

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – APRIL 12, 2022

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on April 12, 2022. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: Douglas Krauss, Chair
Michael Brody, Vice Chair
Kim Rock, Secretary
Robert LaBar, Member
David Malinowski, Member (joined meeting in progress)
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director
James McCartney, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Mike Blundi, Park & Recreation Board Member

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the March Minutes as written.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE PLAY FOR ALL PLAN

Ms. Ann Toole was present. Mr. Krauss stated the Board was provided with the final version, and he asked Ms. Toole to review the key changes since the last meeting. Ms. Toole thanked everyone for their insight and direction to move the Plan toward implementation. She stated they looked at all of the recommendations and about 99% of the suggestions that were provided were included, and the ones that were not included were for a “logical/good reason that did not change the tenor/tone/recommendations in any way in terms of Findings and Recommendations.”

Ms. Toole stated that the document is going through professional editing at this time by a professional editor who lives in Lower Makefield.

Ms. Toole stated that the Park & Recreation Board asked that there be a Year 1 Plan, and in the Section on the Goals, they have added a Year 1 Action Plan. She stated there are five action steps for Year 1. She stated in these Plans, she prides herself on implementation. She added that the last Plan she did with Lower Makefield was implemented, and she takes pride in that. She stated in this case, they have made recommendations that are strategic, implementable, and visionary; and they are practical and achievable.

Ms. Toole stated that the first recommendation for Year 1 is to carry out a discussion about the need for additional open space for parkland. She stated it is known that the Township needs between eighty and one hundred acres of additional parkland to serve the community in accordance with what was learned in the outreach process and best practices that she knows as a Certified Parks & Recreation professional. She stated that there should be a discussion to decide what the Township wants to do with regard to the recommendation for additional open space.

Ms. Toole stated that discussion would include the identification of parcels and the identification of potential partnerships because land is expensive; and if there is a willing landowner who could engage in some sort of partnership with the Township, that may help the Township to advance to the goal of adding another community park.

Ms. Toole stated the second recommendation is to address the need for more athletic facilities. She stated as a result of the interviews with the Leagues, the surveys and outreach, and her research, it has been demonstrated that there is clearly a need for additional athletic facilities. She stated what the Township is serving now are traditional organized sports that are growing. She stated there was concern expressed that the youth population was decreasing, but that is a narrow way to think since people of all ages now play sports. She stated we are not really providing athletic facilities for adult use. She stated there are also sports that are not being accommodated now including Ultimate Frisbee and volleyball; and they learned that Pennsbury School District had State Champions in both of those sports, but they are playing in New Jersey where fields are available. Ms. Toole stated there are also needs to accommodate field hockey, rugby, and a growing need for pickleball.

Ms. Toole stated the next recommendation is to convene a discussion among the Pennsbury School District and our neighboring Municipalities to discuss joint programming for tweens and teens in the after-school and non-school hours. Ms. Toole stated there was a work session with the Pennsbury School Superintendent, and she heard that at one of the recent School Board meetings there was a discussion about the need for after-school programs. She stated they have learned that less than 30% of the school-age population participates in after-school programs especially tweens and teens. She stated this extends beyond sports as there is music, drama, art, dance, STEM, volunteerism, nature, and other programs for those who are not part of an organized sport. She stated while they are advocating for sports, they recognize the limitations of what we have at the facilities. She stated Pennsbury is a large School District and you must be a premier athlete to make a team in the School District. She stated that the recommendation is to have a conversation about joint programming for those who do not make a team.

Ms. Toole stated the advantage of this discussion is that it can be paid for, and they could apply for a Grant from the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society for \$10,000 which the participating organizations would match with \$1,000 divided up among all of the participating organizations. She stated if it were to be just the Township and the School District it would be \$500 each, and if there were four participants, it would be \$250 each. She stated what you get with that is a professional Parks & Recreation facilitator to help the participants discuss the advantages, strengths, weakness, and opportunities of doing an after-school program for kids. Ms. Toole stated if at the end of the year, they do not want to proceed, that is fine; and there would have been informed community discussions with ideas that would likely emanate from that. She stated if they decide that this is something they jointly want to pursue, the Township would need just one other partner to do this; and they could apply for a Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources which would be for a circuit writer who would create a petition over four years. Ms. Toole stated in those four years, that person would be responsible for the after-school programs it was decided to collaborate on. She stated over those four years, that professional would work toward making the program financially-sustainable through a mix of public and private investments. She stated that position would be divided among multiple partners, and the match would be divided among the participating organizations. She stated that the Grant funds a salary over four years in decreasing amount with 100% the first year, 75% the second year, then 50% and 25% in the fourth year; and the match is the reverse of that.

Mr. Malinowski joined the meeting at this time.

Ms. Toole stated she does multi-Municipal planning projects all the time, and there are lots of successful models throughout the State, and she could have someone come in and give a presentation on what it is like to be a circuit writer and the benefits and the challenges. She stated by collaborating, the Township may be able to find a way to meet a major need in the community which is the need for after-school programs which is critical. She stated she has heard that the hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are called “the most dangerous time in America.” Ms. Toole stated the Superintendent of the Pennsbury School District was very supportive of this recommendation.

Ms. Toole stated the fourth recommendation is to carry out the CAPRA process which is the Commission on Accreditation for Parks & Recreation Agencies. She stated this is a National Certification, and Lower Makefield would be the first Municipality out of 2,600 Municipalities in Pennsylvania to achieve this status; and it is “remarkable” that Lower Makefield is doing this. She stated Lower Makefield would be the model in Pennsylvania; and once they are CAPRA-Certified, she feels it will lead to a domino effect especially in Southeastern Pennsylvania, and this will improve parks and recreation not only in Lower Makefield, but will contribute to having a fine network of parks and recreation throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and she has been honored to work with the Township on this project. She stated Ms. Tierney has done a formidable job working on this.

Ms. Toole stated the last recommendation is to continue to implement the planned park improvements that have already been identified which would include the field lighting at Caiola, the Pool improvements, especially the restrooms and locker rooms which would be the highest priority, and continuing the trail network which emerged very high on the survey. She stated the trails are the facilities that are the most-used recreation facilities in the Township. Ms. Toole stated they should also continue with Phase 2 of Memorial Park and to revitalize the Schuyler Road tennis courts.

Ms. Toole stated these five recommendations are what they are recommending to be focused on in the first year. She stated they are also recommending that before the 2023 Budget season, they look at where they are and how the needs have changed. She stated they would then do this in 2023 for the 2024 Budget and create an Action Plan like the five-step one that has been presented in this Plan.

Ms. Toole stated the Year 1 Action Plan is the only change in the draft that the Board has seen so far. She stated the Board will shortly be provided the final, edited version.

Ms. Tierney stated Cricket is something that was indicated a number of times as being missing in the Township.

Ms. Tierney stated tonight they are asking that the Park Board recommend the Plan to the Board of Supervisors. She stated the edited version will be posted no later than April 18 on the Township Website. She stated all preliminary information including the survey results are already available on the Township Website. Ms. Tierney stated the public can review the information and make comments, and this matter will be on the Board of Supervisors' Agenda on May 4. She stated hopefully on June 1, it will be up for a vote by the Board of Supervisors, and the public will be able to comment at that time as well. She noted the public, the Park & Rec Board, the EAC, the Board of Supervisors, and Township staff including Mr. Hucklebridge from Public Works have all helped to put this together.

Mr. Krauss thanked Ms. Tierney and Ms. Toole for their time and effort in developing this Plan as well as the Park & Recreation Board and others who have provided input.

Mr. Brody stated he understands that they are recommending approval of the Play for All Plan which is the Master Plan for Park & Recreation which is part of the CAPRA process. Ms. Tierney stated this is the Master and Strategic Plan for Park & Recreation. She stated CAPRA does not need to be voted on again.

Mr. Brody stated he felt the Plan was wide-reaching and gave people many opportunities to provide opinions and was sensitive to different opinions. He stated he appreciates the Year 1 Plan being added. Ms. Toole stated that idea came from the Park & Recreation Board.

Mr. Wysocki stated what they are considering tonight is moving this forward to the Supervisors, and Ms. Tierney agreed. Mr. Wysocki asked Mr. McCartney how he feels this will be received by the Supervisors. Mr. McCartney stated the Board is aware of the process and all of the Supervisors were interviewed during the process. He stated he cannot speak as to how it will be received adding that some of the recommendations are significant undertakings particularly with regard to land acquisition. He stated he personally feels

that they will be able to make the most of the existing space we have and decide how to manage that from a financial standpoint. Mr. Wysocki thanked Ms. Toole and Ms. Tierney for their work on this adding that Ms. Toole was able to make complex issues easier to understand.

Ms. Toole stated with regard to the Year 1 recommendations, she knows that the land acquisition is a big issue; and their recommendation is to carry out an informed discussion about it.

Ms. Rock stated she understands that this will go to the Board of Supervisors, and she asked if they would approve portions of it and it will then be revised or will it just be approved. Ms. Tierney stated it will go to the Board of Supervisors for discussion; and if there are big changes the Board of Supervisors wishes to make, she and Ms. Toole will bring it back, and a vote would then be taken on June 1. She stated she is hoping that there will not be any significant changes since the Board of Supervisors has had the opportunity to go through the document and provide recommendations through e-mails.

Mr. LaBar moved and Mr. Malinowski seconded to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the Play for All Strategic Park & Recreation Plan.

Mr. Bill Gaboda, 1230 Ash Lane, stated earlier in the process Ms. Toole had mentioned doing a survey of Macclesfield Park to see how well it is run and how it could be approved which he feels is a great idea. He stated he feels it would be a great idea to do something similar for the Snipes Tract and survey it to find out what is living there and how much wetlands are there so that there are no surprises when it is time to develop it.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF GIRL SCOUT PROJECT

Ms. Maggie Menarde, Wren Song Road, thanked the Board for considering her project. She stated she is proposing an annual, multi-step nature trail clean-up that will be run by herself and the Sandy Run Service Unit. She stated when she ages out, they will take it over. She stated the first step is a surface level clean-up which is to remove trash and any branches that block the way and make it non accessible. She stated the second step is to remove any invasive species such as poison ivy, English ivy, grapevines, and anything choking out the trees

or invading any other aspects. The third step would be to improve the walkability/ accessibility of the trail which would involve creating planks to walk over when it is rainy as well as diverting the water flow so that it does not create puddles. She stated she would get all supplies through donations or Scouts who would like to bring in supplies.

Mr. Krauss asked which trail this will be, and Ms. Tierney stated it is the Nature Trail next to the Pool. Mr. Krauss asked when this would be done, and Ms. Menarde stated it would be every Earth Day.

Mr. Brody asked how many people will be coming to the clean-up, and Ms. Menarde stated the Scouts would be split into three groups, and she estimated the number to be twenty to thirty people. Mr. Brody asked if they would do all three tasks in one day, and Ms. Menarde agreed. Mr. Brody asked if they would need the trail to be closed that day; and Ms. Tierney stated while they could, it does not get a lot of traffic.

Mr. Wysocki asked how they would identify the invasive species so that they avoid taking out good plants, and Ms. Menarde stated she worked with Mr. Heilferty who works with the Five Mile Woods. She stated he reviewed what species were invasive, and she plans to have another meeting with him right before the event takes place marking the plants that they know need to come out. She stated those working will be using proper equipment.

There was discussion about what type of material would be used for the planks and the dimensions of the planks. Ms. Tierney stated she assumes that the wood will be assessed every year, and Ms. Menarde agreed.

Mr. Krauss asked the length of the trail they will work on, and Ms. Menarde stated it will be the entire trail.

Ms. Rock stated she assumes all those working will have gloves and take all necessary safety precautions, and Ms. Menarde agreed.

Mr. Brody asked about potential tripping hazards, and Ms. Tierney stated she will have staff look into that. She added that they could likely have a staff member assist.

Mr. LaBar asked if there is wood laid down in certain areas now, and Ms. Tierney stated there is some. Mr. LaBar stated he knows that there are signs that identify different species, and he asked if that will be part

of the yearly maintenance, and it was noted it will. Mr. Krauss asked if the planks that are there will be replaced or will there be additional ones placed, and it was noted that these will be additional planks. Ms. Tierney stated as part of the plan they could extend the trail further into the preserved land behind the Pool.

Mr. Brody moved, Mr. LaBar seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve Maggie Menarde's Girl Scout project plan for the Lower Makefield trail beautification.

MEMORIAL PARK PICKLEBALL MEETUP

Ms. Tierney stated they are waiting for a string of warm, dry weather so that they can finish the project including re-installing some of the standards as well as correcting the divot, cracking, and drainage issues.

Ms. Tierney stated a big part of opening the courts up is discussing extension of the pickleball group to this site as managed by the Township as an extension of Meetup. She asked if the Board would feel comfortable recommending to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Tierney stated in her discussions with Ms. Gannon it seems that the advanced players are less likely to want to be on these courts as they like more room, and there is not enough room at Memorial Park that they would like, and there might be more intermediate players at that site. She stated she would like to know from the Board if they would recommend to extending Meetup into Memorial Park. She added that she would highly recommend that because it is a group-type sport and having that type of club atmosphere works for that. She stated there may be other groups that want to meet up between them, but it is nice for the Township to facilitate neighbors to get together that might not necessarily know each other.

Mr. Wysocki asked Ms. Tierney what block of time or days of the week that the Meetup would have allocated to it. Mr. Wysocki stated his concern is that if it is too much time, the courts that do not require someone to have a net of their own would be occupied and unavailable to the general public. Ms. Tierney stated in initial discussions with Ms. Gannon, they discussed always having courts available; and if it is not at Memorial Park, they would have Cardinal courts available so that there is always something for those wanting to play pickleball who are not part of Meetup to be able to play in the Township.

Mr. Wysocki stated Cardinal requires someone to set the net up, and Ms. Tierney stated there are nets in lock boxes which are open for use by the residents, and they should call the Township for a Code to use them.

Mr. Krauss stated there are beginners, intermediates, and advanced players. He stated usually there are two sessions a day, and each session is around two hours so depending on the day sometimes it is 12 to 2 and sometimes it is 3:30 to 5:30 so it is not the majority of the time that Meetups are scheduled. He stated it would be three sessions a day if you count beginners. Mr. Wysocki stated that sounds like a lot of time as it is potentially six hours a day that a league is taking away time from the general public.

Ms. Tierney stated the beginners have also been utilizing Revere courts recently, and she feels they would like to continue to do that.

Mr. Wysocki asked if there is any discussion about converting the existing tennis courts anywhere in the Township exclusively to pickleball courts. Ms. Tierney stated they could discuss that. Mr. Krauss stated they have discussed just adding lines to add more inventory versus converting them completely to pickleball.

Mr. Krauss stated in addition to beginners, intermediate, and advanced, there has been discussion about even a more competitive group than advanced. He stated they could indicate which location different skill groups would play at. He stated they could also free up Revere for open play to anybody.

Mr. Wysocki stated before we decide to extend the Meetups into Memorial Park, he feels there should be a discussion as to what time commitment we want to allocate to that. He stated he does not care what group it is, and the concern is more the time that is available.

Ms. Rock asked if they are utilized all day now by players other than those involved with Meetup, and Ms. Tierney stated she feels that for the most part the courts are used by Meetup although there are some sub-groups like the “advanced-advanced” players that will come on their own in the open time and play. Ms. Tierney stated pickleball is a social sport, and Meetup is a great way for us to bring community members together in order to play and find an outlet in that way. She stated it is not a league, and it is more casual, but they are now getting more intense, advanced players.

Mr. Krauss stated tomorrow there is a 3:30 advanced session at Cardinal, on Thursday there is a 10:00 intermediate and a 3:30 advanced, on Friday there is a 3:30 advanced, and on Saturday there is a noon intermediate and a 2:00 advanced. He stated on Sunday there is a noon intermediate, and 2:00 advanced. He stated at the beginning of the season, the group worked with Ms. Tierney and picked the days and sessions for each group. He stated as Ms. Tierney noted the beginners are at Revere. He stated he feels ideally there will be four groups – beginners, intermediate, advanced and competitive, and they could split it with two groups at Memorial Park and two staying at Cardinal. He stated they could then leave Revere open and there would also be open time at Memorial Park and at Cardinal.

