

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND
RECREATION BOARD Monthly Meeting
Minutes June 15th, 2023**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday, June 15th, 2023, at the UMT meeting room.

Recreation Board members present: *Matthew Bernard, Jaclyn Svetcov, Wes Schlauch, Neeraj Sharma, Gwen McCurdy, and April Navarra.* Also present: *Recreation Manager Mike Kukitz and Jim Soltis.*

Other members of the public in attendance: *Deb Soltis, Jason Krier*

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.

A motion was made by Gwen to approve the April minutes, Matt seconded, all approved.

A motion was made by Matt to approve the May minutes, Jackie seconded, all approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

REPORTS:

● **Staff Reports**

- Thank you to the 30 volunteers for Earth Day- 40 trees were planted and the playground at Grange was fully mulched.
- Concerts on the Grange, about 1,000 people each night, was a very successful event.
- Pickleball and self-defense classes underway.
- Yoga and Zumba in the parks has begun.
- Basketball league is just beginning.
- Art classes were successful.
- All community programs are doing very well with sign-ups and attendance.

● **Other news**

- Fall/Winter programming is coming together. Ideas are always welcome.
- Upper Mac Community Day- Saturday June 24th, free to enter from 12-8. Volunteers are welcome.
- Parkland School District is looking to partner with us for Fall programming.
- Grange Park wayfinding signs and dog park signs have been received. New recycling cans were also ordered.
- Talks underway with VFW to do some plantings around the creek to help with environmental maintenance.
- Fields at Grange need some maintenance- meetings with landscapers are in the works.
- \$10,000 grant accepted from Lehigh Valley Greenways to help with tree planting at Grange Park. We will match with an additional \$10,000 dollars. Over 100 trees at Grange Park will be planted in 2023.
- A Lehigh County Tourism Development grant was completed with an ask of \$15,000 to help to offset the costs of purchasing and installing an electronic message board in Grange Park.
- The department submitted a Keystone Communities Additional Appropriation Grant proposal for 250,000 to help offset the costs for the construction of the future Community Lifestyle Center. These funds are in addition to the \$250,000 Local Share Account grant previously awarded.

-The department submitted a \$2,000 grant application through the Chamber of Commerce Main Street program to match the Greenways grant for Grange Park improvements.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Route 100 Park assessment: Fields have been renovated for the season, a lot of green space available (possible idea to put in a soccer field?). Dog parks are well maintained and used often (possible agility apparatuses for large and small dogs), playground is in good condition, large space around the playground for expansion if ever needed, grills need replacing but tables in decent shape. Pavilions are in good condition. Idea to convert the 2 sand volleyball courts into 1 large sand court.

-Hassen Creek Trail: could use more signage or markers on the trails, informational signs could use updating.

-Community Center Updates: Trying to find a few founding partners for the facility. Things are starting to move and many meetings are lined up to keep things going.

-Parks and Recreation Board Bylaws Review: The updated bylaws were reviewed. Some of the language was changed to better reflect the current duties of the board. These were presented as a discussion during tonight's meeting. Each member will look at the bylaws and they will be voted on during the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

OTHER BUSINESS:

-Neeraj questioned why the financials were removed from the Agenda/Minutes. He feels the public has a right to know what the current budget is so they can see where their tax dollars are going. Mike will look into this matter and get back to us.

PUBLIC COMMENT- none

ADJOURNMENT

-Matt made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm, April seconded, all agreed.

-Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 20th, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Township building.

Matthew Bernard- Chair

April Navarra- Vice-Chair

UMT Parks and Recreation Board