

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
August, 2015**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on August 27, 2015 at the Independent Park Community Center. The following Recreation Board members were present: Chairman, Dave Kentner; Secretary, Katie Shade; Jim Adams; Linda Gorr; Brian Kresge; and Stephanie Rauch-Mannino. Also present at the meeting: Parks Team Leader, Jim Soltis; Recreation and Events Coordinator, Lynn Pigliacampi; and residents Dale Inlander and Rich Kiser.

Dave called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. All present were asked to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Dave thanked the new Board members for volunteering to serve on the Board.

A motion was made by Linda and seconded by Jim A. to approve the July meeting minutes. All were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Dale Inlander plays pickleball. She recently met a pickleball ambassador from Virginia. Approximately 15 ambassadors are in the Eastern PA area. She knows pickleball exists in a lot of other communities. All ages can play. The game involves a lot of underhanded shots. She described pickleball as a cross between badminton, ping-pong and tennis with a paddle. There is indoor and outdoor equipment. An indoor net costs approximately \$40. Tennis nets can be lowered to 34" for pickleball. Lines are 7 feet on either side of net. She spoke with some players from Phoenix, AZ where they have 36 courts; same in FL where there are lots of retirees who play. Lower Macungie Township has a pickleball league but she hasn't contacted them. She has 8 people who want to play. She suggested having an ambassador here to do a workshop. The Township would have to supply rackets and a net. Apple Park would be ideal since it is lightly used. She believes it isn't hard to set up. If we do something, she hopes to generate interest and advertise in the fall for a spring start outdoors. Dave advised her that the Board had a prior presentation. Jim S. noted that Lower Mac has lighted courts and a league. He also told Ms. Inlander that we have one court lined for pickleball at Blue Barn Park. A gentleman asked to have more courts painted. We want to paint two courts because of the interest. There are tennis courts slated for construction at Grange Park which will be lined for pickleball as well. Dave will forward her information to Brett, who plays pickleball and is a commissioner with SPYA. Jim S. reminded the Board that it costs \$300 to paint the lines. Lynn mentioned that the construction of a community center will happen in the future. Dave said that SPYA may cover the cost of lining the courts if there's enough interest. Ms. Inlander said the ambassador who she contacted sent a lot of information. Jim S. suggested that maybe we

can do something more when we have more courts. Ms. Inlander asked if the Township would you invest in paddles. Jim S. thought it was a possibility. Ms. Inlander gave her contact information to Dave.

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SCHEDULED**

### Yoga in the Park

This program will be held until August 31 at Lone Lane Park on Mondays at 7:00 pm. Lynn said this has been successful. The instructor enjoyed it and asked about indoor space. The Board of Supervisors doesn't want exercise classes in the Multi-Purpose Room at Independent Park. Dave noted that there were a lot of people there. Jim S. suggested the possibility of using the Township building meeting room. Dave offered the SPYA building at Grange Park except there's no heat or lighting. Linda asked if there was a way to use the downstairs at Independent at this time. Jim A offered a string of lights to Dave for the SPYA building. Dave and Jim A. need to talk about lighting anyway. Jim A. asked if we could do something in the fall. Jim S. suggested pavilion 3 at Grange would be an option for fall. Lone Lane will be heavily used very soon for youth athletics.

### Junior Golf

This program was held at Independent Park on either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 13 to August 7. 7 residents registered for this program. Lynn believes this went well because she has not heard otherwise.

### National Night Out

This event was held on August 4 at Lone Lane Park from 5:00 to 8:30 pm. Katie set our table up facing away from most of the action. The table could be under the pavilion but closer to the action next year. Lynn said that if we want our stuff in a different place, we can tell the police. Jim S. said to tell him as he brought our stuff over from the Township building. He thought they had a nice crowd. Dave didn't clear the park. Lynn thought that might have brought more people to the event. Dave said it was a conflict because volunteers were blocking parking.

### Movies-in-the-Park

The final Movie-in-the-Park was shown on August 7 at Grange Park. Activities began at 7:00 pm. The total cost for all three movies was \$6,650. We received \$6,200 from 28 sponsors. Jim S. said SPYA contributed \$500. He asked Lynn if that amount was included. Lynn said she believes she did not receive a \$500 check. Jim S. said other expenses included two \$125 signs. The Township received 1 complaint about the PG-13 movie. This parent believed her 6 and 7 year old would have nightmares. Lynn said the caller guessed that we are trying to gear it towards teens. Katie saw lots of young kids that night. Jim A. said Allentown and South Whitehall Township advertised in the local papers. Rich said that you can advertise in the Morning Call for free through their Community Calendar. Linda suggested advertising on Channel 2 on Service Electric. Dave could check with South Whitehall about their experience. Lynn definitely wants to have concerts in the park next

year. Dave was told that South Whitehall Township's concerts were packed. Linda wants us to have articles in the Parkland Press.

### Tennis (Junior 1 and 2, Adult)

This program will be held between August 17 and September 16 at Ricky Park on Monday & Wednesday evenings. 11 Juniors and 5 Adults have registered for this program. Fall registration is lower than it was for spring and summer.

### PA German Classes

This program will be held from September 14 to November 9 at Independent Park on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. 12 residents have registered for this program. 20 is maximum. The fee is \$60 per person; we have received \$720 so far. Jim S. said that we need someone to close Independent. He asked Linda to do this. She said maybe, but she'd need to miss a few classes.

### Adult Basketball

This program will be held from September 17 to November 19 at Jandl Elementary School on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Brian said the dates scheduled. Parkland needs an updated insurance form. The one they have lists volleyball at Jandl. Lynn will work on getting an insurance form to Parkland.

### Emergency Preparedness Day

This event will be held on September 19 at St. Luke's West End Medical Center from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Steph Grim reached out to Katie with basic information. Katie will ask Steph if our tent can be located near other Upper Macungie displays. Katie will set up blocks of time for volunteering. She will email these times to the Board. Jim S. will set up and tear down the tent.

### Barktoberfest

This event will be held on October 10 (rain date October 11) at Upper Macungie Park from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have 29 vendors. Vendors, except pet rescues, pay a \$20 fee. So far we have received \$429 in vendor fees. We have 7 sponsors for a total of \$2,050. Lynn is waiting for the event sponsor's \$1,000 check. We are not paying for a show or renting a costume this year. Passion for Paws will host a demonstration and Pet Olympics, followed by the police canine demonstration. Jim S. told Lynn to keep the police updated on times. He thought maybe we should do something for them. Linda thought it benefits the police because residents get to see the dogs. The police had a concern one year that the area was overrun with dogs. We should find out what size area they want. Jim S. said the demonstrations will be in the same area where the show was last year. Lynn said that the costume parade will end at the entertainment area and the prizes will be awarded after the entertainment to encourage people to stay for the entertainment. Lynn has 2 food vendors signed up. She is looking into a third that sells crepes.

## 5K

This event will be held on October 25 at Lone Lane Park from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Katie reported that the committee met in August. They are still working on sponsorship. Katie told Lynn to expect a \$250 check from the Goddard School; Lynn thought she already received this check. Katie told the Board that Erin, the 5K's graphic designer, redid the logo to fit our Halloween theme. Erin put the logo on an orange background, so we will be getting orange shirts for the participants. She also reminded the Board that we pack goodie bags the week before the race, although the date is to be determined.

## Recreation Board Recognition Dinner

This event will be held on November 4 at Independent Park at 7:00 pm.

## Hunter/Trapper Course

This program will be held on November 8 at Independent Park from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. 7 residents registered for this program. Katie asked why we have this program if hunting is prohibited in the parks. Jim S. said it was started to get people into Independent.

## Night with Lauri Moore

This program will be held on November 12 at Independent Park from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. No residents have registered for this program. Lynn hasn't really promoted this event yet.

## Holiday Show

This program will be held on December 4 at Independent Park from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Invoice submitted so it's booked. It will be a Frosty show this year. Like last year, we'll have Santa and an elf!

## **PROPOSED/NEW**

### Disc Golf

This program is proposed for Upper Macungie Park. Den got the waiver to dig and install the baskets. Baskets are ordered. Den is excited. We are now thinking next spring with a grand opening tournament. Dave asked if we want to set a date. Jim A. suggested starting a league once the course is open.

### Adult Painting

This program is proposed to begin in November. It will be held at Independent Park on Friday evening, November 6 at 6:30. Lynn is talking to Daphne from Gravity Art Lab. Hopefully they can paint on the deck. We're doing this one time to see how it goes. It's going to be adults only. Daphne's going to come up with a minimum cost so we have an idea of our minimum cost. If registrations are low, we can cancel. If registrations are good, Lynn wants to have light refreshments. The Board talked about alcohol; it could be BYOB or wine tasting by Clover Hill or Vynecrest if Lynn gets approval from the Township insurance company.

### Archery

Dave said we have no facility to do this in a safe manner. Rich said it's a tough one because of the liability. Lynn has information about a company and general cost. Katie thought it wasn't clear what that cost got us. We will remove this from the September agenda and keep the information in case it comes up in the future.

### Interior Design

This program is proposed for Independent Park in winter. Lynn didn't get a chance to follow up with the instructor. This should be advertised in the fall newsletter. There is some interest. After Valerie cancelled, we got 4 phone calls.

### Adult Volleyball

This program would be held from September to March at Fogelsville Elementary School on Tuesday nights from 8:00 - 10:00 PM.

Rich reported that the summer session is ending and went well. 15 to 20 people played every week, with no major injuries and only one damaged ball. Lynn asked Rich if he had pictures from the games. The Board discussed a waiver for signature at the time of activity.

