Having an issue with the field lights at Walker – working with an electrician

- Every time they start to get ahead, mother nature gets in the way!

7. New Business

- None

8. Old Business

- Paul – Norview Farm – What is happening?
 - Probably not moving forward with another garden center there – thinking of repurposing it as an amenity for the township
 - Public works department cleared it all out
 - May do something seasonal
 - Nothing is set in stone
- Paul – stopped by the outdoor pickleball courts in Ocean City, NJ – took them nine years to get them
 - Pre-COVID they had 60 people on the courts and 20 waiting in line so they are very popular
- Mike – sports team grants? Dan is checking with Tony to see if they are happening this year

9. Community Center Complex Advisory Board Report- Deena Newman

- Passholder update
 - 2780 passholders
 - 81 passholder cancellations
 - When payments are reinstated, that may change
 - Another 19k in refunds has been distributed back to passholders
- Pool member update
 - 1406 members
 - 2500 last year
 - 19 day passes per day (allow 30)
 - Has reached close to 275, a daily limit Heather set below the Department of health limits
 - On weekends, the pool is selling out day passes
- Pool feasibility study
 - 1500 respondents
 - Lazy river was the most requested feature
- Pickleball and badminton lines will be painted – tape left residue and hard to remove
 - \$2500 done once

10. Additional comments

- Paul – Heather sent an email saying she's adding some hours during the first week of September – may extend it as long as the weather holds out
- Dog Park – short on design money and were planning on asking for more pre-COVID
 - In a holding pattern for now

- o Recent developments with the purchase of the other piece of land near Walker and Mullen

Adjournment: 9:44PM

Kindly Submitted
Dana Augustine