



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP PARKS/RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 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, Jennifer Freeby, Karyn Pinter, Supervisor Cori Eckman-Liaison, and Manager Graziano.

Krista Schaarschmidt and Jamie Goffredo were in attendance on behalf of the UMBT Softball.

PART II (Parks/Recreation Board Administration)

1. Approval of the Agenda-Stavros amended the agenda, adding to Part 111, 1a, a discussion on the concerns around an event at the Community Park. **MOTION** by Orion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Karyn. Vote: 4-0.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes-March 13, 2025. **MOTION** by Karyn to approve the March 13, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Jennifer. Vote: 4-0.

PART III (Business)

1. Announcements-Stavros announced that the Post Foundation has agreed to sponsor all park events, 4th of July, movie night, first responders picnic, and Veterans Day. Orion stated that he has not heard back from Lafayette college.
 - a. Discussion on concerns around an event being held at the Community Park. Stavros stated that, in regards to the PRIDE Festival being held at the Community Park, the Township does not discriminate for any reason. We do not charge fees to a non-profit having an event at the Park. Stavros will draft a letter to the BOS explaining the push-back he has been receiving. The Parks/Rec Board is not opposing the event.
2. Sports & Recreation
 - a. UMBT Softball-Krista Schaarschmidt gave an update on softball. Registration is closed, 144 girls registered, teams are being assigned, coach clearances, practices to start end of March or first week of April. Follow ups- Echo Lake dugout banners, young lungs at play (Stavros stated that the Township has to adopt an Ordinance first), and discussed were Dick's sporting good coupons. Karyn stated the current balance is

\$13,109.59. Krista discussed approved orders, softballs, score books, pitcher mound needs to be replaced, which falls under park maintenance.

- b. UMBT Field Hockey-No update. Will follow up on the need for goal cages.
- c. UMBT Basketball-Heather Parsons stated the season has ended. Chocolate fundraiser is underway. There was a discussion on security for next year, instead of having the school do it, can the parents do it under a work bond? Stavros stated that this a Township program, the liability may be an issue. The cost for security is expensive, maybe do a bingo fundraiser, or a craft show, something to offset the cost, or get a sponsor to cover the cost of security. Once the bill for the security is received, Manager Graziano will see what he can do. Registration open will open by the end of the August the next season. There was a discussion on businesses sponsoring teams, putting the business name on the uniforms, but was told by the previous manager that was not allowed. Stavros is looking for each sports program to provide a wish list.
- d. UMBT Volleyball-No update.

3. Park Development

- a. Softball Fields Update-Manager Graziano stated that Justin will be putting together the bid packet to go out. Work on the softball fields will probably start after July 12th.
- b. Dugout Banners Update-Stavros stated he is working on collecting funds from the businesses for their ad, all spots have been sold.
- c. Large Barn Renovation Initiative Update-Orion stated that he did reach out to Lafayette College and the original person that initiated the program is no longer there. He spoke with Lauren Ackerson, who put him in contact with the Dean of Engineering. Lauren is excited about the idea. Orion stated that he may even reach out to other colleges to see if there is any interest in pursuing such a project.
- d. Pickleball Courts-Orion stated that he did get the measurements for pickleball courts. Manager Graziano stated that he received the plans from Washington Township on their courts. Manager Graziano and Cindy will be working on a grant application for the pickleball courts, this will be a 2026 project.

4. Community Engagement

- a. Beau's Festival- May 3, 2025-Stavros stated that Parks/Rec will be selling hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, slushies, popcorn, cotton candy, and soda. Parks/Rec will be participating as a vendor, proceeds will go towards park development. (Same as with the PRIDE Festival) Cori stated that meetings will be held once a week and will be walking the park next week. They will have plenty of volunteers. Jim Kelly will send his aerial view to Stavros.
- b. Movie Night in the Park-June 14, 2025, Stavros stated that he would like to put a survey out what movie the public would like to see, giving them options.

- c. First Responders Picnic-June 14, 2025-no update.
 - d. July 4th Fireworks-July 5, 2025, Rain date July 6th, Fireworks have been secured. Vendors set up at 4pm, the gate opens at 5 pm, fireworks roughly 9:15 pm. Park/Rec will be selling cotton candy, slushies, popcorn, hot dogs, water, soda, glow sticks. Stavros will coordinate with Lindsey to get the Emergency Plan for the County together. Manager Graziano stated that there will be an Emergency Plan for all events (Beau's Festival, 4th of July, and PRIDE festival).
 - e. PRIDE Festival-Stavros stated that Parks/Rec will be participating as a vendor, selling hamburgers, hotdogs, slushies, popcorn, cotton candy, and all proceeds go towards park development.
 - f. Food Truck Festival & Craft Show-October 4, 2025, 11-5, vendors set up by 10am. Registration deadline, August 30. Flyer has been updated, planning has begun. Sharon has been following up with vendors from last year to see if they will be attending, she is looking for a face painter, maybe touch a truck, hayrides, and games. Sharon will send the information on the carnival crew that will come in to do the games/prizes to the Board. Sharon will also reach out to a petting zoo.
 - g. Veterans' Day Fireworks-November 8, 2025. Stavros will confirm the Post Foundation donation for the fireworks.
5. Recreation Fund & Budget
- a. Revenue/Expenses Reporting-Karyn stated the current balances of the sports programs are as follows: Softball-\$13,109.59, Field Hockey-\$6,055.41, Mallory stated that her balance is \$5,869.64, Basketball-\$10,524.30, Volleyball-\$3,299.79 and the current bank balance is \$64,157.33. Stavros would like an updated balance of the fees-in-lieu fund.
 - b. UMBT Community Park Foundation Letter-Stavros stated that the letter was presented and read to the BOS. Stavros stated that the BOS directed the Solicitor to draft a letter to the Community Park Foundation asking for information.
6. Governance
- a. Chairs Meeting-March 31st-Stavros stated that Supervisor Erler organized a meeting of all Boards/Committees Chairs/VChairs to meet to build communication, find ways to work better together as a whole. Supervisor Erler stated that he has set three goals for the meeting, communication, benefits agreement, and a 10-year goal to build a comprehensive plan.

PART IV (Public Comment)

Cindy Beck stated that an Electronics Recycling Event has been scheduled for May 4th, here at the Township Building and suggested that all the proceeds from donations go towards park development. It would be beneficial for any parks/rec member (s) to attend. Time 10am-2pm.

Sharon suggested getting the kind of cups that change color when they cold for the slushies. They are 16oz, come with a lid/straw. Souvenir cups come with a cost. Sharon will get samples. The cost if you purchase 1,000 is about \$.84.

Supervisor Erler discussed the gazebos that Supervisor Friedman was pushing for at the park. Troop 36 from Roseto is looking to inquire about an Eagle Scout project. A gazebo might be a good idea for a project.

Tyler, Slate Belt Soccer, good to go to use the fields at the park for practice only.

PART VI (Adjournment)

MOTION by Sharon to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, seconded by Karyn.

Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary