

**UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND  
RECREATION BOARD Monthly Meeting  
Minutes January 23rd, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL:**

The monthly meeting for the Upper Macungie Township Recreation Board was held on Thursday, January 23rd, 2025, at the UMT meeting room.

Recreation Board members present: *Matthew Bernard, Neeraj Sharma, Jaclyn Svetcov, Wes Schlauch, Gwen McCurdy, and April Navarra*. Also present: *Recreation Manager Ryan Griffiths, Parks and Recreation Public Works Lead: Jim Soltis, Parks and Recreation Volunteer Mike Sysinski*. Also present: *SPYA representative John Serratore*.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:**

-Chairperson Matthew Bernard called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. She asked all present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**REORGANIZATION:**

- Matthew made a motion to make Neeraj temporary Chair, April seconded and all agreed.
- Neeraj made a motion to nominate Matthew as Chairperson, April seconded and all agreed.
- Matthew made a motion to nominate April as Vice-Chairperson, Gwen seconded and all agreed.
- Matthew made a motion to make Jackie Secretary, Gwen seconded and all agreed.

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

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

-A motion was made by Matthew to approve the November 2024 minutes, Wes seconded, all approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

-Mike Sysinski is part of the Open-Space Committee and would like the board to look into a temporary cricket/multipurpose field to accommodate the cricket players who are requesting a space to play in the township. He knows this is a short term solution but feels that this would be a great compromise and also give the township time to see how popular the sport becomes before going forward with a dedicated space.

-Mike also commented on the quality of the turf at Grange Park and feels that a turf management system should be explored to improve the quality of the turf at this very popular park.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

-**Fall/Winter Program Statistics:** UMT currently has over 18 programs running this winter with increasing numbers and interest. These include: Fluffy and Friends Smores, Zumba, Self-Defense, Robotics Camp, Gentle Yoga, Lil Athletics, Winter Art Workshop, Soccer, and Volleyball.

Winterfest is set to take place on Saturday February 8th at Grange Park from 4-7.

Snowshoeing and Hot Chocolate will be Saturday February 15th at Lone Lane Park from 11-12.

-**Kids Noon Year's Eve Event Debrief:** Approximately 1500 participants attended this outdoor event at Grange Park. Thank you to community members for helping to clean up the balloons from the balloon drop.

-**CPROSP Updates:**

-**Public Input Survey Responses:** Public Survey Response to date is 1,084. This is a very high number compared to other townships.

-**Steering Committee #4 Review:** Next Steering Committee meeting will be 3/4/25 and the 3rd Public Meeting will be 3/13/25.

-**2025 Recreation Budget:** The 2025 budget was approved at the December 2024 BOS meeting. UMT is happy to be able to offset costs with various grants awarded to the township parks department. We are also still awaiting status on many other grants and will provide updates in the near future.

-**Monthly E-Newsletters/ Spring & Summer 2025 Newsletter:** There is a goal of March 3rd to have it out to households ahead of the summer camp registration.

-**Sponsorship Package Updates:** There is an updated sponsorship opportunities information booklet with packages to accommodate all needs. There are various tiers with the different benefits that are offered to sponsors and businesses and donors are encouraged to come and be part of the events.

-**Pavilion/Field Rental Reservation Process Updates:** One major focus is learning more about what is going on and how the park facilities are being used in order keep events organized and up to date.

## **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 rec board was invited to plan a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the new playground. A May 9th Movie Night is planned in coordination with a Kaybrook/Russett Road Playground Ribbon Cutting. 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:**

-**SPYA Ball Wall Project @ Grange Park (John Serratorre):** John and Jared would like to propose the building of a block wall or bounce back wall for athletes to be able to develop fundamental skills across various sports, including soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, baseball, and softball. The cost would be covered by SPYA and it would also be built and managed by SPYA. They would like two walls including a soccer wall and a lacrosse wall. Both walls would be built to code by a licensed and insured masonry contractor to ensure safety. The walls will be painted with a special anti-graffiti paint and block filler coating for durability and aesthetics. Preparations will be made for motion activated lights to be installed.

Matthew moved to grant preliminary approval for the SPYA wall project, allowing it to proceed to the Township Board for final approval. The approval was contingent on the installation of a motion-activated light and the addition of an aesthetic enhancement, such as a painted mural or surface covering. Neeraj seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

-Matthew made a motion to adjourn at 8:31 pm, Jackie seconded, all agreed.

-Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 20th, 2025, at 7:00PM at the Township building.

Matthew Bernard- Chair

April Navarra- Vice-Chair

Jaclyn Svetcov- Secretary

UMT Parks and Recreation Board