

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 2016**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on August 25, 2016 at the Upper Macungie Township building. The following Recreation Board members were present: Chairman, Dave Kentner; Secretary, Katie Shade; Jim Adams; Jocelyn Pattishall; Stephanie Rauch-Mannino; Andrea Russell; and Karla Trumbauer. Also present at the meeting: Parks Team Leader, Jim Soltis; Recreation and Events Coordinator, Lynn Pigliacampi; Jason Schweyer from Keystone Consulting Engineers; residents Rich Kiser, Bret Spangler, and Lora Spangler; and non-residents Terri Adams, Gerry Mauro, and Deb Soltis.

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.

Andrea said that in the Recreation Board's discussion of the tree boxes at Lone Lane Park at the June meeting, the Board agreed that we could match the Boy Scouts' fundraising to a certain point. The match was reflected in the minutes but the cap was not. Andrea requested that this change be made. Dave said they did not have time to fundraise. The Recreation Board encourages the Boy Scouts to fundraise for this project. A motion was made by Andrea and seconded by Jocelyn to approve the June meeting minutes with this addendum. All were in favor.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terri Adams and Gerry Mauro

Jim A.'s daughter, Terri, coaches softball at Saint Joseph's University; her husband, Gerry, who is also a college coach, runs camps and clinics. They are proposing a clinic for college-bound student athletes at Breinigsville Park on two or three fields. The Lehigh Valley isn't as strong as it once had been, softball-wise. A few years ago, she tried to run a clinic here but had to cancel. She would bring college coaches in for the clinic. Sometimes registration makes money, sometimes it does not. The college coaches teach the clinic and the student athletes showcase their talents for the coaches. The student athletes will be from the 8th through 12th grades. The organizers and coaches also plan to give a recruiting talk for parents at the pavilion. She offered to provide past information and local students. The date for this clinic is Columbus Day, Monday, October 10, during the college non-traditional season and when the student athletes have off from school for the holiday. The clinic would run four and one-half hours from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Andrea asked what the organizers need from Upper Macungie Township. Terri said that they bring everything. Andrea said she recently saw the Parkland team and the girls are looking pretty good. Terri agreed, saying Parkland has a really good team, but the local summer teams aren't going to the bigger tournaments where they would get more exposure. Dave asked if she spoke to local coaches. Terri knows Barry Search from Parkland. Girls from some other schools came to her camps before. Andrea asked if attending this clinic would increase their chances of making summer travel teams. Terri said this clinic trains the student athletes for the next level. When Terri offers camps and clinics, she finds that there's a lot of ignorance from the parents about the

recruiting process. Gerry said that parents simply figure if their daughters are recruited, then that's fine. According to Terri, it doesn't work like that anymore. Now that softball is back in the 2020 Olympics, there will be renewed interest in the sport. Terri thinks schools have to get the kids from this area. The prior clinic she wanted to run was for younger kids. This is more serious. Gerry said that parents will pay recruiting agencies but coaches can give the parents the necessary information for free. Recruiting is also about academics and affordability. The organizers want to give the student athletes the opportunities and the answers to their questions. Karla asked if the clinic would target Parkland and East Penn. Terri said the clinic would be open to the region, but focus locally. Parkland doesn't have the right number of fields to host the clinic. Lynn asked what the registration fee would be. Terri said the registration fee is \$125, which covers the major expense of bringing in the college coaches. Dave asked if high school coaches are going to bring their student athletes to the clinic. He suggested they need to see the clinic flyer. Andrea asked if this is a good time since girls are involved in other fall sports. Bret is the Commissioner for SPYA softball. He said he could've fielded another team at both 18-U and 14-U. He is bringing in coaches for the SPYA camps. Terri said that the NCAA limits recruiting to a certain age. The numbers for kids playing other sports are right for younger kids. The games differ. Coaching hurt the kids and they lose the passion. She believes the student athletes can have a good experience. The organizers want to show the kids that and bring them here to a captive audience. Andrea doesn't think the Recreation Board has anything to lose if the fields are available. Lynn suggested that if the clinic grows over a few years, the organizers might instead charge the coaches to make it free for the kids. Terri said the sport is falling off but there's money. Stephanie knows the Athletic Director at Northwestern Lehigh School District and will pass the information along to him. Terri said the Liberty coach wants to do it at Northwest Little League in Bethlehem. Bret asked how the organizers will advertise the clinic. Terri said softball chatrooms, emails to high school coaches, etc. The more people they bring in, the more college coaches they can bring in. The coaches would be from Junior Colleges through Division 1. Stephanie said the Township could announce it on the Facebook page. Terri said registration will be online. Lynn said if they provide marketing information, she can add it to our program list in the newsletter or ask to include an insert. Terri thought they could easily modify the flyer. Dave asked when Terri and the other organizers need to know. Terri said, yesterday, because they are four weeks out next week. Lynn said the Recreation Board can vote but it needs approval by Board of Supervisors, who meet next Thursday. Jim S. said that when other groups request events like this, the Township charges a tournament fee. He wondered if there was a way the organizers could donate some money back to the Township. Terri said field usage and pavilion usage are part of the expenses. Lynn reminded the Recreation Board that the normal ordinance is that no one can profit in the parks. Jim S. said the Township has fees for everything. Dave noted that SPYA field hockey tournaments give something back. Gerry said the organizers made donations back to other municipalities or youth organizations before and that they are happy to do that for Upper Macungie Township. The clinic wouldn't necessarily make money because they have to pay the coaches as the college coaches won't donate their time. Karla said coaches aren't just coming to watch. Lynn will reach out to Red Deslatte of the B-Vets organization for date availability. Terri said the student athletes also get giveaways. The cost is built into the registration fee. The organizers already solicited the coaches. They're going to proceed somewhere. Dave suggested Springhouse. Terri said that could work.

