



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 THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023 – 7 PM

PART I

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present were, Stavros Barbounis, Sharon Cerny, April Pinto, Anthony DeFranco, Karyn Pinter, and Liaison Marty Pinter. Kari Hawkins was absent.

PART II (Parks & Recreation Board Administration)

1. Approval of Agenda-**MOTION** by Karyn to approve the agenda, seconded by April. Vote: 5-0.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. April 13, 2023-Stavros tabled, stating he needs to review and resend to everyone.
 - b. June 8, 2023-MOTION by Anthony to approve the June 8, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by April. Vote: 5-0.

PART III

1. Announcements- Stavros gave an update on the 4th of July event. Only three vendors provided sales receipts and 10% of their profit. Allegheny \$250, Chill on Wheels \$140, and because NB Fire Company, Slate Belt Chamber, and Seven Mountain Media, are non-profits, we are not taking a donations from them. The remaining vendors have not gotten back to him, so he will be sending out friendly reminder emails. The total revenue, which includes all donations/parking -\$17,154.46. The total expenses, which includes what we planned to give the Fire Departments for their assistance - \$17,166.29, a shortage of \$11.83. Karyn asked how NBFC did, Stavros stated 700 pounds of potatoes. The wineries did not do well. If they receive \$12, we can give the donations to the Fire Companies: East Bangor-\$250, MB-\$250, and Portland-\$750. Stavros stated parking donations totaled \$3,016.46, roughly 608 cars. This is event generated the most revenue from any other event at the Park. Cotton Candy and slushies were the biggest sellers.

2. Governance
 - a. Standing Committee Reports-Tabled
3. Sports & Recreation
 - a. Sports Program Updates-Softball-Dave Baggett stated spring season is over. The local 7th,8th and 9th grades won the championship. Stavros stated he would like to highlight all the good stuff that is happening on Social Media. Clinics are on July 19th and 20th at the Echo Lake Ball Field. There are 30 registered players. Shirts were ordered for those that wanted them at an additional fee. There was a discussion on the banners/wind screens at Echo Park Dugouts. Karyn stated she has three vendors to reach out to. Stavros stated that based on the size, they are roughly \$1,900. If sponsors contribute, they could be displayed along the bottom. Dave stated the Eastern Lehigh Valley (ELV), who does the scheduling of the umpires, is looking to do a fall ball at Echo Lake, and would like our permission. Stavros stated they will be responsible to provide us with certificate of insurance. There was a discussion on all fields when it comes to inclement weather, whether to close the fields, who will monitor, and it to be a Township decision. Field Hockey financial discussion-April stated that her balance did not match Emily's. April stated she has a beginning balance of \$2,444.06. Jen Hornberger will reach out to Emily. Supplies need to be ordered as soon as possible. With an updated balance sheet, **MOTION** by April to approve \$8,048 for field hockey estimated spending, seconded by Karyn. Vote: 5-0. Basketball-Karyn will email final numbers. April stated she has a starting balance of \$3,365.91. Karyn stated she has two donation checks coming in this week. April set up coach clearances on rec desk. Winter softball clinic-no update. Volleyball-no update.
4. Community Engagement
 - a. Moonlight & Magic Market-Sharon stated they wanted us to do all the parking. More details are needed. Sharon will invite them to the next meeting.
 - b. Food Truck Festival-August 26th-Stavros prepared a draft flyer for comment, the need is for more vendors, vendors need to provide their donation within five days after the event, and no outside food or drinks allowed. Time set 3pm-8pm. Provide all updates on who was contacted to Stavros, he will update the spreadsheet.
 - c. Harvest Festival and Craft Show-September 23rd-Flyer provided to the Board to review. Food truck and vendors allowed. There was a discussion on the cost of space, with/without electric, double space (\$40). Thoughts on a petting zoo, hay rides. Time set 11am-4pm.
5. Park Development
 - a. Proposed Bathroom-Anthony discussed the draft bathroom design plan. Anthony stated the cost will roughly be \$60,000. Stavros stated he got an estimate for the septic, between \$35,000 and \$50,000. There

was a discussion on where the septic field is to be. Stavros stated we have a verbal agreement of \$50,000 for the septic and if it is going to cost more, we will have to present the case to the donor, with solid numbers. Anthony will get the draft plan updated and that point, put it out to bid.

- b. No Smoking Initiative-Stavros discussed. It would have to be a rule or a policy at the park. The American Lung Association will assist by providing signage, and help with writing an ordinance, but we will have to provide them with what criteria we are willing to accept. Stavros stated no smoking within 25ft of an established structure. It was suggested to do a Facebook survey, see what the public has to say, and go from there.

6. New Business

- a. Thank you letters-Stavros stated that last year he sent out thank you letters to everyone that helped out, but this year he would like the letters to come from all the Board members.
- b. Echo Lake Dugouts-Previously discussed.
- c. Community Park Foundation statements made by Mark Mezger at last BOS meeting-Stavros stated some statements made by Mark Mezger were 1) that the Foundation was working some type of project for the Park bathrooms, they have never attended a Parks/Rec meeting to discuss their project. Stavros stated they have no right to make any claims or tell the Board what to do, they are not a Township entity, 2) that once the new year comes and the Board changes, things are going to change. Stavros stated he is not certain of what "Board" he was referring to. Marty explained the ongoing issue between the Foundation and the BOS. Attorney Karasek wrote the by-laws for the Foundation, as well as the Charter. The Township seeded the funds to start the Foundation and any funds raised were to be used for the Park. In the by-laws/charter, it states the financials of the Foundation are privy to the BOS, as well as the public. Stavros stated that Loren Rabbat reached out to him as told him he should take over the Foundation, that it had dissolved and just needed to settle the financial obligations. Stavros stated that all but one remained on the previous Board, how can a Board of one legally vote someone else in. Even though the current Board changed their by-laws, or their charter, the monies that were collected before that change need to be administered.
- d. Ordinance, By-Laws, Rec Fund and Expenses-Stavros discussed the Ordinance, by-laws, and rec fund/expenses. Stavros stated he went back and read through all the Ordinances and the progression of the Ordinances to the Original. The in-effect ordinance is based on 2001-05 states, "all expenses incurred in the operation of Parks/Recreation areas facilities are paid out of the general township fund." Stavros went on to say that any funds received from grants, donations, etc. does not

require Supervisor approval to be disbursed, that is not what is happening. He has been told that everything goes on the bill list for Supervisor approval. There was a discussion on bank accounting. Marty summarized the process regarding the issuance of checks. Stavros will be sending out an email to all Supervisors expressing his frustration on the approval process for Parks/Rec funds. Stavros stated that Ordinance 2001-05 was amended and became a seven (7) member Rec Board, in 2006-01, it was increased to nine (9) members, in 2008-07, the by-laws were updated and kept the members, in 2010, it was reduced to five (5) members. Our active Ordinance for the Rec Board says we should only be a five (5) member Board. Currently, we have one member too many. Sharon and Kari's term expires this December, only one can come back.

PART IV (Public Comment)

There was a question/comment regarding volunteering. Parks/Rec welcomes volunteers at any time, no commitment.

PART V (Adjournment)

MOTION by Karyn to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded by April. Vote: 5-0.