

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP PARKS
AND RECREATION BOARD Monthly
Meeting Minutes May 2020**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at the Upper Macungie Township building. Recreation Board members present: Dave Kentner, Bret Spangler. Also present: Parks Team Leader Jim Soltis. Gwen McCurdy, Karla Trumbauer, Matthew Bernard; Wes Schlauch; Andrea Russell, April Navarra attended via phone. Katie Shade was absent. Also attending via phone: Recreation & Events Coordinator, Lynn Matula.

Other members of the public in attendance:

- Quinn Conway - Resident

Chair Bret Spangler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He asked all present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Bret did a roll call to confirm attendance. Gwen made a motion was made by and seconded Dave by to approve the February meeting minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Quinn Conway attended to discuss a proposal for a skate park and/or pump park at Grange. He stressed the popularity and benefits of these activities but the lack of safe or acceptable space to do so. He indicated the cost usually runs \$45-60/sq ft (\$75k-\$100k for asphalt) and provided information on usual size and materials used. He also indicated that grants are available, and Allentown recently received a grant. Quinn provided pictures that Bret will send to the board. Lynn also indicated that electronic information can be sent directly to her. Karla asked about other locations, and Quinn and his father indicated they were primarily looking for a location with adequate space. A possibility to raise funding would be a bike-a-thon at Grange, with permission from the Board/BOS. We would also need to look into grants that may be available. Dave also mentioned we would need to look into liability considerations with the township. This will be added for discussion at next month's meeting.

REPORTS

Community Programs Scheduled - Lynn provided updates on programs including those that have been impacted by Covid-19

Proposed/New - See new business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Programming Partnership with Velodrome – Discussions have been on hold for the last several months. However, Lynn is checking to see if one of their fitness/yoga instructors would be willing to offer a program to accommodate social distancing. Lynn will keep us updated. Gwen also asked that we talk with the Velodrome to see if they have any resources/contacts for a pump track. Will be removed from unfinished business.

- Mess Fest – No additional information at this time. Lynn will keep us updated. Will be removed from unfinished business.
- Next Steps for Top Voted Events –
 - Build a community center – Lynn/Bret will send updates electronically
 - Bonfire – This may be best for a fall event. Bret proposed a weekend between trick or treat and Thanksgiving (would need port-a-potties). Matt raised a concern on spending time and resources on an event that may be cancelled, but Bret and Lynn highlighted that this may be an annual event, so even if it doesn't happen this year, the groundwork is laid for next year. Andrea suggested that we all brainstorm and get ideas back to Lynn. Lynn will pull together some additional ideas and bring them back for discussion. Will be discussed at next month's meeting.
 - Car Shows/Bike Night – Matt indicated these are good events, but don't really get popular until year 3, so the first couple of years are a lot of work. Weather would be better to do this in September vs May. Matt will reach out to car clubs to get more information. Will be discussed at next month's meeting.
 - Food Truck Festival – Lynn has been pulling some information together with Tracy for this. Lynn suggested maybe having a truck per neighborhood and then at a park, or some kind of pick-up, distance-friendly scenario. Lynn will send information out via email.
 - 2nd Tier voted – Sports equipment swap, Beerfest, STEAM activities, Trivia, Pop up ice skating, Park Profiles on social media
 - Lynn mentioned potentially combining events

NEW BUSINESS:

- Virtual and distance-friendly program ideas
 - Photo scavenger hunt
 - Help promote other organizations' virtual events
 - Virtual 5k or virtual bike race – Lower Mac is already doing a virtual 5k. Another idea would be to log miles to track distance.
 - April suggested turning movies in the park to a drive-in movie for July/Aug/maybe Sept?
 - Ideas will be discussed over email.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Pavilion Rental Update
 - Reservation reporting will begin once reservations are permitted
- UMT Recreation fund balance – (see spreadsheet) \$2,976,878.70
- Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance - \$28,856.32
- Recreation & Events Coordinator Updates – Chief of Police and Fire Chief are both retiring, interim people have been named
 - Andrea brought up Rotary Club – they would like to get involved in the community and asked for suggestions of where they could help us. Bret suggested putting them in touch with Bob. April mentioned they could potentially help as volunteers.
 - Andrea mentioned that people on the rt 100 park trail have been going on to other properties, specifically Benkini nursery, and there is a concern for safety. Andrea asked if we can consider additional signage on the trail. Bret mentioned it was the property's owner to post appropriate notices.
- Officer Update – Bret thanked people for patience with organization of the meeting this month. He also asked that everyone do their homework and research prior to the next meeting so we can move forward. If anyone has a specific issue or inquiry for the BOS, please get them to Bret or Lynn if you aren't comfortable asking directly.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 8:17 pm by Bret and seconded by Dave to adjourn the meeting, and all agreed. Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 7:00 PM at the Township building.

Bret Spangler, Chairperson UMT
Parks and Recreation Board