



Upper Mount Bethel Township

387 Ye Olde Highway

P.O. Box 520

Mount Bethel, PA 18343-5220

Phone: (570) 897-6127 Fax: (570) 897-0108

www.umbt.org

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP PARKS/RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025 – 7:00 PM

PART I

Stavros Barbounis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present were, Stavros Barbounis, Orion Barbounis, Sharon Cerny, Supervisor Cori Eckman-Liaison, and Manager Graziano. Karyn Pinter and April Pinto were absent. Jen Giera and Mallory Casciole in attendance on behalf of the UMBT Field Hockey.

PART II (Re-Organization)

1. PNRB

- a. Temporary Chair-**MOTION** by Sharon to appoint Cindy Beck as Temporary Chair, seconded by Orion. Vote: 3-0.
- b. Chair-Cindy asked for nominations for Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. **MOTION** by Sharon to appoint Stavros as Chair, seconded by Orion. Vote: 3-0.
- c. Vice-Chair-**MOTION** by Stavros to appoint Sharon as Vice-Chair, seconded by Orion. Vote: 3-0.
- d. Treasurer-**MOTION** by Sharon to appoint Karyn as Treasurer, seconded by Orion. Vote: 3-0.
- e. Secretary-**MOTION** by Sharon to appoint Orion as Secretary, seconded by Stavros. Vote: 3-0.

2. Standing Committees

- a. Committee on Finance-Stavros appointed Karyn as the Lead.
- b. Committee on Programs-Stavros appointed April as the Lead.
- c. Committee on Building/Grounds-Stavros appointed Sharon as Lead.
- d. Committee on Personnel-Stavros appointed Orion as Lead.

PART III (Parks/Recreation Board Administration)

1. Approval of the Agenda-**MOTION** by Orion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sharon. Vote: 3-0.

PART IV

1. Announcements
2. Sports & Recreation
 - a. UMBT Softball Report-None
 - b. UMBT Field Hockey Report-Mallory Casiole and Jen Giera, Directors, were present to give a brief introduction. Mallory stated that there are no financial updates, account balance, \$5,869.64. There was a discussion on the UMBT Field Hockey FB page and estimated key dates. Registration opens May 1st – June 15th. Jen stated that she will provide the Board with an updated flyer at next month's meeting, no pricing changes, same practice days.
 - c. UMBT Basketball Report-None
 - d. UMBT Winter Softball Clinics Report-None
 - e. UMBT Volleyball Report-None
3. Park Development
 - a. 2025 Initiatives
 - i. Updating Park Master Plan-Stavros stated he would like to see the Park Master Plan updated. This is very costly to do. Stavros stated that this will be needed to go after larger grants. Cindy stated that the grants that she has done did not require a master plan. What you submit is the plan for the specific project. Stavros stated what he is trying to get away from is deviating from a vision.
 - ii. Softball Fields-Nick gave an update on the softball fields. We will be putting out bids for the fencing. The road crew will be doing most of the field work. We can consider bleachers at a later date. There was a discussion on the dugouts.
 - iii. Dugout Banners Fundraising-Stavros stated that Ray Higgins sold all 36 spots for the dugouts at Echo Lake. Stavros will reach out to the businesses to get their artwork. They should be installed by March.
 - iv. Park Gazebos-Stavros stated that Supervisor Friedman was going to get some quotes. These are very expensive. Stavros stated that there are so many other things needed in the Park. This should be put on hold for now.
 - v. Large Barn renovation-Stavros would like ideas, part of the vision. Stavros will look for the article on Lafayette College doing the study on the barn and follow up.
4. Community Engagement
 - a. 2025 Event Planning
 - i. Movie Night in the Park-June 14, 2025, this is usually paired with the First Responders Picnic.
 - ii. July 4th Fireworks-July 5, 2025, Rain date July 6th, Fireworks have been secured. Vendors set up at 4pm, the gate opens

at 5pm, fireworks roughly 9:15. Park/Rec will be selling cotton candy, slushies, popcorn, hot dogs, water, soda, glow sticks. Cori thought the Parks/Rec would like to sell hot dogs at Beau's Festival, May 3rd. The registration fee last year was \$125, for 2025, increase registration to \$150, with electric \$25 and Stavros will be able to provide internet if someone needs it.

iii. Food Truck Festival & Craft Show-October 4, 2025, 11-5, vendors set up by 10am. Registration deadline, August 30. Fees for spaces, \$25 single, \$45 double, \$60 triple, \$25 for electric. There was a discussion on having games for kids, maybe the Girl Scouts can volunteer. Sharon is going to look into getting carnival people to do the games. Stavros will update flyers and registration forms.

iv. Veterans' Day Fireworks-November 8, 2025, more details at the February meeting.

5. Recreation Fund & Budget

a. Revenue/Expenses Reporting-Stavros stated as of 1/8/2025, the rec fund balance is \$52,484.15

6. Governance

a. Sports Programs Rules & Regulations-Stavros stated that there are some additional issues that need to be addressed, this is a work in progress, more guidelines, more guidelines for volunteers, to hopefully deter harsh behavior. Stavros is still working on revising the ordinance and by-laws. By ordinance, the treasurer needs to be bonded, this will be on the agenda for February.

PART V (Public Comment)

Jonathan Erler commented on a conversation he had with Stavros on December 4th, regarding Cindy as the recording secretary and it's about keeping it fair with all the committees and to reduce overtime costs. Jonathan questioned Cindy Beck as recording secretary, since every other committee has its own volunteer who does the minutes. Stavros stated that this was a request that was made by the previous manager, and at this time, we are going to keep operating the way we have until someone says we can't. Cori stated that he should have come to her with his concerns, she is the Parks/Rec liaison. Jonathan stated that he spoke with Supervisor Birmingham and Supervisor Friedman about this, and they didn't know where the money was coming from. Manager Graziano stated that it is up to the BOS to decide what to do. Stavros asked Cori to speak with Supervisor Friedman and get a formal opinion on they should proceed. Jen Giera suggested billing each sport program. Stavros stated that at some point that will probably happen, due to the cost of Rec Desk program. Jonathan asked about the SALDO fees-in-Lieu. Stavros would like for Diann to keep him up to date with the balance.

Cori discussed Beau's Festival, no charge to Parks/Rec to participate, the Pride Festival at the Park, July 12th, 12-6pm.

Sharon asked Mallory to let her know when Field Hockey will be having their parent meeting at the Park, so she can mark the calendar, as well as all other dates.

There was a discussion on future projects: more electricity at the park, the pavilion kitchen, purchasing a food trailer.

PART VI (Adjournment)

MOTION by Stavros to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Orion.

Vote: 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary