

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND  
RECREATION BOARD Monthly Meeting  
Minutes February 17th, 2022**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday February 17th, 2022, at the Upper Macungie Township building. Recreation Board members present: Jaclyn Svetcov, Bret Spangler, Matthew Bernard, Karla Trumbauer, April Navarra, Gwen McCurdy. Also present: Recreation & Events Coordinator, Lynn Matula; Parks Team Leader Jim Soltis.

Other members of the public in attendance: Deb Soltis, Andrew Schantz, Robert Ibach, Kalman Sostarecz, Darren Martocci, Graham Simmons, Paul McNemar, Noah Chrismer.

Chairman 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 made a motion to approve the minutes, April and Karla seconded, all were in favor.

**REORGANIZATION:**

Temporary Chairperson- Bret nominated Jackie, Matthew seconded

- All were in favor.

Chairperson- Jackie nominated Bret, Bret seconded

- Matthew, Karla, Gwen, Jackie, and Bret were in favor, April abstained suggesting Matthew be Chair while casting her vote

Vice Chairperson- Bret nominated Matthew, Karla seconded

- All were in favor.

Secretary- Bret nominated Jackie, Karla seconded

- All were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Paul McNemar was present as a representative and resident of the Green Hills/Kaybrook Park community. Members of the Green Hills development are concerned about the lack of upkeep of Kaybrook Park and deem it to be unsafe and unsightly. Kaybrook was owned by the Kaybrook HOA. The HOA went bankrupt, and the park reverted to Township property. Paul feels UMT has failed to maintain it adequately in comparison to the capital investment and maintenance in other UMT Parks. Paul shared photos of Kaybrook park, Grange Park, Lone Lane Park, and Ricky Park to compare level of upkeep. Safety concerns include visible exposed pipes and a large sink hole, lack of mulch around the playground structures exposing concrete footings and mud, broken benches, broken bike rack, ripped nets, etc. The area is wet due to lack of proper drainage, grass around trees and amenities is sprayed with weed killer instead of mowed causing excess mud. Trees are in bad shape. Paul's conclusion is that Kaybrook is not maintained to the same level as other parks, and is a viable, well-used park by neighborhood children and SPYA that the Township received for free.
- **Park & Rec Board Members expressed that safety concerns must be addressed, and the Township determine a plan to maintain the park and park equipment.**
- **No motion was made at this time**

## NEW BUSINESS:

- **KRE/ UMT Recreation Fee Dispute:** Graham Simmons, A KRE lawyer, was present to discuss the disagreement between KRE and the township regarding a recreational fee required by all developers to be paid to UMT. This money is used for UMT community parks upkeep, improvements, and recreation programs. The amount required to be paid totals \$955,500.00. KRE feels that the land and recreation area/amenities of their large apartment complex is more than adequate for this particular community and that these residents can have their recreation needs met mostly through amenities on site. Noah Chrismer feels that almost \$1,000,000 is too high an amount. KRE would like to engage in discussions with the Board of supervisors to come to an agreement.
  - On-Site Recreational Amenities include: a clubhouse with a full gym and exercise studio, snack bar, pool table, pool, tot lot, barbecue areas, 25+ acres of open space, community gardens, benches, walking paths, and a large dog park.
    - Matt expressed concerns about the homeowner's association keeping up the fees and what could happen if it went under like Kaybrook Park.
    - Bret and Karla expressed doubts that new residents would only use those facilities, and that inevitably, they will use youth association and township recreational facilities and programs.
    - They also noted that UMT residents would not be able to use these KRE facilities, only by invitation.
    - April feels like KRE is nickel and diming UMT. UMT Recreation would never forbid residents from this development from using UMT services/programs/parks, so KRE should have to pay.
    - Jim asked if KRE was forced to build the recreational complex and Andrew said no that it was not a requirement. These are amenities to make their apartments more desirable.
  - *KRE seems willing to negotiate a price, however their letter to the Township requests no fee (per Andrew Schantz).*
  - Andrew pointed out that these residents will be using our parks and amenities and that the township relies on these funds for the entire community. Developers know upfront that rec fees are a requirement when building a new development. KRE counters that they had many conversations requesting lower fees during the building process. *KRE would like a recommendation of a portion or the full amount of the \$955,000.00 to be discussed with the board of supervisors.*
  - **After hearing the evidence from both sides, Chairperson Bret Spangler made a motion recommending not to reduce or eliminate the Recreation Fees due to the Township by KRE in the amount of \$955,000.00.**
    - **Seconded by Matthew, All were in favor.**
- **Movies in the Park movie titles:**
  - Encanto, Sing 2, Ghostbusters Afterlife.
  - Lynn will pick a fourth movie from the list.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **By-law changes for discussion**
  - Number of Board Members- Originally, nine volunteers created the Park & recreation Board deeming nine members were needed. Typically, most UMT boards have seven

members.

- Bret feels that 5-7 members would be adequate and work well for the parks and rec board.
  - April feels that a larger number of people is better because it provides more volunteers, and more diversely represents interests of residents. April felt very disheartened at the way Andrea and Dave were dismissed from the rec board and that the Board of Supervisors owe them an apology.
  - Karla also feels that more board members are an advantage in terms of volunteering at events.
  - Bret added that board members can defer to finding other community members to help volunteer at events.
  - Others noted that is not always easy to do
  - **Bret motioned for the required number of board numbers be changed in the by-laws from 9 to 7.**
    - **Matt seconded. All were in favor.**
- Term Limits- tabled by Bret until the next meeting
- Asking members to investigate how other board groups handle this matter.
- Frequency of meetings -
- This item was initially discussed at the January work session (no quorum, became a work session)
  - **Bret motioned to begin bi-monthly parks and recreation meetings that will be held on odd months starting May 2022.**
    - Jackie seconded. Gwen, Karla, Matthew, and Jackie were in favor. April opposed

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- UMT Recreation fund balance –\$1,705,436.99
- Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance –\$33,369.72
- Lynn’s updates- UMT is discussing a playground summer camp partnership that would include South Whitehall Township and North Whitehall Township. More details to come.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A second resident of Green Hills was present at the meeting to advocate for the improvement of Kaybrook Park and wanted to reiterate the safety of the many children including his own that use the park needs to be a priority.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Bret motioned to adjourn at 8:47pm, Seconded by Karla, all in favor. The March meeting will be Thursday, March 17th, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the Township building.

Bret Spangler-Chair

UMT Parks and Recreation Board