

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
Monthly Meeting  
September 26, 2013**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on September 26, 2013 at the Municipal Building. The following Recreation Board members were present: Rich Kiser, Sean Gill, Andrea Russell, David Kentner and April Navarra. Board members not in attendance were Linda Gorr, Jim Adams, Jenny Kidd and Jeff Pascoe. Also present at the meeting were UMT Board of Supervisor Ed Earley, UMT Board of Supervisor Sam Ashmar, UMT Recreation and Events Coordinator Valerie Brosky, Parks Team Leader Matt Miller and three additional residents.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by UMT Recreation Chairperson Rich Kiser at which time all present were asked to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.

The August minutes were reviewed. No corrections were noted. All were in favor of approving the August meeting minutes.

### **Community Programs Scheduled**

Geocaching Review – Held September 14<sup>th</sup>. 48 Adults attended, plus a number of children. Based on feedback, the program was successful and was well run. A formal note of appreciation will be sent to the event coordinator, Jennifer Trumbore. Jennifer is also interested in running this program again next year. Thanks Jennifer!

Emergency Preparedness Day Review – Held September 21<sup>st</sup> – The UMT Recreation Tent was well attended, many program sheets were taken and we were able to talk to many residents. We also gave away 500 keychain flashlights in less than 2 hours. Thanks to Rich Kiser, Andrea Russell, Sean Gill and Valerie Brosky for working in the tent. Thanks also to Dean Haas for providing maps and pencil/pen giveaways, Jim Soltis for ordering the Keychain Flashlight giveaways and the Parks Crew for helping with setup/teardown. Sean suggested that all the UMT participants be near each other at next year's event.

Tree Care – October 1<sup>st</sup> – 4 signed up. At least 2 more expected based on meeting feedback.

Psychic Medium – October 10<sup>th</sup> – 35 signed up and need 3 more.

Barktoberfest – October 19<sup>th</sup> RD 20<sup>th</sup> – 41 vendors are participating. Banner is up at the RT 100 Park. Board recommended securing overflow parking if the ballfields are wet or if the event attracts more vehicles than can fit on the ballfields. April suggested having dedicated handicapped spaces. Event needs 3 more volunteers (2 for registration and 1 to manage the order of the parade). Girl Scouts will also be helping. Need to decide whether to have the scarecrow contest. The Recreation Board will have a table and a Dog Park donation box.

Sean, Andrea, and Dave all may be able to help. From the August meeting, Jim Adams & Linda Gorr volunteered to arrive early and help with setup – need to make sure they can still do this. Rich Kiser will be McGruff the Crime Dog. Setup is 9:30 to 11:30am. Event starts at noon and concludes at 3pm. Very full schedule of activities from noon to 3pm. Radio station 99.9 the Hawk interested in attending.

5K Run/Walk for Parks – Stephanie Klegarth is heading up this program committee. Six racers have registered. The Board is concerned that there seems to be a lot of items to complete between now and the event on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Based on email communications, a presenting sponsor has been obtained as well as one other sponsor. Major items still to complete include ordering shirts & bibs, finding a photographer and acquiring awards. Andrea will attend the next 5K meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> and advise the board on program progress.

Hunter/Trapper – November 10<sup>th</sup> – 32 signed up. Maximum class size is 50.

AARP Safe Driver's Course – November 12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> (8hr) and November 13<sup>th</sup> (4hr) – one sign up for the 8 hr course.

Game Night – January 24<sup>th</sup> at Independent Park. No registration needed.

Fall/Winter volleyball – Good participation. 12 players first week, 19 players second week. Held 8 to 10pm every Tuesday at Fogelsville Elementary until the end of March.

### **Proposed/New**

Pet CPR/First Aid class – This event was held last year and had full participation. Suggested to offer this event again for Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12:30pm. Board agreed to schedule this event. The event will be advertised at Barktoberfest.

Pro Martial Arts – Hold until payment program finalized.

Boot Camp in the Park – Full Circle Training. Hold until payment program finalized.

Zumba – Hold until payment program finalized.

Interior Design – Hold until payment program finalized. Plan for late January early February.

