

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

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on April 27, 2017 at the Independent Park Community Center. The following Recreation Board members were present: Dave Kentner, Andrea Russell, Katie Shade, Karla Trumbauer, Bret Spangler, and Jennifer Szukics. Also present at the meeting was Jim Soltis. Lynn Pigliacampi-Matula, Stephanie Rauch-Mannino, Brian Kresge, and April Navarra were absent.

Dave called the meeting to order at 7:28 PM. He asked all present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

MINUTES

Karla missed Jim Soltis to March minutes as an attendee. Katie motioned to approve the minutes once edited; Jen seconded. All approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hurling Tournament – Patrick O'Donnell

Pat O'Donnell presented a tournament hosted by a local hurling club, the Allentown Hibernians Hurling Club, to the Board. Pat informed the Board that the sport of hurling is the national sport of Ireland, where there are amateur hurling leagues comparable in intensity to American professional sports leagues. Hurling is essentially a combination of baseball, lacrosse, and hockey. Teams are comprised of 13-15 players, depending on the size of the pitch. To score, players must get a ball through a pair of upright poles set apart the width of a soccer goal. The club's tournament is regional and for adults. Although organizers previously used and already reserved Haines Mill for this year, they believe the tournament has outgrown that facility. Hurling teams come from other Mid-Atlantic states and Ohio for this tournament. This year's tournament is next Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 11 AM - 5 PM. Pat said organizers are looking to move to a place where there is space for 2 pitches and they thought Grange Road Park would be a good option. (They contacted Lynn earlier in April and she asked them to present to the Board). However, the time could be shortened if two pitches are used.

Pat provided several Google Earth images of Grange Road Park with the proposed pitch lines overlaid on the images. Pat said the organizers intend to reline the pitches in orange but the tournament could be held without relining. If permitted, they want to reline the night before on Friday, May 5. Dave said that SPYA games for several sports are already scheduled on fields at Grange Road Park on Saturday, May 6. Pat believes the tournament would generate very little damage to the fields, even though their players are adults who wear spikes. Katie expressed concern that if the Board recommends this, it could not be approved by the Board of Supervisors before next Thursday night, May 4, the day before organizers want to reline and two days before the tournament itself. There seems to be too little time to approve this tournament. The visiting teams will not be able to get confirmed location information from the organizers until the day before the tournament.

Pat explained that organizers do not charge the participating teams a registration fee. Rather, they cover expenses through fundraising by the club. Dave will contact Pat to discuss this further. Currently, the club practices at Calvary Temple and plays games at Fountain Park in Allentown. Dave mentioned that certain activities that use Grange Road Park have downtimes when we might be better able to accommodate a tournament like this. The Board also noted that additional time would be helpful if the organizers would like to move the tournament to Grange in the future. Pat provided a copy of a Certificate of Insurance naming Calvary Temple as an additional insured. This could be updated to name Upper Macungie Township as an insured.

Trexlertown Farmers' Market - Dax Funderburk

Dave went with Dax to Grange to determine available space, location. With current vendors, 400ft is needed, and space is available for that. The focus of the location is to not interfere with other activities but bring something different for community. **Would like to line up market on the grass opposite playground/splashpark area. TFM would provide flagger to facilitate people crossing and address safety concerns; perhaps put temporary rope up on market days if needed (Sat mornings).** The market could potentially go beyond well/manhole further into the grass and make second aisle of vendors if needed (wouldn't anticipate this for couple years). We can paint or identify well/manhole area to ensure there is no safety concern for patrons or vendors. We could also have parking on grass behind vendors; would like to keep traffic on the far end as much as possible. Per Dave, this location wouldn't interfere with any other activities. Columbus Day is big sports tournament day, so there would be no market on that day. In general, this plan wouldn't change the activity pattern of any sports. The market would be utilizing space that isn't being used, and will bring more people/involvement to the park. We don't know what the impact of Splash Park would be, and it may end up causing parking issues. If we need additional parking, we can mark off an area with paint to set designated area. If/when community center is built, we can move the market back further. Would be looking to start Saturday after Labor Day (9/9). Dax would need to notify Velodrome of intention to move. If Velodrome isn't agreeable, they may need to move sooner. **The plan would be to start on 9/9, with a contingency that they would move sooner if needed with 2 weeks' notice.** **Starting in Sept. gives us a chance to monitor the impact of the splash park.** The summer market usually starts the second Saturday in May and runs every Saturday through Thanksgiving, closed through Nov, and then open 1st, 3rd, 5th sat from Dec through April. The market would go through the winter, and the only time they don't have market is if there is a potential safety issue.

