

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

**CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL:**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday, October 19th, 2023, at the UMT meeting room.

Recreation Board members present: *Matthew Bernard, Jaclyn Svetcov, Neeraj Sharma, Jason Krier, and Gwen McCurdy*. Also present: *Recreation Manager Mike Kukitz, Recreation Supervisor Emily Crosby-Piszczek*

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:**

Chairman Matthew Bernard called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. He asked all present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: none**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

A motion was made by Matt to approve the August 2023 minutes, Jason seconded, all approved.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

- Welcome to Emily Crosby-Piszczek as the new Recreation Supervisor as per 10/16/23
- 2023 Barktoberfest: 23 vendors and 3 food trucks. All in all it was a successful event although attendance was a little light and the vendors did not go well. The event took place on the rain date of 10/15 and it was windy and chilly. Need to revisit this event for next year including holding it on the same day as the Macungie Barktoberfest event.
- Trick or Treat Trail event prep: 28 vendors to date and 3 food trucks
- Noon-Year's Eve planned for 12/31/2023 at Grange Park from 10:30-1:30pm. Additional event info will be released shortly.
- We are in need of a new basketball coordinator; potentially a new paid position.
- Yoga, community art classes, water aerobics, chair strength and mobility classes, high school basketball league, adult basketball, and volleyball have all started and have been well attended.
- Planting additional trees in Grange Park this Fall: Total of 141 trees to be planted in Grange Park in 2023. 20 from BareRoot Tree Grant, 30 purchased, 51 through LVCD & Keystone 10 Million Trees Opp.
- DCNR Grant to support Russett Park Improvements (\$50,000) was denied.

**OLD BUSINESS: none**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Sponsorship Discussion:** Various sponsorship opportunities with the UMT were presented which include a Remembrance Tree Program, Memorial Bench Program, Athletic Field Banner Program,

and Pavilion Naming Program.

2. **Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2024:** A request for proposal was presented for the future goals and vision of the UMT Parks and Recreation department. Mike Kukitz asked what the Board's top 3 priorities of the plan were for the future of Upper Macungie Township's parks, recreational programs, and open space. Matthew would like to give the board time to review and bring their top goals to the next meeting.
3. **Lone Lane Trail Update:** There is no update on this at the current time. Grants are being applied to for some main corridor plans to increase walkability in the township.
4. **Matthew's Lewisburg Park Discussion:** Matthew was impressed and inspired by the parks in Lewisburg, PA, which prompted him to reach out to their township to find out more information. They have some unique and modern playground equipment as well as a nature playground. They also have heated restrooms with door timers that are open year round, including outdoor sinks just for hand-washing. They also have 3 pools, tennis courts, skatepark, and ice rink. The ice rink is actually a retention pond that the fire department floods for the winter. They are a much smaller township with less money to spend but were able to get many of the items funded through grants or donations.
5. **Grange Park Review:** A very large township park. Entry signs and landscaping could use some updating. Positive feedback on the new signage around the park directing people to the various fields and pavilions. The playground is in excellent condition. New mulch was added around the playground since the original safety surface degraded. The Splash park is a great success and well used. The pavilions are also in very good condition. The pickleball courts are a popular draw to the park. The paddle rack system will be installed and a new restroom near the courts should be open soon. Some basketball court improvements were recommended including: walking paths to the courts, better basketball pole/net functionality, and pads near the base. Fields are heavily used and could use some fertilization and overseeding. The new dog park signage is posted with the guidelines. Signage is needed at the new south entrance into Grange Park (which is closer to Cetronia). A parks and recreation current community events sign will be installed soon.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: none**

**ADJOURNMENT -**

-Matt made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm, Gwen seconded, all agreed.

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

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