Mr. Wysocki stated during Meetups it is probably always full; and when the Meetups are not there, there is probably limited usage. He stated he goes there with a friend who has a net which they set up. Mr. Wysocki stated everyone may not know that you can get into the locker that has a net by calling the Township. He stated if there is an existing court that is set up for pickleball, he feels there will be a lot more people playing there. Mr. Krauss stated once people know that the courts are open and the nets are there, they will use them. He stated he goes to Veterans Park in New Jersey where there are twelve courts with permanent nets. He stated he was there last night and there were sixty people rotating in for three and a half to four hours.

Mr. LaBar stated once the courts are open if he wanted to play would he be turned down because there are only advanced players there who have the courts for two hours. Mr. LaBar stated it would be problematic if the beginners are being sent to places where they need to set up nets. Mr. Krauss stated they could do beginners and intermediates at Memorial Park and advanced and competitive at Cardinal.

Mr. Wysocki stated it is the time that is being committed to which is the important piece for the Park & Rec Board to decide on.

Mr. LaBar stated if someone shows up at a tennis court if someone is already there, they would typically not ask if they could join in. Mr. Krauss stated Meetup has a maximum that can sign up for a session, and that is usually twenty people. Ms. Tierney stated there will be signage with a schedule and a link to sign up as well as rules.

Ms. Tierney stated there is now an instructor for beginners, and the Township will start running beginner classes as there have been a lot of requests for that. Ms. Tierney stated they were turning people away from Meetup because there were so many requests and the waiting list was so long that they could not accommodate everyone. She stated we are now at a place with the new expanded inventory that we can take more people in. She added that Middletown is also building pickleball courts as are a number of other Townships so that will provide some relief.

Ms. Rock asked if there is signage at the locker indicating people should call the Township to get access to the net, and Ms. Tierney stated there is signage.

Mr. Brody stated long term he feels there should be a scheduling program similar to what batting cage facilities have so people can go on a Website and sign in. He stated that way people would not be showing up at courts and finding that they are already filled. Mr. Krauss stated they do not do that at the tennis courts, but there is Meetup Court Reserve. Mr. Brody stated he feels what he is suggesting would address Mr. Wysocki's concern so that people who are not involved in Meetup could get a court. Ms. Tierney stated the goal for next year is to launch Court Reserve. She stated they were going to use it in the same way as they use Meetup with the schedule and have open times when people could just walk up. She stated this could be managed if they were to hire someone to be at the site all the time, but she does not feel at this point the Township would allocate funds to do that. She stated she does feel that they can have open times. Ms. Tierney stated the staff currently spends a lot of time trying to correct things in Meetup, and she is hoping that Court Reserve will correct that.

Mr. Krauss stated he feels the decision should be in place before the Grand Opening at Memorial Park. He stated he could help Ms. Tierney consider a recommendation this week based on his knowledge of who is playing when and what would be easiest. He stated he feels once the courts are open, they should be able to go onto the Township Website to see when there are times for open play and the times for Meetup groups.

Ms. Tierney stated the Park and Rec Board only meets once a month, and she asked if there could be a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that we plan to use Meetup and the Park Board at the next meeting will determine the schedule. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels the courts can be opened before there is a final decision. He stated previously he had referred

to tennis, and that if there are people already playing, those wishing to play would wait; however, he recalls that Ms. Tierney indicated that there is not a rule in the Township that if there are people waiting, your time on the court is limited to one hour. Mr. Wysocki stated if there is going to be signage at the pickleball courts they could have signage there and at the tennis courts as well that indicates that if there are people waiting, those on the court are limited to one hour. Ms. Tierney stated she would be willing to put up courtesy rules. Mr. Krauss stated he believes that is what has been the case with regard to tennis. Mr. Wysocki stated he agrees, but it had been indicated that there was not a standing courtesy rule expressed in the Township, although he feels that we should have one. Ms. Tierney stated that is something that they could do. She stated she feels it would have to be consistent with pickleball and tennis at the multi-use courts.