Additional market info:

- Approx 70% of customer base comes from Upper Mac.
- Vendors need to be within 30 miles, must be a producer.
- Food-related vendors only; go through extensive vetting.
- Market and all vendors adhere to standard insurance requirements.
- Registered non-profit (not a c3). Main expenses are site fee, insurance, marketing, and community programs. They don't ask for sponsors or donations for the market. Partner programs aren't compensated unless people donate; programs are meant to drive involvement in community.

Fee discussion – Instead of charging a set fee, the TFM could partner to help sponsor other programs (movie nights), would provide gift certs for other events (ex. survey giveaway). Dax would be looking to spend those funds to give back to community. The board discussed potentially not having a specific fee, but structuring in such a way that there is more of a partnership with the community – most likely in the format of the market bringing in additional healthy living programs to the park in partnership with the township/rec board, and sponsoring and contributing to other programs if/when needed.

Andrea recommended checking into the fees that other farmers markets pay; which would need to be adjusted based on number of vendors that exist at those other places. Jen recommended doing a trial year with no formal fee structure, but with a requirement to provide donation (TBD based on evaluation of other locations), and then reevaluating after 1 year.

Actions needed before May meeting –

Board will look into fee structure of other locations and then provide recommendation to board of supervisors.

- **Jen will check into insurance/liability requirements.**

- Dave will call other farmer's markets (Macungie/Lower Mac) to determine fee structure/insurance requirements
- Lynn will request copy of IRS approval for non-profit status; insurance info
- Lynn will ask if township already has some kind of skeleton lease agreement/rental with requirements.
- Lynn to talk with Attny Schantz to start sketching out preliminary agreement – Jen/Katie will send info to Lynn.
- Karla will call Dax to inform him of current status and that we're conducting some additional due diligence.

REPORTS

Community Programs Scheduled

- **Pickleball** – 71 people attended, including 2 Lehigh county commissioners, 2 Lower Macungie officials. Brett is getting a lot of emails (forwarded from the township) showing interest in getting organized events started. Brett is working with Lynn to set up regular schedule and determine how to communicate out to potential participants. Expect to start with open play, and look to form a formal league later on if interest continues.
- **German class** was cancelled – only 3 signups; TBD if we will reschedule this for fall – perhaps need more advertising to increase interest.
- **Laurie Moore** – 4/27; will get readout next month.
- **Parkland Resource Fair** – 4/29 - Brian and Katie will attend with Jim.

Proposed/New

- **Kite Day** – Looking to schedule for fall. Katie is looking to get the Pocono Kite Society to go to Grange by mid-May. We will decide if we'll move forward with this at the May meeting.
- **Disc Golf** – This is a very popular sport, with people come from surrounding areas to play at Rt 100 park. The county has had issues with some people not behaving appropriately at other disc golf locations. Den Barr may be able to assist organizing something more formal. Will discuss further at the May meeting.
- **General Policies/Fee Structure for Grange** – No additional discussion this month. *From last month: As more people ask for use of Grange, we may want to have a formal fee/tournament structure and standard stipulations and usage requirements for these things.*
- **Dog Park Sectioning** – No additional discussion this month. *From last month: Would like a separate area for small dogs/large dogs. Jim will get an estimate for what it would cost to set up fencing to determine if Friends should pay for this, or if we would like township to pay for it.*
- **Lemonade in the parks** – No additional discussion this month. *From last month: Would like to do this, but need to pick dates and get volunteers – will pick dates next month and discuss definite plan. We can potentially get donations from supermarkets. Another idea was providing popsicles/frozen lemonade.*

Unfinished Business

- **Splash park** – Work to start May 1; expect to complete by June 30 – will discuss opening in more details at May meeting.
- **Need to finalize prizes for giveaways** – splash park entry/pass; Dutch Springs passes; pavilion rental; gift certs to farmers market.

New Business

Board is ok with partnering with Dutch springs for discount program; need to understand specifics of existing discount program and what would be required

Other Business – *not discussed due to Lynn being away; will be updated next month*

- Independent Park Community Center rental update
- Upper Macungie Township Recreation fund balance
- Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance
- Park and Grant updates

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 9:06PM by Brett and seconded by Jen to adjourn the meeting, and all were in agreement. Next month's meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Upper Macungie Township building.

Dave Kentner, Chairman

UMT Parks and Recreation Board