

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

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at the Upper Macungie Township building. Recreation Board members present: Karla Trumbauer, Dave Kentner, Andrea Russell, April Navarra, Bret Spangler, Wes Schlauch (remote). Also present: Recreation & Events Coordinator, Lynn Matula. Matthew Bernard, Gwen McCurdy, and Parks Team Leader Jim Soltis were absent.

Other members of the public in attendance: Puran Baru, Neeraj Sharma from Lehigh Cricket Club

Chair Bret Spangler called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM. He asked all present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Dave made a motion was made by and seconded Andrea by to approve the May meeting minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lehigh Cricket Club – Neeraj Sharma and Puran Baru came to discuss a proposal to build a cricket pitch in one of our parks. The club has shown a lot of growth over the last 6-8 years, and the popularity in the country is growing significantly as well (US will have a team soon). Right now the club is playing at a pitch in Lower Macungie (Farmington). Pitch is 22yds, with 65yd radius. Lehigh Valley CC (Lehigh is extension) has been active for 25 years. Right now there is limited availability at the Lower Mac field due to sharing with other teams and other sports. The league has diversity of age and culture. LVCC is part of a larger group of 5 leagues in the Philadelphia region with over 40 teams. Cricket season is similar to baseball.

Because of the growth of the sport and limited places to play, the Lehigh Cricket Club is looking for Upper Macungie to create a pitch/field. Neeraj and Puran provided a cost/revenue overview (in presentation). League charges fees to cover field/equipment/insurance expenses. The club feels by having adequate facilities, more revenue can be raised, and the sport can continue to grow. Youth leagues have started and looking to expand – would love to partner with UMAC to have a coaching/development program. There is a very passionate following in the area, and many parents would like to get their kids involved. The ask is for initial investment and space, and LCC and Indian American Association of the Lehigh Valley can help raise revenue to continue to maintain the grounds.

Dave asked about potential damage to the fields due to continued use and spikes on the grass. Having a fixed location would help keep this to a single area. Bret likened the demand and needs to what was needed for pickleball. Bret is concerned about putting blacktop in the middle of a field, so would want it to be done professionally. Bret asked if the club would be willing to purchase the astro mat if the township provided asphalt and green space; they agreed. They are open to any park that would work. **Bret would like to discuss with Scott Faust and Bob I to understand feasibility, and we can then revisit with a proposal.**

REPORTS

Community Programs Scheduled - Lynn provided email updates

- Movies – Musician has been booked for both dates; Kona is booked for July; Smokehouse is booked for August – looking for a couple more food trucks.

Proposed/New - See new business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Bonfire – Lynn provided additional information to insurance rep and has also reached out to PHS to see if they are interested in participating. Lynn clarified that there would be one fire with emergency personnel. Involving the wineries in the future could be a possibility. Lynn will provide an update when she hears back
- Car Show – Lynn has done some additional research with local clubs; waiting on feedback.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Will be discussing 5 potential new programs on the agenda from ideas list going forward.
- Vacancy – Katie Shade has offered her resignation. Lynn will review the applications on file to see which ones are still valid (stay active for 2 years). We may need someone who can cross-participate with Friends.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Pavilion Rental Update
 - June 2020- 4 bookings, \$400.00
 - June 2019- 68 bookings, \$8,975.00
- UMT Recreation fund balance – (see spreadsheet) \$1,982,553.23
- Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance - \$26,856.32.
- Recreation & Events Coordinator Updates – No additional updates.
- Park Update:
- Officer Update – Bret discussed that the 1st annual pickleball tournament is coming up and have over 100 registrations already – expecting more. They have over \$4k in registrations. LV Mercedes is an event sponsor and will be showing 2 cars; have over \$1000 in sponsorships, as well as extensive donations. Volunteers will be needed. Bret also asked members to look into a potential replacement for Katie on the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 8:50 pm by Bret and seconded by Dave to adjourn the meeting, and all agreed. Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 7:00 PM at the Township building.

Bret Spangler, Chairperson UMT
Parks and Recreation Board