Mr. LaBar stated this is a new asset, and he assumes we want to utilize it to the maximum that we can; and he asked if they could just make a Motion that it be deferred to Ms. Tierney and her staff to set it up with the Park Board's views in mind that we want the public to use it as much as possible but also have it available for Meetup. Mr. Krauss stated he believes that is what Ms. Tierney was asking since currently Meetup is strictly at Cardinal, and it would be agreeing to extend it to the new pickleball courts. Mr. Wysocki stated he believes this is a unique circumstance with these courts being dedicated pickleball courts. He stated he would not be comfortable moving forward without Board discussion as to how time gets allocated. He stated he believes that the courts can be opened, and at a subsequent meeting the Park Board can make a decision on the allocation. He stated he would suggest that immediately it would not have the Meetup schedule for those courts until the Park Board makes a decision on a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Tierney stated she is now getting about twenty to thirty phone calls about pickleball Meetup at Memorial Park even though it is not yet open. She stated she feels she needs to move forward with something.

Mr. Brody stated he is in favor of using Memorial Park more fully than we do today, and he asked why this is not considered Permitting and why we are letting pickleball play there permanently. Ms. Tierney stated it is not a League, rather it is a recreation program run by the Township. Mr. Brody asked if the Township could run a Pee-Wee soccer program at Memorial Park; and Ms. Tierney stated technically we could, but she would not do that because there is not a need for the Township to run that. Mr. Brody stated it feels like Permitting.

Mr. Wysocki stated the other issue to consider is that people are shut out from joining Meetup because they are at capacity; and those people who cannot sign up for Meetup are not able to play if the courts are occupied by Meetup all the time. He stated he is in favor of the Meetup concept, but he feels that it needs to be limited, and the courts cannot be turned over to the Meetup group and take them away from public access. Ms. Tierney stated Meetup is run by the Township, and we create the schedule. She stated the reason that it is limited is because we do not have inventory. She stated the more inventory we can add, the more capacity we can add to the Meetup group. Mr. Krauss stated the Meetup group just gives the ability of the grouping of people to sign up and play together; and without those organized time slots, people would be doing it on their own, and it would be “very messy” for Ms. Tierney and for pickleball players who are trying to find similar skill set people to play with. He stated they would have to go out and create their own separate sub-groups and try to play at different times; however, the way the sport is you can get twenty similar-skilled people to show up from 12 to 2 and rotate through and play for a session.

Ms. Tierney stated she feels Meetup is an opportunity for residents of all abilities to be able to come out and meet each other as adults. She stated she understands that Mr. Krauss sees this as an opportunity to pair up with other advanced players. Mr. Krauss stated he has met over a hundred new people through this sport because he plays in different places. Mr. Krauss stated unless you have a group of four or eight people that you create, you are not just going to show up at a court and hope to join in.

Mr. LaBar asked if Meetup is restricted at this point because we do not have the inventory, and if someone wanted to join Meetup right now, they could not because there are not enough courts. Ms. Tierney stated they never stopped letting residents in; however, the waiting list now for Meetup is very long and she has not been adding any more time slots because she wanted to leave time for open play. She stated with more inventory, it can be opened up more to have less of a waiting list for the group. She stated they were turning away all non-residents. Mr. LaBar asked if once Memorial Park is opened up will they take in everyone who is currently on the waiting list or will that still not address everyone. Ms. Tierney stated she believes that there will always be a waiting list.

Mr. Krauss stated at a session with four courts, at any given time there would be sixteen people playing, and usually the list is capped at twenty people per session, and four people would be waiting on the sidelines while sixteen would be playing. He stated a session would only have the capacity of twenty people so that there are not numerous people sitting around waiting. He stated it could be made a little bigger, but by adding the courts, they could add another session either at Cardinal or Memorial Park. Mr. LaBar asked why it has to be either intermediate or advanced players at a session, and Mr. Krauss stated people play at different skill sets. Mr. LaBar asked why they could not have certain periods of time when there are open sessions. Mr. Krauss stated there could be Meetup open play when anyone could go or it could just not be scheduled and it would be open to the public.

