

Upper Merion Park & Recreation Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes February 13, 2024

Attendees: Mike Trachtenberg, Paul Salamy, Neil Sardinias, Mark Vondra, Holly Meade, Mary Ann Ahearn, Kyle Marchese, Tina Garzillo, Kathy Garro, Dan Russell

Guests: Dawn Andrews

1. Approved meeting minutes 01/09/2024
2. Guests Dawn Andrews, Coates Lane, King of Prussia
  - a. Ms. Andrews addressed concerns at Bob Holland Park. New playground equipment was installed in 2023 and Ms. Andrews felt that some of the previous equipment better suited the range of ages of the children in the community. She wanted to know how the decision was made to install equipment and what recourse was available to the community to determine if additional equipment could be acquired. Mr. Russell indicated that he had previous conversations with Ms. Andrews and did explain how the park equipment was determined, how compliance with ADA statues was involved, and how the township was limited by the ground owned by the township. Ms. Andrews asked that a "baby" swing be replaced with a regular swing and Mr. Russell indicated that it would be swapped out. Going forward, it was suggested that if additional funds became available, a second look at the park would be made.
3. Board of Supervisor Report - Tina Garzillo
  - a. Listing of new restaurants in the community was discussed.
  - b. Township administrative conferences were discussed.
  - c. Issues with deer population were brought to the supervisors. Some discussion developed as to how other municipalities dealt with deer issues (culling the herd and/or population control). UM Township will work with PA Game Commission and develop a plan to address the issue.
  - d. Brownlie Road bridge replacement will begin this spring.
  - e. Farmer's Market for February was canceled as there was an issue with the tent. Township officials are still discussing how to move forward with the market at NorView Farms.
4. Park&Rec Director Report - Dan Russell
  - a. Summer Camp Preview Party was held at Community Center. Adventure Day Camp II is 100% filled. There are still some openings at ADC I and Camp Beechtree. Camps were opened to UM residents first.
  - b. P&R met with School District officials to discuss common use of facilities. Location of some summer camps may be moved based on district work at the schools. The district is committed to building tennis courts, probably on the Mullen Tract attached to Walker Field.
  - c. Pool Registration is already over 1000 members.

- d. Community Center is in need of a full time custodian and PT front desk help.
- e. Emergency health situation occurred at the Community Center and staff reviewed protocol for timely emergency response.
- f. Eagle Scout projects
  - i. Tree planting along Crow Creek Trail
  - ii. Repair Bike Station along Crow Creek Trail
  - iii. Informational kiosk at Sweetbriar Park
- 5. Park Maintenance Department - No report
- 6. New Business - No Report
- 7. Old Business - Historical Markers for ~~the Schuylkill River, West and Chester Valley trails~~
  - a. Neil Sardinias reported that the project was taking shape and a grant would be requested to fund the 6 markers along the trails.
- 8. Community Center Advisory
  - a. Paul Salamy reported an issue with Pickle Ball players. A volunteer was identified to help rank the players so that people could play against evenly matched skilled players.
  - b. Passholders increased to 2294. Daily and weekend usage of the center have also increased.
  - c. A request was made for alternate lighting in the Mind & Body Room. Currently, harsh overhead lighting existed and for yoga, softer more ambient light is requested.
- 9. Public Comment - None
- 10. Adjournment 9:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Garro  
Secretary  
UM P&R Advisory Board