

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
Monthly Meeting  
November 21, 2013**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on November 21, 2013 at the Municipal Building. The following Recreation Board members were present: Rich Kiser, Sean Gill, Andrea Russell, David Kentner, April Navarra, Jim Adams, and Linda Gorr. Board member not in attendance was Jeff Pascoe. Also present at the meeting were UMT Board of Supervisor Ed Earley, Parks Foreman Jim Soltis, Township Engineer representative Dean Haas, and three additional residents.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm 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 September minutes were reviewed. No corrections were noted. Linda Gorr made a motion to accept the September minutes as presented; April Navarra seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Kevin O'Neill, representing LAXapalooza, addressed the Recreation Board to request that he be allowed to obtain permits for Grange Park on June 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> to run a youth lacrosse tournament. It was anticipated that the tournament would involve 57 teams, 9 fields, 4000 people, 700-800 vehicles, a vendor village of approximately 8 vendors, and 16 lavatory stalls that he would obtain. The fields would be in use from 8am to 4:30pm each day. In addition to paying a \$1000 deposit, the tournament would make a \$1700 donation to the Friends of Upper Macungie Township and clean up after the event. After discussion, the Board agreed to table this item while more information is gathered. Of concern is another lacrosse tournament scheduled to be held two weeks prior to this tournament on the same grass area. Another concern is the size of the nine fields requested.

Samuel Saylor, representing his 35+ men's baseball team, addressed the Recreation Board to request a field in UMT in which to play Sunday baseball games. The team only plays on Sundays from April to September, and the team is comprised of a majority of UMT residents. Samuel is initially interested in playing at Breinigsville Park and may be interested in helping getting a field constructed at Grange Park. Samuel was provided information to contact Red Deslatte, who coordinates the Breinigsville Park field schedule, to see about availability for 2014. Samuel was also shown plans for Grange Park and will be given a "Needs Assessment" survey.

## **Community Programs Scheduled**

Review of 5K/1K Run and Walk for Parks – Held November 3<sup>rd</sup>. 95 runners finished the 5K, and \$4000 was raised for UMT Parks. Lots of positive feedback. The 5K committee did a great job coordinating and executing the event. A thank-you pizza dinner was given to the 5K committee and the event was reviewed. The committee will be starting in January on organizing next year's event, which is planned for November 2, 2014. There was one resident complaint on this year's event; that loud music was played too early the morning of the 5K.

Review of Hunter/Trapper Course – Held November 10<sup>th</sup>. 60 participants, full class. Great feedback on this class.

Review of AARP Safe Driver's Course – Held November 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. 8 hour course was cancelled due to lack of signups. 10 participants for the refresher course.

Review Pet CPR/First Aide Class – was scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>. This class was cancelled due to lack of signups. We will try to offer this class again in 2014 after advertising in the Spring newsletter. A May 25<sup>th</sup> date was proposed, but the Board decided to ask Valerie to look into an alternate date since May 25<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day weekend.

Game night – scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> at Independent Community Center. Free event, no registration needed. All are invited to come out for games and small refreshments.

Fall/Winter volleyball – Tuesday nights through March 2014. Excellent participation. Over 30 players each week during the last month. Players aged 19 to 65 have come out to play.

Tree Care – scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>. Free course but registration needed.

Night with Laurie Moore – Tentatively scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup>. The cost for the program increased to \$350 in 2014. The Board voted to recommend that the admission charge be raised to \$10 per ticket, up from the current \$8 price this year. The \$10 admission will help cover the program increase. This recommendation will be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Family Fishing – Tentatively scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>. Waiting for date confirmation. This event will probably be offered twice in 2014, as it was this year.

Movies in the Park – June 13<sup>th</sup> at Lone Lane Park, July 11<sup>th</sup> at Breinigsville Park, and August 8<sup>th</sup> at Grange Park. Movies will be picked early next year. The Active Learning Center is interested in participating next year.

Barktoberfest – scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Proposed/New Programs**

Magic Show with Magic Mike – proposed for May 16<sup>th</sup>. This would be a 2 person, 1hr show, and we would need at least 60 attendees. Tickets would be sold for \$10 each. The Board decided to table this proposal until more information could be obtained from Valerie. There are questions on the admission price and magic program.

Golf / Tennis – It was proposed to offer these programs in 2014 under the same pricing structure as this year. Both programs were popular and were well run this year. The Board agreed that we should again look to offer these programs with the same instructors and the same pricing structure.

Bird Watching – April is going to speak to the instructor and bring a proposal to the Board.

Other programs under consideration are Basketball, Folk Festival, Penn State Extension Programs, Pro Martial Arts Bullying class, Boot Camp in the Park, Ceramics, Interior Design, and Zumba. Another Geocaching event is also being planned for next year.

## **Old Business**

Upper Macungie Park Dog Park Completion/Status – Three additional donations have been received in the last month totaling \$145 (including two from out-of-state visitors to the park). Jim Soltis suggested we keep the donation box in place at least through the winter.

Grange Park; Memorial Walkway/Wall and Flagpole – Discussion was held about what should be included and what the memorial would look like. Dean Haas presented a price estimate for one plan. Ed Earley stated that DCNR grants may also be available to help build this. Sean Gill volunteered to look into options and present these to the Board.

Independent Park Community Center – No construction update. 7 rentals last month, 46 rentals to date. 15 more rentals yet this year.

Program Instructors, usage, fees, payments – There was consensus among the Board that the pricing contracts created by Andrew may need to be more generic or may need more options for the various events. Rich Kiser requested that this be tabled and be sent back to the subcommittee to review. Rich will set up a meeting for the subcommittee.

Open Space Development – A Needs Assessment survey will be given to the youth associations to provide information on the growth of youth participation in various sports. It was recognized that grass areas need to be planned and planted multiple years before the fields can be used.

## **New Business**

Park and Grant Updates – An addition was made to the Pavilion Application stating that no amplified equipment can be used between 9pm and 8am. UMT also was awarded grants that fully fund the water line in Breinigsville Park and the removal of Fogelsville Dam.

Annual Recognition Dinner – Andrea Russell and Rich Kiser proposed that an annual recognition dinner be scheduled each year for individuals and committees that significantly help run recreation events each year. The dinner would be a small pizza dinner or equivalent. The dinner would be scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of November each year. The Board voted to send this recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Recreation Board Update – Rich Kiser made a motion to replace Jeff Pascoe on the Recreation Board, citing the need for involved members. Jeff was appointed to the Board in February, and has not attended six of the nine meetings since then, including the last three. The Board voted to send this recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

## **Public Comment**

SPYA Donation – Dave Kentner presented a \$400 check to the Friends of Upper Macungie. The donation was from a field hockey tournament run by SPYA.

A motion was made by Dave Kentner, seconded by Sean Gill, and all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Next month's meeting is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Township Building. A special thank-you to Deb Soltis for taking the notes at this meeting!

Rich Kiser  
Chairperson  
UMT Parks and Recreation Board