

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND  
RECREATION BOARD Monthly Meeting  
Minutes January 2021**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at the Upper Macungie Township building. Recreation Board members present: Karla Trumbauer, Andrea Russell, April Navarra, Dave Kentner, Wes Schlauch, Gwen McCurdy, Bret Spangler, Matthew Bernard, Jackie Svetcov. Also present: Recreation & Events Coordinator, Lynn Matula; Parks Team Leader Jim Soltis; Deb Soltis.

Other members of the public in attendance: Denise Bauer (via Zoom), Jason Krier (Friends Treasurer), Neeraj Sharma (Friends Member), Charles Mack, Geno Yacapsin, Liz Fones, Jessica Younger.

Chair Bret 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. Dave made a motion was made by and seconded by Karla to approve the November meeting minutes. All were in favor.

**RESTRUCTURING for 2021 -**

Chair - Mathew motioned for Bret Spangler to retain Chair role, Dave seconded. All approved.

Vice Chair - Bret nominated Andrea Russell to retain Vice-Chair, Karla seconded. All approved.

Secretary - Karla nominated Jackie Svetcov, Bret seconded. All approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Denise Bauer - Summer Camps w/ Wildlands Conservancy - Lynn sent information out via email. Denise has indicated that there is a lot of flexibility in what can be offered as part of a partnership. They do something similar with the City of Bethlehem. Denise highlighted which parks would work and why, as well as how the days break down in terms of curriculum and activities. Grange could be used for specific activities, but would not be the preferred location. April asked how much the programs “tire out the kids” - Denise indicated they certainly do. Andrea asked about required amenities - Denise indicated a restroom was required, as well as something undercover in case of inclement weather to keep the kids safe.

Charles Mack/Geno Yacapsin - Karate program based in the park; location is flexible. Costs are included in the draft briefing that was sent out. Proposed class time would be a weekday at 7pm (Tues/Thurs). Program is geared toward older kids/adults; could be a self-defense class. Charles has puzzle mats that can be used. Uniforms would not be required, dress code/guidance would be provided. Bret indicated that clearances would be required prior to a vote.

Liz Fones/Jessica Younger - Girls on the Run Lehigh Valley Chapter - Program is focused on self-confidence for girls through running with the goal to run a 5k. Liz would like to build a relationship with UMac for a more consistent program (due to school issues with Covid). There is a spring and fall season, running for approximately 10 weeks. Sessions are after school 2x/week. Karla asked about flexibility around time of day. Liz indicated most programs start at 4/4:30. A virtual curriculum is also available, which can be used in case of bad weather. Grange/Breinigsville Parks would be preferred locations, but willing to be flexible. Bret asked about

potentially rotating parks - Liz indicated that might be confusing within a session, but would be willing to use a different part for Spring and Fall. Targeted age group is grades 3-5, middle school program could be added on later. Teams are approximately 15 girls; 5k would likely be done on last practice of the program. Jackie asked about costs - Liz indicated that fees are on a sliding scale based on household income so no one is turned away. Bret asked about including the middle school program - Liz indicated there is a potential concern with volunteers as there is a completely separate curriculum for them. Coaches need to be at least 18, but students younger than 18 can be junior coaches. All coaches are required to get clearances, one coach on site will always be CPR certified.

## REPORTS

**Community Programs Scheduled** - Lynn provided updates via email.

**Proposed/New** - See new business

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Social media policy - completed

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Wildlands camps - Lynn suggested that the week long camps are the lowest risk options due to it being the most established and not having to have any kind of "cost exchange" agreement. Lynn indicated the pavilions are available for the requested weeks. The one day camp requires an up-front cost for the township and underwriting. Bret suggested having the one day program potentially funded by Friends.
  - Bret motioned to approve 3 week-long Wildlands camps at rotating locations during the weeks of June 21-24, July 6-9, and July 19-23. April seconded. All approved.
- Karate class - tabled until clearances are provided. Lynn asked if we were willing to vote via email once clearances are provided. All agreed to vote on the program via email upon receipts for clearances. Proposed split would be 80/20; time would be 7-8:30 pm.
- Girls on the Run - Bret raised a concern about the potential for residents to push back about boys being allowed, but this would be addressed directly by GOTR. Lynn recommended we partner with them as a joint township program. GOTR is a non-profit, and as a township program we would not charge them for use of the parks.
  - Karla motioned to approve the Girls on the Run program as proposed in the issue briefing; Bret seconded. All approved.
- Workout program - moved to the next meeting.
- Movie in the Park Titles - will be determined via selections on Google sheet by the end of Jan.
- New Event ideas (from compiled list) - Bret motioned to defer to next month, April seconded. All approved

### OTHER BUSINESS:

- UMT Recreation fund balance – (see spreadsheet) \$1,984,178.40
- Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance - \$28,312,77
- Recreation & Events Coordinator Updates –
  - Art in the Park - Would like to have this paired with another event. April and Lynn will work together to come up with additional ideas.
- Park Update: None
- Officer Update – Friends will be restructuring shortly. Pickleball tournament has 50 registrants after 4 days. People have inquired about an Open event. There are multiple sponsors lined up already. Bret asked to let him know if anyone knows of any other suggestions for sponsors.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made at 8:10 pm by Bret and seconded by Dave to adjourn the meeting, and all agreed. Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 7:00 PM at the Township building.

Bret Spangler - Chair

UMT Parks and Recreation Board