



PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION

Annual Summer Training Day

On April 8, facility supervisors from PPR recreation centers and playgrounds gathered at Pelbano Recreation Center in Northeast Philly for a training to prepare them for the upcoming summer season.

The day started with a continental breakfast followed by opening remarks from Commissioner Kathryn Ott Lovell. Attendees then enjoyed a keynote address from Juliene Hefter, Executive Director of the [Association of Aquatic Professionals](#). During Hefter's presentation, titled "RecAttitude," she discussed how to maintain a positive attitude in the workplace.

After that, staff was split into three groups and attended information sessions on a variety of topics. These included social media and promotion, concessions, technology, mandated reporting, and a presentation called "PPR Experiences." Presenters for the day included the PPR Communications Unit, Marc Wilken, Andy Viren, Bill Salvatore, and the PPR Program Coordinators.

In between group session blocks, Juliene Hefter also gave two additional presentations to all attendees. One was on the topic of lifeguarding and the other on effective leadership styles. Also included was a dynamic skit that covered the "do's and don'ts" of managing your summer program, performed by PPR Staff, including John McBride and Bill Arthur.

Vendors were in attendance as well. City initiatives such as Farm Philly and Get Healthy Philly, as well as corporate vendors like Six Flags and The Swedish Museum passed out information about how their services could benefit summer programming.

Lisa Whittle, PPR's Aquatics and Ice Rinks Coordinator, who was part of the team that organized the event, hopes that the training day inspired facility supervisors to create fun and innovative programs this summer. "The annual training day is a day for the recreation leaders to connect with each other, learn something new and have the chance to engage in conversation with people who are all doing great things for the City of Philadelphia and the Department," she said. "Hopefully, our commissioner, Kathryn Ott Lovell, and keynote speaker Juliene Hefter inspired the leaders to do great things this summer with their positive attitudes, and the presenters opened the door for different opportunities for the young people in the neighborhood summer camps."