Andrea moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that if the fields and pavilion are available, the Township should permit this clinic at Breinigsville Park on Monday, October 10. Stephanie seconded. This motion passed 7-0-0.

Bret Spangler

Dave said he and Bret spoke a few months ago after another resident presented pickleball to the Recreation Board. Bret is aware that SPYA would support line painting on additional courts. A group regularly plays at Blue Barn Park. Besides a lined area of approximately one-third the size of a tennis court, outdoor pickleball equipment includes a large wiffle-type ball and paddle for each player. The group plays Sunday mornings at Blue Barn Park and Wednesday nights in Lower Macungie Township. Players range in age from 18 to 78, with most players being older than 60. After the snowbirds will leave in the fall, there will be fewer players, although the group plays year-round. Bret believes the sport of pickleball is growing. He hasn't done anything with the USSPA, the national pickleball organization. Boyertown hosts their pickleball games in indoor gyms. Bret is open to teaching. However, the current group is too big for the facilities they are using now. Lynn asked how many courts are lined for pickleball. Jim S. said three. Work has begun on the repairs at Blue Barn Park. The contractor filled in the "bird baths" or divots on the courts. The preparation work is done and the remaining work will be finished quickly when the contractor is available. Lynn said it is the hope that the Community Center will have lighted and lined courts. Bret said that pickleball is taught in middle and high schools now and that indoor equipment is slightly different.

REPORTS

Community Programs Scheduled

Tennis

This program for Pee-Wees, Juniors, and Adults concludes on September 12 at Ricky and Blue Barn Parks. The dates and times for each session vary. Twenty-seven players registered for the third session going on now.

Adult Volleyball

This program concludes August 28. This program is held on Sundays at Upper Macungie Park from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. This program continues to go well. [The Recreation Board also discussed future sessions of this program in New Business.]

Junior Golf

This program concluded on August 10. It was held at Independent Park on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Lynn spoke with the instructor more.

National Night Out

This event, hosted by the Upper Macungie Township Police Department, was held on August 2 at Lone Lane Park from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. This went well. Jim A., Karla, Katie, and Lynn attended. We had a better location in between the police and CERT. Jim A. thought attendance was up. Karla suggested having more signage. KMS concurred, and suggested having giveaways. Lynn will be requesting a new Upper Macungie Township Recreation banner and possibly a printed tablecloth. Jim A. thinks we should get a sign that attaches to the tent.

Movies in the Park

"The Peanuts Movie" was shown on August 5 at Grange Road Park. "Hotel Transylvania 2" was shown on August 19 (rescheduled) at Breinigsville Park. Pre-movie activities began at 7:00 PM. Both nights went well. There were no complaints.

Emergency Preparedness Day

This event, normally held at St. Luke's West End Medical Center on a Saturday in September, will not be held this year as the hosts reorganize. Last month, the Recreation Board talked about having more of a community day in place of this event.

Recognition Dinner

This event will be held in fall 2016 at Independent Park. Lynn will check available dates and inform the Recreation Board.

Barktoberfest

This event will be held on October 8 at Upper Macungie Park from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Twenty-seven vendors and five sponsors have committed. Lynn has received sponsorships totaling \$2,300. She is working on booking entertainment.

Lauri Moore

This program will be held on November 10 at Independent Park, beginning at 6:30 PM. Lynn will update the website and registration form.

Hunter/Trapper Course

This program will be held on November 13 at Independent Park from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Lynn will update the website and registration form.

Holiday Show

This event will be held on December 2 at Independent Park from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Lynn will update the website and registration form.

Kids' Noon Year's Eve

This event will be held on December 31 at Independent Park from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Lynn will update the website and marketing materials. The Recreation Board or Friends will make a request to Crayola for donations. Lynn asked if attendees would have to pre-register for this event. Karla suggested creating a Facebook event that can be easily shared and tracked, instead of registration forms. Katie thinks attendees need to register some way so we don't exceed the building's capacity. Lynn confirmed with Jim S. that the capacity is for 100 people sitting. People will not be sitting at this event. Perhaps we could have more attendees. Andrea asked if there will be volunteers. Deb asked if parents will stay. Lynn said yes, all will attend at the same time.