The fall/winter program averaged 30-40 people per week last year. Dave can't schedule anything for SPYA at that time, so Rich could have more time or start earlier. Rich said he can't start later, maybe a little earlier. He needs to get the form to Steve Walck at Parkland with an insurance form. Jim S. asked Brian if he sends a weekly email to the basketball players. Rich has about 115, including Lynn, on his list and emails them regularly. Brian sends a mass text because his players prefer that method of communication. Rich will submit the form to Parkland; Lynn will get the insurance form to Parkland.

### Geocaching

This program is proposed for October at Upper Macungie Park. Katie asked if it was the same person who did this last year. Lynn said no, this is proposed by Brian Patterson and Chuck Shiner. A woman named Jennifer organized it last year. Lynn reached out to her but they couldn't get anything together. This event would be an Introduction to Geocaching, potluck picnic, raffle and swap meet. Linda asked how many people attended have last year. Jim A. answered 25. Rich said last year you had to bring your own equipment and there were fewer people than in previous years. If we're not going to provide equipment, we should advertise the minimum you need on a smartphone to do this. Jim S. asked if October is enough time for us to advertise. Jim A. suggests Independent Park as an alternative.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Giveaways for events

Stylus pens are in! The other items should be coming in soon. We should have all of them in by Emergency Preparedness Day. Lynn wants to have people Like us on Facebook to get an item. Linda suggested getting candy to give to kids so we can have enough pens.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Issue Briefing forms

Lynn said these are from Dan. The Board will fill them out at meetings if the Board has information for the Board of Supervisors about activities in the parks.

### Park Rules revisions

#### *Commercial use of the parks*

Lynn mentioned an educational resource fair proposed for Independent Park. It will be hosted by a group of parents. Vendors would pay the group of parents a fee to have a table. These fees would be used to cover the cost of rental of Independent. Lynn discussed this with Kathy Rader, who suggested that the Board discuss it. Lynn asked the Board if the Board would allow this type of use. Linda advised the Board that she dealt with a similar situation at the fire company where too few vendors signed up to recoup the cost of rental. This fair is proposed for next summer or early fall, so we will discuss again at a later time.

#### *Fire hazards*

Katie reported that a resident who lives next to Independent told the Board of Supervisors at their August meeting about Chinese lanterns which she believed had been set off on the Independent Park property in July. A few landed in this woman's yard, still lit. Jim S. said she always knows about the annual fireworks demonstration in May. We're not even sure the lanterns she saw were set off at Independent. Jim S. and Lynn checked: Independent was not rented on the night the neighbor saw these lanterns. Katie also read a section of the current Park Rules prohibiting all fireworks on park lands unless specifically permitted by the Township.

Linda thought the parks were open dawn until dusk. Jim S. said there was an issue with the police and kicking people out so it was changed to be a specific time. Most parks close at 9 PM; Upper Macungie Park closes at 11 PM.

Items for the Upper Macungie Township newsletter

Lynn asked that if any one has anything else, please let her know. Katie, Jocelyn, and Lynn talked about a sponsorship insert for Barktoberfest and the 5K. Dave asked when is the last date to put items in. Lynn has a meeting about the newsletter tomorrow, so ASAP.

**MONTHLY UPDATES**

Independent Park Community Center rental and building update

In August 2015, there were 7 rentals for \$3,550. In August 2014, there were 7 rentals for \$3,500.

UMT Recreation fund balance: **\$1,586,175.95**

Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance: **\$16,914.18**

Movies expenses came out in August. Giveaway expenses will come out in September.

Jim A. asked if we could approach the Board of Supervisors and Dan about getting a budget for giveaways, etc. Linda said the Township doesn't put in much towards our programs. Lynn said we hit the same businesses for our events every year. Jim A. asked Jim S. if he could find out if South Whitehall Township has a programs budget. Linda reminded the Board that if we want a program budget, we need to tell them what it would be for. Jim S. said in Lower Macungie Township, everything goes to their Recreation Center. Rich said we have Friends instead of a recreation budget. Jim A. said Friends was started to accept donations. Linda added that Friends wasn't meant to be the Recreation Board budget. Jim A. thinks Friends is making decisions for the Board. Rich said Friends is a completely separate entity from the Township. There's a recreation budget for the improvements to the parks (such as Grange). The Board would be asking for a program budget.

Park and Grant updates: none.

Updates from Lynn

Lynn brought copies of the recently edited Mission Statement for Upper Macungie Township Parks and Recreation. Dan is hoping to go through all departments to edit the Mission Statements. Lynn said this is helpful for her as a new employee. The Board will review the Mission Statement in September. The Parks and Recreation Mission Statement will be presented to the Board of Supervisors first.

She also wants to host dog training days with some of the vendors from Barktoberfest.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: none.**

**ADJOURMENT**

A motion was made at 8:59 by LG and seconded by JA to adjourn the meeting, and all were in agreement. Next month's meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Township building.

Dave Kentner, Chairman  
UMT Parks and Recreation Board