

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND
RECREATION BOARD Monthly Meeting
Minutes March 21, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL:

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the UMT meeting room.

Recreation Board members present: *Matthew Bernard, Jaclyn Svetcov, Jason Krier, Wes Schlauch, and Gwen McCurdy*. Also present: *Recreation Supervisor Emily Crosby-Piszczek, Township Manager Robert Ibach, and community member Emily Johnson*.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Chairman Matthew Bernard called the meeting to order at 7:18 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 February 2024 minutes, Jason seconded, all approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Summer Camp Registration for residents opened on March 4th. We currently have 353 campers registered out of 375 (22 spots remaining). This year we offered the option to pay 50% of the camp fees and about a quarter of residents chose this option. Only one email was received regarding the price increase from 2023 to 2024.
- Spring/Summer Newsletter should be hitting mailboxes by April 1.
- Staff will be finalizing a DCNR Grant to help offset the costs of constructing a perimeter walking trail around a phased-out section of Grange Park.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Russett Park Playground:** 2 options were presented to the board along with the various price points. Both contained features requested by the community including 2 slides. Option B was the preferred choice due to the slightly lower cost allowing for an additional feature to possibly be added to the site. It was agreed that residents should be given a choice of the color scheme through a community Facebook survey within the next week and the order process will be started as soon as possible for a late Spring/Summer build.

Matt made a motion to go with Option B with the colors to be determined at a later date. Jason seconded. All agreed.

-**Park Names:** The history of the park names was discussed and Emily encouraged the board to do some research before the next month's meeting and to put a high value on the finalized park names. This will be moved to old business at the next meeting.

-**UMT Survey Questions:** Emily presented an events survey flier with a QR code that leads to a short 5 question Google form for residents to give feedback about the event. The purpose is to gain insight into our programs for the future.

-**Parks and Rec Handbook Review:** Board members were asked to review the Pennsylvania Parks and Recreation Handbook to learn some tips as to how we can better perform our role. Members shared ideas they liked from this resource that could possibly be implemented moving forward.

-**Parks and Rec Board Project Review:** added to the agenda by mistake and was not discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

-**Rec Board Speaking Conduct:** Matthew addressed the board with the following statement concerning rec board speaking conduct: "As a reminder, our meetings are streamed live and saved for 30 days on YouTube. Our meeting notes are also available to the public. And sometimes we have attendees at our meetings. With that said, as a board member you serve as a liaison between the residents and the township and any derogatory comments made can be conceived as a reflection of the township's perspective. So, some things to be mindful of, exercise caution when criticizing local businesses, this includes gas stations, local land developers, restaurants etc."

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: none

ADJOURNMENT -

-Matt made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 pm, Jackie seconded, all agreed.

-Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 18th, 2024, at 7:00PM at the Township building.

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