5K

This event will be held in spring 2017 at Lone Lane Park from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Movies in the Park

Three events will be held in summer 2017 at Lone Lane, Breinigsville, and Grange Road Parks. Pre-movie activities will begin on each night at 7:00 PM. Lynn wants to set dates. The earlier we request dates; the better chance we have to get them because the movie company probably isn't booked for next summer now. The movie company suggested getting "Pete's Dragon" for one of the nights because the movie's star lives in Allentown. After a short discussion, the Recreation Board decided on June 9 at Lone Lane Park; July 7, a few days after the fireworks, at Breinigsville Park; and August 4 at Grange Road Park. These will be set in stone unless the movie company already has something booked. Karla said that it doesn't matter if school is in

session in June since it will be a Friday night. Jim S. said Grange has soccer. Breinigsville doesn't have anything in July besides the fireworks. The Recreation Board wants to advertise the Breinigsville date at the fireworks.

PA German Class

Lynn is working with the instructor to have another offering of this class in November 2016 or January 2017 at Independent Park.

Proposed/New

Volleyball tournament

April and Karla will talk about this before the next Recreation Board meeting. They will present more details to the Recreation Board at the September meeting.

Kite Day

Katie spoke with the president of the Pocono Kite Symphony about some possibilities for this event. She will email the Recreation Board more information.

Comedy night

Lynn reached out to the Wisecrackers. There is no minimum of amount of tickets. She is proposing this event for a Friday night in January or February. Jim A. wondered if we could run this event in one of the Parkland schools. Lynn said that one of the goals is to get people out to Independent. If the event gets bigger, then we could look into that.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Splash park*

Fee for non-residents

Fee for groups

Jason said that the maximum user ratio is 1 user for every 25 square feet, but that is a loosely defined number. He believes one hundred (100) kids would safely fit.

Lemonade in the parks

Lynn requested that the Recreation Board send her dates. She will then purchase the beverages so the product doesn't sit around too long. Dave will give Lynn a list of SPYA team photograph days, which might be good times for this activity.

Small games of chance license

April is looking into this.

NEW BUSINESS

Volleyball: Finding a replacement for Rich Kiser

Rich continues to enjoying the program, now in its fifth year. This year is the last one in which he can coordinate and play. He is looking for someone – preferably from the Recreation

* Katie explained that she will keep this item on the agenda until the Board of Supervisors considers the fees and rules even if the Recreation Board does not need to discuss it every month.

Board – to take it over. Jim S. asked if Rich meant for someone to oversee it or go every week. Jocelyn said she could co-supervise but not go every week because of her family’s schedule. Karla thought her husband, Scott, would probably feel the same way. Rich asked if Jocelyn could help this year. She said yes, but not all the time. Rich said the next session starts September 20th and runs through March. He used to schedule the program at his convenience. There are people who would play every week all year round. There are between seven and thirty players each week. Jocelyn has played before, and the other players know her now. She was the last one picked the first time she played. After she played and her skill was obvious, she was the first one picked the next time. Rich asked if the Recreation Board can have a plan in place by February so we can let Steve at Parkland School District know. The paperwork is easy. Dave offered to do the paperwork as long as some else runs it.

OTHER BUSINESS

Independent Park Community Center rental and building update

In August 2016, there were ten rentals totaling **\$4,885**. In August 2015, there were seven rentals totaling **\$3,650**. Lynn explained that she and Jim S. do not feel booking two parties in one day is cost effective. We do not have the amount of part time staff to make it cost effective. We have done it several times, booking two events with two hours in between. And not only is it difficult to staff, but if anything goes wrong with the software, it becomes a problem. For example, there were a couple times that the virus the township acquired a few months ago deleted a few reservations, and deleted a few time-changes made to existing reservations, thus leaving us with one hour between a twice-booked Saturday. Lynn just wanted to inform the Recreation Board in case it affects the number of bookings and rental income.

Upper Macungie Township Recreation fund balance **\$1,634,733.65**

Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance **\$27,999.42**

The giveaways came in! This year, we have blue stylus pens, sunglasses, and sunscreen. The giveaways cost \$1,640 from EBC Printing in Trexlertown. This balance includes that amount because the check has not cleared.

Park and Grant updates

Jason said the splash park is moving forward. The Township will rebid the project for fall-spring construction.

Eric didn’t have any grant updates.

Dave asked about the rearrangement at Grange. Jason said there will be a new design phase and the Township will have to get new permits.

Community Center Feasibility Study

Lynn reported that we are having trouble getting the committee together. Dean is trying to have a meeting in late September. She said some Township officials visited a different type of building today.

Updates from Lynn
Newsletter Publication

Most of the information is in already. The newsletter should be in homes by the last week of September. This will be smaller than the spring one, as it doesn't have as many inserts.

Meeting at the Independent Park Community Center

Katie suggested having a meeting at the Independent Park Community Center this fall. Karla has not seen the basement. Kathy Rader needs time to advertise the location change; Jim S. thought it was just a week or so. The Recreation Board seemed to be in agreement that they will move the October meeting but will confirm this at the September meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 8:45 PM by Karla and seconded by Andrea to adjourn the meeting, and all were in agreement. Next month's meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Township building.

Dave Kentner, Chairman
Upper Macungie Township Parks and Recreation Board