

**Upper Merion Township
Park and Recreation Board Minutes
June 8th, 2010**

Attendees: Erika Spott, Dan Russell, John Tallman, Barb Schaffer, Neil Sardinas, Mike Trachtenberg,
Mary Ann Ahern and David Burns

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Minutes from May, 2010 approved

3. Board of Supervisors Liaison Report (Erika Spott)

A.) Introduced New Park and Recreation Board Member MaryAnn Ahearn

Interests include Parks, Sierra Club, Researcher, Trails, Diverse Sports and other Sub Committees.

The Attending Board Members all welcomed Mary Ann to The Park and Recreation Board.

B.) Mile A Minute Vine

Staff is looking into using the Township goats as a natural intervention to address the problem. Also Staff is coordinating with Penn State. Mr. Bartlett has s been informed of tentative plan. Jay Kowal has been consulted. A thoughtful public relations plan needs to be developed to minimize misunderstandings. Tentative pilot plan could be for July and August 2010. Dan R. and Jay K. reviewed and discussed the current research on the use of goats to control the vine problem. Other person that the staff could consult with as resources included Barkley Van Clef. Dan has met this person on the Shade Tree Commission. Erika also referenced a person associated with the Chester County Farmers Market. One of this person's .businesses is hiring out goats to feed on the mile a minute vines. Dan will attempt to contact this person for more information.

C.) Montgomery County Health Department has contact the UM Farmers Market to discuss rules of Operation. There are several Health Rules they will outline and after they are outlined will become enforceable to participating vendors.

4.) Directors Report

Dan shared the "Green Fence" that was part of the landscaping developed between Heuser Park and Bob Case Park. Dan also discussed the planning timetable to begin developing plans for the Community Center. A sub committee will meet with Mr. Ballard of Ballard and Kane Assoc. some time in July after the Holiday.

Dan discussed the beginning of the Summer Concert Series with a Beatles Tribute this Weekend. Fireworks will be displayed this July 4th. The Farmers market was mentioned as well as Bateman Day the showcase of the township baseball program

Next Dan offered that he attend a national Conference for Park and Rec. directors. Dan honors Upper Merion Township by being elected to their National Executive Board.

Finally Dan and Representative Briggs had conversations about the possible future concerns of liabilities associated with playground services. The concern identified in New

York City where children experienced second degree burns with the very dark colored surfaces.

5.) Old Business.

Neil requested an update on the possible trails between Hueser and Valley Forge National Park. Dan indicated that Mr. Wageman continues to have discussions about this potential trail development.

The board talked about meetings with the sports groups possibly in July??

The board discussed ideas about using spread sheets, forms and binders to catalog concerns in the Parks to better ensure a standard of quality control/oversight/monitoring. John shared his communications with Aqua concerning the broken pipe and water bill from the winter at Heuser Park. It was suggested that if a work order was placed then shown to the water company the bill might be closer to resolution. A temporary fix might be to cut and cap the pipe for now. Long term solution would be of benefit to the users of the park.

Barb discussed Heuser concerns like the overuse of the fields' impact on the fields.

Possibly the fields looked poorly because of the irrigation system being installed.

Police were called because of a suspicious person during a tournament. Dan will follow up with the police to identify the official outcome. In the Club House are doors being secured before during and after events?

Barb volunteered to cover Eileen's park for the next month.

6.) New Business

Neil asked if there any rules preventing residents from playing their music in the gazebo before dusk. Dan indicated there is nothing however they can not expect to just plug into any outlet.

Dave asked in the spirit of last months discussions regarding Adaptive Athletic programs that we include in our discussions considerations to include ways to possibly employ the adaptive athletes.

Question was raised about parking at Walker Field for Bateman Day. Wouldn't Heuser have been a better location? Dan will discuss with UMBA the pluses and minuses between the two fields.

Dan shared old drawings from Allan Myers for the possible field development at the western end of Heuser.

Mary Ann will review Bob Case Park. Neil offered to help her with her first review.

Volunteers were asked to join the Community Center Sub Committee. Mary Ann will do it.

John talked about how to use WORD so that any future changes in the minutes be shown in red using the proper tools on the task bar.

The Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by

David Burns
Acting Secretary

