

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND
RECREATION BOARD Monthly Meeting
Minutes February 15, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL:

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday, February 15th, 2024, at the UMT meeting room.

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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Chairman Matthew Bernard called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 Matthew to approve the January 2024 minutes, April seconded, all approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

- The first annual Winterfest, on February 10th, 2023 at Grange Park, was a success and there was a great deal of positive feedback with thousands of residents attending.
- Summer Camp planning is underway and UMT is looking for qualified staff for all of the camps.

OLD BUSINESS:

-UMT Park Brochure:

-Mike presented various layouts for the new UMT Park Brochure. Overall, the board preferred the trifold brochure layout due to its narrower size which allows for easier carrying ability.

-A parks amenities data table was presented to the board, to be included in the brochure. It lists amenities such as: grass athletic fields, basketball, tennis, fishing, sand volleyball, restrooms, pavilions, walking paths, playground, baseball/softball, pickleball, disc golf, and dog park.

-The township park names were discussed since a few of the parks have two names. Moving forward Mike feels like there should be a clear concise method for the names in the brochure and on the new signage to make communication straightforward and less confusing.

-Neeraj made a motion to make the official name of UMT/Route 100 Park to Upper Macungie Park. Jason seconded. All approved.

-Gwen made a motion for the name Hassan Creek Trail to be moved under the heading of Upper Macungie Park. Jason seconded. All approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. UMT Parks and Recreation Feedback Program:

Matt would like an easy way to get feedback from residents about the parks and programs. Mike feels that we get abundant feedback through emails and social media and that the upcoming Parks and Recreation Master Plan will address resident feedback as well. April suggested a QR code scan at UMT tents to enable people to give instant feedback about our events. Neeraj added that the feedback questions should be minimal, like 3 questions, and that it could provide instant data. Board members felt that questions could include examples like: Do you like this event, would you come again? What did you like and what could be improved? Matthew, Neeraj, and April feel that feedback about how to make improvements could be very valuable. Mike will compose a draft of about 3-5 feedback questions and bring them to the next meeting for review.

2. DCNR UMT Recreational Board Project

Matt would like the recreation board members to read through the Parks and Recreation Township Board Handbook published by DCNR that was compiled using input from multiple townships across PA. He feels the guide can offer more information to board members about productivity as a recreation board.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:

Mike Sicinski, a township resident and UMT rec volleyball supervisor, spoke to the board about his interest in volunteering more for the township. He is a former Air Products employee and also ran the Greenville Swim Club, and feels his skills could be an asset to the rec board and is looking to increase his involvement as a volunteer with the department. Although there are no current board positions he was encouraged to fill out an application and his name will also be added to the township volunteer list for upcoming recreation events.

Mike S. also had questions about the Russett Park playground equipment and would like to know why the equipment has not been finalized. Mike K. shared that it is in the works for a summer build and that it was delayed due to multiple grant applications that could help offset the cost. The park will be on the agenda for the March 2024 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT -

-Matt made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm, Neeraj seconded, all agreed.

-Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 21st, 2024, at 7:00PM at the Township building.

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