

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 2017**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on February 23, 2017 at the Upper Macungie Township building. The following Recreation Board members were present: Dave Kentner; Stephanie Rauch-Mannino; Brian Kresge, April Navarra, Andrea Russell, and Karla Trumbauer. Also present at the meeting: Township Supervisors Jim Brunell and Sean Gill; Recreation and Events Coordinator, Lynn Pigliacampi; Dean Haas and Jason Schweyer from Keystone Consulting Engineers; Christopher Reeve from Howard Kulp Architects; and residents Brett Spengler, Andrea Scott, and others.

Dave called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. He asked all present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION

Stephanie nominated Karla for secretary, Andrea seconded. Remaining members voted yes with the exception of Dave, who declined. Karla also agreed to join "Friends."

Minutes from the previous month's meeting were approved with no updates. December minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cadet Troop 636 (Sarah Kolasa, Sabrina Collings, and Saakshi Girota) – The Cadet troop is planning to build a butterfly garden for their Silver award. They need a location with a water source (faucet ok). A proposal was submitted last week to Lynn, which will be passed along to Scott Faust. They have already looked at Rt 100 and Lone Lane, but have not been able to find a location with a water source. Lynn suggested Apple Park. Jim also suggested that the fire station could provide water to Lone Lane if coordinated.

COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT UPDATE and OPEN DISCUSSION

Dean provided background on the study, capital improvements plan, the steering committee, and the prioritized wish list. He then covered the contents of the feasibility study and the process to put it together. He highlighted the spending potential index for the 15 min drive time and 10 min walking time were higher than the national average (based on the 2010 census data). The overall conclusion was that the township has the financial means and potential usage for a community center.

Dean noted there is a draft survey with proposed questions, which the recreation board would review provide feedback on prior to publishing it to the broader public. The last survey on the community center was in 2009. Dean also indicated that, because of the potential cost and the desire to build without incurring debt, the preference and current proposed plan is to build in phases. There is a 3-phase and a 4-phase plan in the current proposal. If the 4-phase plan is chosen, the initial phase would be close to the \$3.5M initially proposed by the township supervisors. However, the team felt what would be built during this phase wouldn't meet the basic needs of the township. If the center was built in 3 phases, phase 1 would provide basic needs, and wouldn't be double the cost. Dean also stated that the initial desired design of a pole building would not be feasible due to span limitations. Additionally, the cost per square foot was much higher than expected.

Jim Brunell questioned potential revenue source from developer fees in the township. Plan does not assume increase in fees; unsure how much is grandfathered. There are some preliminary numbers around ongoing maintenance and upkeep, but more detailed analysis, including utility costs, is required. There was a question about IT systems required (POS). Lynn indicated that we already have software that can be utilized.

Question about survey – are we going to ask public what they want or tell them what the proposed center will cost. Jim said the cost needs to be included in the survey, as it could use discretionary tax money and people need to decide if they're willing to pay for that. Township residents need to decide if they're willing to go into debt or raise taxes. Dean and Lynn indicated the proposal does not include using tax revenue, but would take multiple years to build (through 2030).

Lynn indicated the feasibility study would be available online after the Board of Supervisors meeting. The rec board will review survey questions and provide feedback prior to supervisors meeting. Supervisors asked that a summary plan with the best case scenario be provided, including timeline and cost for each to the supervisor meeting. The survey should direct people to the website as well. Rec board should recommend proposal to supervisors that we've vetted, including a detailed plan with 10 year total cost of ownership including ALL numbers (insurance, inflation, benefits). The supervisors do not wish to take on ANY debt for this; which reflected in the study and proposal.

Lynn covered operating and revenue for each phase. Need to take into account if residents are paying to build the facility, they shouldn't have to pay the same rate they would for other similar facilities in other locations.

Question from resident – Do we know what the needs are in the community or what people are looking for? What complements the facilities that are already at Grange? Some of this information is included in the study.

Craig Walls (PAAC President) indicating potential for partnering, and potential for revenue for meets. If a 50 meter indoor pool was built, it would be the only in the Valley and surrounding region – would be unique. Craig volunteered to bring USA swimming in to discuss needs. Community member urged consideration of quality of life in addition to pure cost. Proposed that we look at places where community centers were built and what the impact on the community (home sales, value, etc) after the center was built?

Proposed that we utilize the Good Neighbor Coalition to reach out to corporations to gauge interest in usage and willingness to contribute.

Stephanie asked if there was a way to look it a different way and start with phase 1 being a different/unique purpose for the community (something we don't have at all) and what is possible with that. Dean indicated that the proposal was based on the identified needs of the community, which dictated the prioritization of the phases and plan.

BOARD ACTION: The board needs to review the survey and finalize by early next week to ensure the survey makes it into the newsletter. Supervisors would like us to include executive summary, potential costs, etc. Dave made a motion to conduct a community survey and send final questions by next week's supervisor meeting. Karla seconded. The board provided some feedback to Lynn, and agreed to provide additional feedback via email by Monday.

REPORTS

Community Programs Scheduled

Hippity Hoppity Show

This event will be held on March 3 at Independent Park, beginning at 6:00 PM. Already have 20 registrants. Need help organizing; need more registrations.

Movies in the Park

Events will be held June 9 at Lone Lane Park; July 7 at Breinigsville Park; and August 4 at Grange Road Park. Pre-movie activities start each night at 7:00 PM. Looking to do generally family friendly movies – one geared toward older kids, younger kids, families. In recent years, the “teen” movie has been at Grange. Pete’s Dragon is definite, Zootopia was suggested, Moana was suggested from the public. Lynn asked that everyone review the movies in the link she sent and come up with suggestions.

No other discussion due to community center discussion

Proposed/New

Kite Day

The Recreation Board proposes to hold this event in spring or fall 2017 at either Grange or Independent Park. Date and time TBD. Board approved Katie to pursue with Pocono Kite to select a site. Pocono said Lone Lane would work, haven’t yet visited Grange. More discussion to occur at next month’s meeting.

Splash Park Opening Day

The Recreation Board proposes to hold this event in June at Grange Road Park. Date and time TBD (Mar meeting). Will have a better idea next month as to when the splash park will be complete next month. Need to follow up with the supervisors

No other discussion due to community center discussion

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No discussion

NEW BUSINESS

No discussion

OTHER BUSINESS

<u>Independent Park Community Center rental update</u> – Feb 2017 - 2 bookings -	\$1240
<u>Upper Macungie Township Recreation fund balance</u>	\$1,613,247.73
<u>Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance</u>	\$26,167.48

Park and Grant updates – Design plans for grange in progress; Bville pedestrian bridge plans underway.

Splash Park updates – Selected Stone Ridge Inc for construction. Expect work to start next month; currently finalizing paperwork. Expected construction completion 5/12. Township will build the walkways/paving – unsure of completion date. Not able to set opening date yet until we have more specific completion date.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 10:45PM by Andrea and seconded by Dave to adjourn the meeting, and all were in agreement. Next month’s meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Township building.

Dave Kentner, Chairman

UMT Parks and Recreation Board