

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

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on August 31, 2017 at the Independent Park Community Center. The following Recreation Board members were present: Karla Trumbauer, Andrea Russell, Dave Kentner, Stephanie Rauch-Mannino, Bret Spangler, and April Navarra. Also present at the meeting: Recreation and Events Coordinator, Lynn Pigliacampi-Matula, Jim Soltis, Deb Soltis, and Township Supervisor Sean Gill. Jen Szukics, Katie Shade, and Brian Kresge were absent. Note: Brian runs our pick-up basketball program Thursdays.

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.

MINUTES

Bret motioned to approve the July minutes; Stephanie seconded. All approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lehigh Valley Pickleball/UMT Flex League – Jeff Titchenal/Andy Jones brought a proposal for a dedicated pickleball park. Jeff provided some background on the group, how popular the sport is, and how much participation has grown recently. The request of the group is to build a dedicated pickleball park with 10 courts. The drafted proposal provides an outline of requirements. Pickleball can be a year-round sport for some, but would likely involve organized leagues in the same season as tennis. Bret indicated that there have been challenges with pickleball at Blue Barn, given the large number of pickleball players and overlap with tennis players. Brett indicated there is currently an ongoing challenge with the number of people that consistently come out to play. Jeff highlighted that it is a very social sport, and people often play in groups. The pickleball group indicated that Grange would be the ideal location, since it's the center point, and it is of adequate size. There would need to be access to bathrooms, water, and preferably shade trees. The proposal includes an aerial photo of a similar facility in Upper Bucks. Brett's Facebook/Email group has over 100 people with at least 50 beign UMT residents.

The group mentioned if we build 10 courts, it will be a pickleball "meca" with tournaments occurring. Lynn asked how often there would be tournaments, there was not a clear answer, there isn't a set schedule, but they are often used as a way to introduce others to the sport. Andy Jones indicated that she's taught several hundred people locally. Most places she's seen have not had enough space with only 6-8 courts. A comment was made that it's now also being taught in school gym classes and in colleges, and that we need to be prepared for the growth.

Dave asked who normally pays for these facilities. It depends on the location – funding sometimes comes from the private communities or township funding. It was recommended to look at other locations to see what funding is provided (Lynn asked for someone to email her the information). A comment was made that the township has grown dramatically, and that new developments need to pay a recreation fee, there is space, and there is interest. The cost is unknown, and research would need to be done to determine financial impact. It was suggested to discuss with Warwick township to gather financial information. Sean indicated that there is \$178k budgeted for 3 tennis courts to be constructed next year at Grange. We would need to determine if we want to make a recommendation to shift the those budgeted dollars to pickleball court construction. There are 6 tennis courts in the township currently (Ricky Park, Blue Barn Park). Lynn indicated that with everything slated to go into Grange Park, parking is going to be an issue, so Keystone would need to weigh in on what changes if pickleball

courts are constructed vs tennis courts. Dave suggested we look at alternatives to determine what would be the most feasible solution in terms of cost, space, etc. We will gather additional information and then assess next steps. Stephanie will call Gail Weniger, manager of Warwick Twp.

Andrea motioned to ask the Supervisors to have KCE evaluate alternatives for building pickleball courts, and the potential cost/impact/requirements of using the identified 2018 budget for the tennis courts at Grange Park for pickleball instead (or a combination of pickleball/tennis courts), with the Recreation Board providing additional input. Karla seconded. 4 approved, 2 abstained. We will not consider pricing lights at this time as part of the proposal. The board agreed that since the parks close at dusk, it is not in the best interest of the community at this time.

Lisa Roth (public) indicated that there needs to be more education in the community in order to build/gain support. Lisa is on the School Board and indicated there might be an opportunity to do a co-op to learn. The school district also runs events with Senior Citizens that we can advertise this sport to and gauge interest.

