

**Upper Merion Township Revised
Park and Recreation Board Minutes
March 8, 2011** Revised 3-24-11

Attendees: Barb Schafer, David Burns, Neil Sardinas, John Tallman, Eileen Connelly, Mary Ann Ahearn, Mike Trachtenberg, Erika Spott, Heather Melck for Dan Russell

Guests: Vinay Bansal, Shyam Maurya, Greg Waks, Carole Kenney, Bill Kenney, Terry Stevens, Diane Dyer, Connie Sondhi, Ashley Thomas

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes for January 2011 and February 2011 meetings approved.

Guests Vinay Bansal and Shyam Naurya of the Upper Merion Cricket Club attended for further discussion of the club's request for a permit to use the softball field at Bob White Park for their cricket matches. The discussion was joined by park neighbors Darlene Dyer and Connie Sondhi.

Residents raised the following concerns (followed by answers given)

- the length of the season and whether UMCC would be monopolizing the field. (Permits will sort this out and they show what BWP is available on weekends. Most games will be away and practice sessions are shorter than games)
- increased traffic and pedestrian safety in a neighborhood without sidewalks where adults and children share the streets with cars. (Players will carpool to reduce traffic and parking problems. Will be no worse than softball traffic.)
- park users being hit by stray balls (Play will be stopped while people are nearby and the pitch will be positioned to ensure safety to other park users.)
- whether other parks were considered, in particular Bob Case, Heuser and Caley? (These parks are not available on weekend mornings.)

All issues were discussed at length and resolved to the satisfaction of the park neighbors.

Other non-cricket related park issues raised by Mrs.Dyer and Mrs.Sondhi were the goose nuisance, hunters, loud groups at night who leave litter, beer cans, broken glass, etc. They asked about the program to use goats for weed control and think it's a great idea and hope to see it tried again this spring.

Directors Report: Dan was out with the flu, and Heather reported that the summer program guide is being printed.

Erika's Report:

Community Center: The consultants attended the BOS workshop meeting. There are three alternative approaches to consider:

1. a subsidized version with all the bells and whistles
2. a scaled down version with no outdoor pool
3. a version where the township breaks even

Trails - Heuser to VF Trail: This grant is still in place and the trail must be built within a year of receipt of the funds. This project is will further enhance the new Betzwood Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge

to be constructed. . Neil & Erica attended a Phila Bicycle Coalition meeting where the focus is on a network of trails. A meeting with Norfolk Southern has not yet happened.

Skate park: Les Glauner & Fran Littlewood will give a presentation to the BOS at the workshop meeting on March 10.

Upper Merion Swim & Tennis Club (Gold's gym pool): the indemnification agreement required to allow renovation work to begin has been signed. The BOS has seen plans for the renovation and there is lots of support for the project. Required permits will ensure the work is up to code. Parking concerns were raised.

Upper Merion Cultural Day: Park & Rec might be involved with this event, ECDC might also be involved. For 2011, it will likely be part of the Community Fair in September rather than a stand-alone event.

Old Business:

Cricket field – covered above.

Swim club – covered above.

Skate park – covered above.

Opening on Park & Rec board: Barb Shafer & others reported seeing this incorrect notice.

High School back gym: Dave reported that the lights need to be fixed. Rims are also in bad shape.

Peg White's exercise class is so popular that registration has had to be capped.

New business:

Farmers Market: 2011 plans:

BBQ with the Optimist Club on May 21st.

Possible "Outdoor Café" setting

Outdoor movies

Investigating more events – possibly 2nd Saturday events with music and picnic, Oktoberfest in the Fall, Holiday Market in December, etc..

The Mall will allow allowed UMFM to put up giant banners advertising the 2011 Market.

Awaiting applications from potentially new vendors this year.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Ahearn
Secretary