Puppet Show – Valerie to look into this. Possibly offer at Movies-in-the-Park 2014

Folk Festival – Valerie to look into this for possible 2014 offering

Penn State Extension Programs – Rich to look into this for possible Spring 2014 offering.

Bird Watching – April to look into this for possible Spring 2014 offering.

Ceramics – Linda/April looking into this for possible Spring 2014 offering

Barktoberfest 2014 – Hold until after 2013 event

### **Old Business**

Upper Macungie Park Dog Park Completion/Status – No additional donations in last month. Dog letter donations have totaled \$1685. Donation box will be set up at Barktoberfest. No word on the grant that was applied for; Valerie will look into this.

Sponsorship Signs – More funds are needed for Friends Liability Insurance. Kathy suggested possibly selling vinyl sponsorship signs to place on ballfield fences. Board decided against looking into this option as a fundraiser.

Amphitheatre – Tabled

Independent Park Community Center – 5 additional rentals since last meeting. No building update.

Program Instructors, usage, fees, payments - A sub-committee consisting of Jim Adams, Valerie Brosky, Jim Soltis, Kathy Rader, and Andrew Schantz met to discuss the 70/30 payment split suggested at the August meeting. The 70/30 split was agreed upon by the committee for programs presented and approved. Programs solicited by the UMT Recreation Board or the township may have a different pricing structure. Andrew is writing up a proposed contract. The Rec Board would like to review and discuss at a future meeting once Andrew has a proposed contract.

### **New Business**

Memorial Garden/Walkway – There is interest in having a walkway with engraved bricks surrounding a flagpole in Grange Park. The walkway could be near the entrance to the playground. There is also interest in honoring veterans and a fallen UMT firefighter at Grange Park. More discussion is needed regarding creating, maintaining, and financing a walkway and/or memorial. Dean may have started a preliminary plan. If so, that would help to initiate discussion.

Dog Park at Grange – Due to the success of the dog park at Upper Macungie Park, a second dog park is suggested for Grange Park. There is land available, but the location would need to ensure proper distance from ballfields and play areas. A possible 4 acre park near the drainage basin was suggested. Sam has asked Scott Faust to look into cost.

Park & Grant Updates – No update.

Recreation Board Update – Jenny Kidd has submitted her resignation from the Recreation Board due to additional work assignments. She has expressed an interest in helping at future

events but is resigning because she can no longer attend the Thursday evening meetings. The Recreation Board would like to sincerely thank her for her time on the Board and for her help at events. An opening on the Recreation Board is to be advertised.

Recreation Board programs – Sean Gill suggested acquiring an easy-to-see board that shows upcoming Recreation programs and where/when they will be held. A large, portable whiteboard would allow us to display at all events. To be looked into for display at Barktoberfest.

DCNR webinars – A list of October webinars was compiled by Jim Soltis and distributed. The webinars are specific to Community Parks and Recreation Board topics. Recreation Board members are encouraged to attend if available and interested.

### **Public Comment**

Three residents (Mohammed Khaku, Hasnain Khalfan, and Nagi Latefa) attended the meeting to discuss the use of soccer fields at Lone Lane and Grange Park. The following points were made clear through a lengthy discussion:

- Any event within UMT parks must receive an approved permit prior to park use. This is a safety and capacity issue. An unpermitted event on September 7<sup>th</sup> caused a problem at Lone Lane Park when the event caused conflicts with parking and use of the sports fields by a youth organization. The youth organization had permits for the sports fields.
- All organizations must receive an approved permit to use the sports fields for practice and/or games. Sports fields are managed closely to prevent overuse. To try and prevent overuse, soccer fields that need time to recover will have soccer goals locked together in the center of the field.
- All residents are encouraged to enjoy the township parks and sports fields. Residents getting together periodically for unorganized play on the sports fields is fine, but you may be asked to leave a field if it is determined that the field is not suitable for play. All are asked to help keep the fields in good shape.

A motion was made by Sean Gill, seconded by Andrea Russell, and all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. Next month's meeting is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm at the Township Building.

Rich Kiser  
Chairperson  
UMT Parks and Recreation Board