REPORTS

Community Programs Scheduled

- **Tennis** – 2nd session 41 registrants; \$4,220 (twp keeps \$844, which goes toward maintenance of courts)
- **Volleyball** – ending this week, always popular and went well
- **Movies** – last movie rescheduled for 9/1 at Grange Park- Moana
- **Lemonade in the Park** – gave away drinks, giveaways, and flyers at Grange, Lone Lane, Breinigsville; total cost \$93. People seemed to really enjoy and appreciate it. Stephanie got people interested in volunteering with the Recreation Board, it got Recreation Board information out there and made it more visible in the community. Stephanie and Lynn recommend continuing this in the future, all agreed.
- **Indoor pickup basketball/volleyball** – Dan Ahrens will take over running volleyball from Rich. Both start in September
- **Get Prepared Parkland** – New “Emergency Preparedness Day” – will be held at Lone Lane from 11-3 on 9/30. Dave restricted practices for that day. Let Lynn know who can volunteer.
- **Barktoberfest** – scheduled for 10/7, currently have 20 vendors, 5 sponsors (\$1,170). Macungie scheduled theirs on the same day. Lynn will send out another reminder. DJ has been booked (JJ Sands).
- **Holiday Show** – will be Judy Tudy – balloon sculpting, different characters. Will need volunteers for concession window. Katie will be elf again. Deb will volunteer.
- **Kids Noon Year’s Eve** – will be 12/31 at Trexlertown Fire Station. DJ is booked (DJ JJ Sands), face painter is booked. They were both great last year, DJ JJ Sands gave us a discount for doing both Barktoberfest and KNYE. Admission is still free, we will be charging for concessions this year, similar pricing as all other rec events. Deb will volunteer.

Unfinished Business

- **Kite Day** – No discussion
- **Moving Rec Board Meeting** – Karla motioned to move the Rec Board meeting to the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting in Jan 2018; Andrea seconded. Lynn will send email to confirm everyone’s vote.

- **Small Games of Chance** – Finding out if Friends needs BOS approval for purchase
- **Farmer's Market** – Concerns with approach causing issues with zoning. There is additional work required to move forward. The timeframe for approval would take approx. 2-3 months. **The board agreed that we still want to move forward with an appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board.** Karla will contact Darren Martocci to determine process for appeal.
- **Dog Park Changes** – Motion for sectioning for small dogs/big dogs (fencing), which would cost \$6990. 1 in favor, 5 opposed based on the cost and other facilities available. Will not move forward with this at this time; will revisit if a greater need comes up.
 - Rec Board members are frequently at Grange Park and determined there is not enough usage by small dogs to warrant this cost
 - Jim Soltis also mentioned that since Lower Mac opened a dog park, the Rt. 100 Dog Park also gets less usage.
- **Friends** – new members, signing ability; No discussion this month
- **Photo Scavenger Hunt** – no discussion

New Business

- **Families donating trees** – with family plaques – Sean mentioned this concept and had discussed it with Dean. You could allow people to chose the location of their donated tree or make it so they do not have that choice, but a plaque is put at the foot of their donated tree. Lynn can discuss with Keystone and UMT staff how to proceed with this program. Lynn and Jason (Keystone) also submitted a TreeVitalize grant for Grange Park.
- **SPYA donating benches to Lone Lane park** – Dave will get more information.
- **Grange Usage Request** – Dave will check availability, Lynn and Dave will discuss

Other Business

- Independent Park Community Center rental update – August 2017 – 4 bookings, \$4,144
- Pavilion – August 2017 – 41 bookings, \$5,821
- Upper Macungie Township Recreation fund balance - \$1,462,694.48
- Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance – \$27,308
- **Park and Grant updates** – Splash Park – concrete work is complete; has not been run or tested yet by the township. Chemicals and fencing still needed. Delays were caused by not receiving grant money for 2 years, material delays, and weather.
- **Community Center** – Next month, Rec Board will be presented with building designs and cost estimates, and estimated operating expenses and revenue stream. Designs factor in survey data. We will need to recommend a design to Board of Supervisors. Next month's meeting will need to be earlier or have a separate working session. **Lynn will send a poll for availability of the Rec Board for a working session, then inform Ashley to advertise the meeting if necessary.**

Public Comment –

Lisa Roth commented on a situation at Lone Lane where people are letting their dogs run without leashes while people are playing/practicing; people playing golf; driving bikes on walking path, etc. There seems to be an ongoing lack of common courtesy in not following these rules, and there are no consequences that prevent people from breaking the rules. Lynn commented that there are many park rules that might not be official ordinances, and that the township is actually going to start looking into many different areas/rules to determine what new ordinances need to be written. **The Rec Board would like the BOS and UMT Staff to include the Park Rules when evaluating what new ordinances need to**

be created for the Township.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 9:45PM by Karla and seconded by April to adjourn the meeting, and all were in agreement. Next month's meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Upper Macungie Township building.

David Kentner, Chairman

UMT Parks and Recreation Board