

**UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP  
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday May 14, 2018**

1. Call to Order

Rob Nagele	Chairperson
John Murray	Vice-Chairperson
Danielle Dvorchak	Secretary
Tom Duffy	Commissioner/Liaison
Liz McNaney	Commissioner
Kathleen Johnson	Member
Amy Juarez	Member
Emily Croke	Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Alex Kaker	Director of Parks & Recreation

2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on March 12, 2018

Mr. Nagele asked for any questions and corrections relative to the meeting minutes of March 12, 2018. A motion was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Johnson. The motion to approve the March 12, 2018 meeting minutes was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments

There were none

4. Old Business

A. Earth Day

Mr. Kaker reported that 11 trees were planted, and a path was installed on both sides of the sidewalk at Garfield Park.

B. Pickleball Courts (Lighting)

Mr. Kaker said we have contracted with BSI Electrical for \$26,800 and much of the cost is covered by a grant we received from Montgomery County. The pickleball lights should be installed by the end of June. We may begin offering pickleball lessons.

C. Community Center

Mr. Kaker noted a presentation was made at a prior meeting with design and cost estimates for the Community Center Project. We are now in the process of getting a second opinion regarding the accuracy of the information presented. Mr. Duffy said the cost estimate presented was prohibitive of moving forward with this project and we are seeking a second opinion.

D. Holiday Lights

Ms. Croke presented a list/description of responsibilities that she modelled after the playground build as a way to get started. A full-size pine tree (8'-10') will be installed at the triangle by the pavilion which will be lit. Other suggestions include lining the pavilion with lights, having carolers, serving hot chocolate and bringing a toy for attending the event. This will be a one-night event held on Friday, December 7, 2018.

#### E. Trails/Master Plan

Mr. Kaker met with Christine Hart, manager of North Wales Borough regarding some support from UGT for the following;

- Creating a connection between Pennbrook Middle School to Montgomery Avenue. Advisory Board agreed to be in support of the project, but did not advise that the Township should contribute funds.
- To freshen up the entrance to Parkside Place via Center Street in the Borough. Advisory Board is interested in pursuing any grants that NW Borough is involved with regarding the Center Street entrance

Mr. Kaker announced that the Township is looking at updating their Comprehensive Plan and may include the Trails plan, Community Center as well as a branding campaign.

#### F. Branding

Mr. Kaker said at the last meeting he challenged the Advisory Board to come up with ideas to get residents to respond that they live in UGT as opposed to responding Lansdale or North Wales. Ms. Croke responded, we can provide residents with stickers/window clings "Proud to live in Upper Gwynedd" that they can put on their car. A further discussion ensued regarding the branding of the Township.

### 5. New Business

#### A. Josiah Provan – BSA Troop 41

Mr. Provan of Troop 41, Washington Council Crossing, presented an Eagle Scout Project to the Advisory Board. His idea is to build a calisthenic playground in one of Upper Gwynedd's pocket parks, possibly Rexdale. Mr. Provan presented examples of a calisthenic playground that use body weight workout equipment to integrate some strength training in a park setting. He said there is not much maintenance after the equipment is installed as he will use pressure treated wood and galvanized steel. Mr. Provan said the surface material he considered is either mulch or grass to be the most cost effective, but he will conduct further research on alternative surface materials. He estimates the cost to build the calisthenic playground is \$450 for materials and the project to be completed by the end of the summer. Mr. Provan also presented a list of possible sponsors or fund-raising ideas for the project. A discussion ensued regarding the potential use of a calisthenic playground. Mr. Provan said taking a leadership role on this project will be a challenge for him as he is a "doer" but feels confident about delegating duties to his assistants.

Mr. Nagele asked for any further questions or comments. Mr. Kaker said the next step is to decide where the playground will be located (possibly Garfield Park) and for Mr. Provan to come back with an exact plan of what he is proposing. It will be sent to the entire Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the plan will proceed if there are no objections.

## B. Mindy/Stephen Dorsey – Dog Park Proposal

Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey made a presentation to the Advisory Board regarding a proposed dog park and what their research revealed regarding this proposed project. Mrs. Dorsey said they recently lost their son and would like to transfer this tragedy into a purpose by making a positive change for the community by fulfilling their son's dream of building a dog park. They presented their mission, what they hope to accomplish and the benefits of the dog park for the community. Mrs. Dorsey is asking the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to approve moving forward with a feasibility study to see if this makes sense for Upper Gwynedd. If this feasibility study is positive, then they can present to the Board of Commissioners regarding budget consideration for 2019. Mrs. Dorsey stated that \$20,000 has been raised in her late son's name to be used towards this project. A discussion ensued regarding the feasibility study and what should be a part of it.

Mrs. Dorsey said the next step is to create a Dog Park Committee and requested to be part of it. Mr. Kaker stated if the Advisory Board wants to pursue this, then a sub-committee should be formed so they can begin working on the details of a feasibility study to present to the Advisory Board in August. Mr. Kaker will email the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to see who wants to participate on the sub-committee and get a meeting set up soon to discuss the feasibility study. Mr. Duffy added that the sub-committee should have a very broad financial plan ready by September to be considered for the 2019 budget. A further discussion ensued amongst the Advisory Board regarding the pros and cons of the proposed dog park.

### 6. Other Business

Mr. Kaker thanked John Murray and Matt Duardo for coming out to the Montgomery County Senior Games. He also reminded the Advisory Board about the Golf Outing on Monday, June 4. Mr. Kaker asked if there was any interest in adding a sand volleyball pit? A discussion ensued regarding the volleyball pit and it was determined not to explore the concept further at this time.

### 7. Call for Adjournment (next meeting – Monday, August 13)

Mr. Nagele asked for any further questions or comments. Upon hearing none, Mr. Murray made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Dvorchak and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary