

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

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL:

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

Recreation Board members present: *Neeraj Sharma, Jaclyn Svetcov, Wes Schlauch, Gwen McCurdy, and April Navarra*. Also present: *Recreation Manager Ryan Griffiths, Recreation Supervisor Emily Crosby-Piszczek, township residents Mike Sysinski, Dr. Satinder Singh, and members of the local cricket club.*

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Vice-Chairperson April Navarra called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. She 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 Gwen to approve the September 2024 minutes, Wes seconded, all approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Mike Sysinski was present and wanted to thank the Township for the playground updates made to Kaybrook Park. The residents are very satisfied with the result.

STAFF REPORTS:

-**Trunk or Treat Movie Night:** There was a record turnout at the event of over 4,000 people. The team plans to debrief about how to improve the event to lessen the wait time for next year as well as deal with parking accommodations. Residents and rec board members provided great suggestions to make this event even more streamlined and fun for next year.

-**Fall Program Statistics:** Adult basketball, volleyball, and Zumba have had a large increase in popularity. This may be partly due to social media advertising blasts that have created more interest. UMT's partnership with the Wildlands Conservancy is another successful program that has seen a rise in popularity. The events are at low cost to families so they can engage with wildlife and nature.

-**The Comprehensive Parks and Open Space Plan** is gathering info through a Public Input Survey and it has been a great tool to get feedback about the future of UMT. The next public meeting will be in January 2025. A detailed plan is accessible on the UMT webpage.

-**2025 Recreation Budget:** The budget was submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval and the final decision will be at the December meeting. Ryan is confident it will serve the residents well moving forward.

-**2025 Event Schedule:** Ryan and Emily are busy keeping a steady line of events available to residents

throughout the year. They want to keep events consistent so people can look to anticipate and enjoy them each year as well as get dates and information to the public as early as possible.

-**Sponsorship Program:** Emily and the team are trying to be more proactive about approaching businesses and community members about the Parks and Recreation sponsorship packages and the benefits they provide to their business. They are also looking to gather more community center specific sponsors to help offset the cost.

OLD BUSINESS:

-**Park Bathrooms Available (Nov-Mar):** This accommodation is being investigated and it is likely that facilities will be available at some of the busier parks in the future with some being portable toilets.

-**Shade/Trees at Grange Dog Park:** Shade structures and trees are being explored for the near future.

-**Kaybrook/Russett Road Playground Ribbon Cutting Event:** The Kaybrook /Russett Road Park update is nearing completion and the rec board was invited to plan a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the new playground. Members feel that a spring event coinciding with an UMT event would be a nice way to celebrate this newly refurbished community park..

NEW BUSINESS:

-**PRPS Memberships for Board Members:** Membership and resources have been provided to all rec board members to better meet the needs of the community and understand their roles as they work alongside Emily and Ryan. PRPS membership opens a lot of opportunities to look at parks and recreation membership in a different way.

-**Township Manager Memo to Park and Recreation Board:** All board members were provided with Upper Macungie Township logo cups to be used during meetings. This change was made in order to create a more professional look to the meetings since they are now being streamed and available on YouTube for the community to view. .

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:

-Dr. Satinder Singh along with 7 other residents were in attendance and requested that the township look into a dedicated space for the sport of cricket so people can play locally and develop the sport of cricket. Dr Singh shared that currently about 11 % of the township is engaged in the sport of cricket and there is also an official LV cricket club. He also shared that cricket is an up and coming sport in America with cricket scheduled to be included in the upcoming summer Olympic games. Currently there is no field dedicated to accommodate cricket. His team has scouted out areas around the township and feel that space near the Grange Park pickleball courts would work best but was also open to the field space at Route 100 Park. They plan to continue to look for sites that may work and also mentioned that they would be open to it being a multipurpose field.

ADJOURNMENT:

-April made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm, Neeraj seconded, all agreed.

-Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 16th, 2024, at 7:00PM at the Township building.

Matthew Bernard- Chair

April Navarra- Vice-Chair

Jaclyn Svetcov- Secretary

UMT Parks and Recreation Board