Ms. Tierney stated she fields a lot of pickleball calls each day and advanced players get frustrated with beginner and intermediate players, and they are looking for a certain level of play. Ms. Tierney stated by identifying the skill level, it makes it more pleasant for everyone.

Mr. LaBar stated he believes that he and Mr. Wysocki are concerned that those in the public who want to play pickleball, it seems that they would be boxed out. Mr. Krauss stated there are beginner sessions. He stated there are also clubs that do open play and those who sign up for that know that they are going to be playing with people with very different skill sets. Mr. LaBar stated he feels there should be more open play sessions at Memorial Park to start than putting all of the advanced players at the new courts. Ms. Tierney stated she does not believe the advanced players want to play at Memorial Park as there is not enough running space for the advanced players.

Mr. Krauss stated they can create whatever groups they want through the Meetup groups; and if they want to set a time for open play through Meetup, that can be done and those signing up would understand that it is no set skill level. He stated you could also set up intermediate so that people will be playing with skill sets that are similar.

Ms. Tierney stated tonight's discussion was just whether they were going to use Meetup at all at Memorial Park. Mr. Krauss stated he believes that it should be opened to Meetup. Ms. Rock asked if there could be a compromise so that they would start out with a small amount of time and then consider it further in the future.

Mr. Wysocki stated he does not believe that everyone is interested in playing as an individual and is looking to play in a group. He stated people do form their own groups, and there could be two couples who want to play during an open court time, and they do not want to play with anyone else. He stated he feels undefined open times would be advantageous especially on the courts that have fixed nets. Mr. Krauss stated he believes that was initially what they were thinking of and they would just have non-scheduled time which is the way it is at Cardinal now as there are times when there is nothing scheduled and people can go use the nets. He stated the same premise would now be at Memorial Park and people could use the courts when there is nothing scheduled. Mr. Krauss stated that would be separate from open play which would be a defined time where anyone can sign up on Meetup.

Mr. McCartney asked if the current composition of Meetup is primarily advanced and intermediate players, and Ms. Tierney stated she feels that it is primarily beginner and intermediate. Mr. McCartney asked how many of those people are playing multiple days a week, and Ms. Tierney stated she would have to review the numbers. She stated she believes that many people are there as much as they can be. Mr. McCartney stated it seems that there are a percentage of people that want to be able to use the courts casually, and there should be availability for them as opposed to the courts being utilized by the same users over and over again with no ability to get into the user group. Ms. Tierney stated she agrees and some of the advanced players were initially booking intermediate sessions so that they could play for four hours, and she had to put a stop to that. She stated there are people who play as much as they possibly can even when it is not Meetup. Mr. McCartney asked if there is a way to track individual usage and putting limitations on hours per week, and Ms. Tierney stated they could put whatever limitations on that they see fit.

Ms. Tierney stated she would be in favor of what Ms. Rock suggested and possibly they should start with one beginner or intermediate group at Memorial Park and phase it in, and this would give a little relief to the Meetup schedule by having more inventory. Ms. Tierney stated she feels other groups will just emerge if we do not end up using our Meetup, and other people will form their own Meetup as that has happened and groups were charging residents recently. Mr. Brody asked if there were groups that were charging residents through Meetup to use Township courts, and Ms. Tierney agreed.

Mr. Wysocki stated Mr. Krauss had indicated that there could be twenty people signed up for a session, and if there were other people who were unable to get into that session and still wanted to play, if there was an open court somewhere, they could go play at an open court. He stated the more unscheduled court time we have particularly on the fixed courts, the better.

Mr. Krauss stated there 228 Meetup members, and Meetup is just an App to bring people together and sign up for a session based on similar abilities; and if someone cannot get into a session, they have to create their own sub-group to get people to show up through texting, etc. He stated if the intermediates and the beginners seem to be the sessions that people have a difficult time getting into, those would be the ones he would focus on adding time slots for now that there are additional courts. He stated open play could also be an opportunity for people to play. Ms. Tierney stated even if it is just open play that would give relief to the current Meetup schedule where people are unable to get in.

