

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND
RECREATION BOARD Monthly Meeting
Minutes January 19, 2023**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday January 19th, 2023, at the Upper Macungie Township building. Recreation Board members present: Matthew Bernard, Karla Trumbauer, Jaclyn Svetcov, Wes Schlauch, Gwen McCurdy, April Navarra, Bret Spangler via phone. Also present: Recreation Manager Mike Kukitz, Jim Soltis

Other members of the public in attendance: Neeraj Sharma , Kelly McNemar, Paul McNemar, and Deb Soltis

Vice-Chairman Matthew Bernard called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. He asked all present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Bret nominated Matthew to be chairperson of the Board, Karla seconded, all were in favor. Matt nominated Jackie as secretary, Karla seconded, all approved. April nominated Matt for chairperson for the year, Bret seconded, all were in favor. Matt nominated April for vice-chair for the year, Karla seconded, all were in favor. Matt nominated Jackie for secretary for the year, April seconded, all were in favor.

Jackie made a motion to approve the minutes, Mike added a correction (“DCNR”), Karla seconded, all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

NEW BUSINESS:

-Kaybrook Playground, Russett Road Park: Mike presented 4 playground options for Kaybrook Park as part of a visual slideshow. A new playground is planned in a new location. The prices ranged from about \$38,000 to \$63,000. One was a natural timber structure, the second was a modern playground with 3 slides, the third was an all age fitness park, and the fourth was a traditional playground. Karla felt strongly that swings needed to be present. Mike mentioned that the swings at Kaybrook could be re-finished to save money if desired. Kaybrook members felt strongly that slides and swings should be present. Kaybrook members wanted bright colors. Playground 2 was the preferred design by consensus.

-Park recreation open-space plan: Mike plans to write a grant through DCNR for an open-space plan which will act as a guide for UMT for the next decade about the direction to take with our resources. Mike will send out an RFP that will need to have some feedback from the board members.

-UMT Park brochure: Mike wants a fresh new look and design for the UMT Parks “Welcome Brochure” and was looking for some feedback from the board. Karla mentioned a QR code. Matt feels that a hard-copy is outdated and that we should only use a digital brochure. Karla disagrees and feels that we need both because people consume media in different ways. Jim mentioned that it is a nice way for new residents to get the lay of the land. Mike would like us to think on it and send any

feedback to him.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

-**Rec Board Ideas**-A spreadsheet was made with rec board ideas that the board members provided. Volleyball, Dodgeball, Concerts in the Park, Wine or Dessert Festival, and a Halloween event were the top contenders. Earth Day, Senior walking group, and Photography contest were runners-up. Many of these events are already in the works and Mike shared a spreadsheet of upcoming events for the 2023 year. Jim updated us on Frost-fest. Last information heard was that Artsquest wanted to be involved but wanted to change the dates. April has offered to give a CPR class to the community. Karla was interested in a tree-lighting since many townships offer this as an event.

-**By-law changes**-The bi-monthly meetings were discussed at the Board of Supervisor meetings and the by-laws were revised. It was recommended that meetings might be streamed in the future. Bret felt strongly that either all community board meetings of the township should be streamed or not at all. The Board of Supervisors meetings are currently streamed. Karla feels that due to the current times that the meetings should be streamed.

April would like to table this so she can think about this more. Karla and Gwen agreed.

-**Bi-monthly meetings** are still up for debate at this time. Bret is in favor of going back to monthly meetings if the agenda items pick-up but that a decision does not need to be made right away. Matt feels that we should keep the meetings bi-monthly but to add meetings if agenda items are high, giving a month's notice to the community.

April made a motion to go back to monthly meetings, Wes seconded, Matt opposed, the rest were in favor.

-**Term Limits**- The limit is 5 years, should this be amended? How long does a member need to sit out before being able to volunteer again? Matt and April feel that there should be no term limits.

-**Number of Members on the Board**- Members are currently at 7 but they can go up to 9. Many members feel the number should be higher, but Matt disagrees. Event volunteers are always an issue which is why there is concern. Mike is planning to start a VIP program to reach out to members in the community to become volunteers. April and Karla love the idea of the VIP program to focus on getting more community involvement first. Members agree about keeping the number to 7 at this time. **The only by-laws that need to be changed will be the term limits**

OTHER BUSINESS:

- UMT Recreation fund balance - **\$3,249,605.38**
- Friends of Upper Macungie Parks and Recreation, Inc. fund balance - **\$38,833.27**
- Mike's updates: Website will be revamped and the pavilion rental process has been updated to be easier.
- April feels that we need an electronic newsletter in addition to the other methods of communication. Karla thinks we should consider Tik-Tok as well, in addition to the Instagram and Facebook that we already have.

PUBLIC COMMENT- none

ADJOURNMENT

Karla made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm, Matt seconded, all agreed.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16th, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Township building.

Matthew Bernard- Chair
April Navarra- Vice-Chair
UMT Parks and Recreation Board