

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

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday November 17th, 2022, at the Upper Macungie Township building. Recreation Board members present: Bret Spangler, Matthew Bernard, Karla Trumbauer, Jaclyn Svetcov, Wes Schlauch. Also present: Recreation & Events Coordinator, Lynn Matula and Recreation Manager Mike Kukitz

Other members of the public in attendance: Linda Gorr, Neeraj Sharma , Jason Krier, and 3 residents from Kaybrook

Chairman Bret Spangler called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. He asked all present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes, Bret seconded, all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Scott Johnson from Juniper Lane came to thank us for talking about Kaybrook Park. He brought his daughter along and they were hoping to have a structure built to replace the old playground. Mike updated us that 50,000 was approved for a structure at Kaybrook Park and that things were moving along nicely.

Linda Gorr spoke and was concerned that the Parks and Rec Board were not meeting on a monthly basis anymore. Linda was a former rec board member and has seen that in the past, when the rec board started to meet less often that this led to no meetings at all. As part of the township fees, the recreation board is responsible for township events and generating ideas. She is concerned that if we continue on the path that we are on that the rec board will cease to exist and that is very disappointing to her. She felt strongly that we need to be doing a service to our community in UMT. If we do not meet monthly it will be harder to get volunteers, etc. She is also concerned about the term limits.

Jason Krier, the Treasurer of the Friends Board, spoke and was also concerned about the state of the rec board and the fact that meetings are canceled last minute. He believes that it takes too long for things to get done and that meeting less than monthly will cause further delays.

Neeraj Sharma, the Friends President, spoke about how he feels better communication is needed between the rec board members. His second concern is that as a volunteer, he feels that board members need to either make a commitment to the board, or else step down if there is too much on their plate. He feels that there needs to be an attendance policy. Bret mentioned the need to revisit the old policy which he believes is 3 absences per year.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Public works update- Jim Soltis was not present to do an update

-Kids Noon Year's Eve- is taking place on December 31st this year. Parks and Rec are looking for volunteers for this family fun 3-hour event that will occur from 10:30-1:30. The set-up will be Friday all day so any community help is greatly appreciated. Help is also really needed during the 10:30-12 busy time or at 1:30 for clean-up on the day of the event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

-Rec Board Ideas- A spreadsheet was made with rec board ideas that the board members provided. Volleyball was at the top of the list, but many other ideas were presented which include: pickleball for kids, Earth day clean-up, Pokemon and Dungeons and Dragons meet-ups, senior walking groups, toddlers in the woods, teen crafts, community theater, local concerts, dodgeball, talent show, dessert festival, bike tune-up day, wine event, drone flying event, Halloween event, engineer program, driving programs, photography contest, etc. Matt brought up the idea of finding which demographic is not covered in the yearly events/programs. ex: lacking teen programs. Lynn addressed that some of these events are already in the works including: concerts in the park, senior walking group, UMT Halloween event. Karla feels that some of the ideas might be difficult to do right now until there is a rec center. She feels that we should hone in on the doable ideas that we can accomplish within the year. Matt mentioned that the local firehouse has rooms to rent, Lynn mentioned partnering with a local craft or pottery company to use their location.

Before the next meeting, we will prioritize the indoor/outdoor and location requirements and rank each item. Jackie will send out a reminder to board members to send their top 5 choices. Jackie will share the spreadsheet with Mike and Lynn so that they can help with the planning and logistics and highlight items that are most feasible or that are in the works.

-Term Limits- This still needs to be looked into and discussed. The limit is 5 years, should this be amended? How long does a member need to sit out before being able to volunteer again? Term limits were tabled until the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- UMT Recreation fund balance – \$3,249,605.38
- Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance – \$38,881.99
- Mike's updates: An Eagle Scout would like approval for an additional "A Little Free Library". The UMT website has been updated but there can still be some issues that need to be cleaned up. Mike has also been approved through the D,C & R grant workshop.

Bret made a motion to approve the building of a "A Little Free Library" at Lone Lane Park by a local Eagle Scout. Karla seconded. All approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT-

-**Neeraj**, the Friends President, spoke about his interest in the volleyball program idea and volunteered to help organize/run the program if we can get it going. Indoor gym availability is an issue but this will need to be looked into.

-**Neeraj** also spoke on behalf of Friends that they are in need of another rec board member, as well as a community member to serve on the Friends Committee. **Karla Trumbauer volunteered to attend the quarterly meeting as another rec board member.**

ADJOURNMENT

Matthew made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm, Gwen seconded, all agreed.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January th, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the Township building.

Bret Spangler-Chair

Matthew Bernard-Vice Chair

UMT Parks and Recreation Board