Mr. Brody stated if the Board is going to have further discussion on this in a few months, he would be willing to err on the side of Meetup which will at least alleviate what we already know is stressed; and then in two to three months we can look at the data to see how many people are not getting court time.

Ms. Tierney stated she feels that “pop-up Meetups will happen” if we do not have Meetups there.

Mr. McCartney stated he believes that from an asset management standpoint, the Board of Supervisors will be in favor of using Meetup from a Township standpoint to insure that there are no “rogue” Meetups happening at the Township courts. Mr. Wysocki stated it could just be “spillover” of residents who just want to play together. Mr. Wysocki stated he is not in favor of people charging people to play, and Mr. McCartney stated that is what he meant although he questions how they know if people are charging others or not. He stated he believes that there needs to be some control and they may want to consider limited availability per user per week which would insure that other people are able to use the courts. He stated they could also make it open play for a time until there is further discussion. He stated he is concerned about people using the courts and charging people, and Mr. Wysocki stated he agrees.

Mr. Wysocki stated he understands that there is a need for more Meetup times, and he suggested that they add one Meetup group one time a day at the Memorial Park courts with the intent of looking at it again in the future. He stated this would take away some of the immediate stress and still leave the courts open to the non-Meetup people that want to try the new courts as there will be demand from those people as well especially since there will be nets there and people would not have to bring their own net. He stated he feels these courts are going to be a big attraction to the general population. Ms. Tierney stated she feels that would be fair.

Mr. Krauss stated he would recommend not splitting up groups; and he would try to avoid running two intermediates at the same time at two different locations. Ms. Tierney stated the goal would be to leave one net always open so that one site would always be available.

Mr. Wysocki asked if Meetup would have to take up all four courts, and he asked if Meetup could have three courts and then leave one open. Ms. Tierney stated while she considered that, she feels if they only schedule three courts, the Meetup people who are waiting to rotate in, will just go onto the other court. Mr. Wysocki stated they would be limited to an hour since that will be in the rules. Ms. Tierney stated she understands that Meetup was scheduled for two hours for a reason, and she asked Mr. Krauss if that is because that is the game time. Mr. Krauss stated usually two hours is enough time for everyone to cycle through. He stated games are usually ten to twelve minutes, but with twenty people, it usually takes two hours to cycle everyone through.

Mr. LaBar stated he would move to have Ms. Tierney have the ability to use Meetup and to progress that in and monitor it. Mr. Malinowski seconded.

There was further discussion on the wording of the Motion. Ms. Tierney stated for this season they could only do up to one session a day and then they could move on to more next season if they want to. Mr. Krauss stated he feels it should be left open and that Ms. Tierney would set up Meetup at Memorial Park, and he would not be in favor of just one session. Mr. Wysocki stated he would be in favor of one session and then reviewing it a few months in the future. Mr. Brody suggested it have a limited roll-out for the first three months with a three-month review as to where to go and that it be left with Ms. Tierney in terms of what "limited" means. He stated if in two months Ms. Tierney knows she needs to allow a second session, he feels they would be in favor of that. Ms. Tierney stated she would also have to monitor open use and compare the two. Mr. Brody stated if there are no requests for open use and they are

falling behind scheduling Meetup, Ms. Tierney should know that she could add one more session until the Board discusses it. He stated the Board could discuss it every month for the next three months and set it as an Agenda item.

Mr. Wysocki stated he does not know how they would monitor the open use without cameras. Ms. Tierney stated there are counting devices that she could look into. She stated she would like to see how Memorial Park is used and be able to annotate it. She stated it is always reported as an under-used Park, but when she is there it is packed and there is no parking. She would like to have firm numbers. Mr. Wysocki asked about having cameras, and Ms. Tierney stated cameras are difficult because you need Wi-Fi for the cameras and getting Wi-Fi out to where it is needed would be hard. She stated there are other types of devices such as walk-over devices and laser-counter devices so that you can monitor amenities, and she has been looking into this for the parks so that they can get a number on passive use.

Mr. LaBar moved and Mr. Malinowski seconded to allow initially limited Meetup at Memorial Park at staff's discretion to be monitored for the first three months. Motion carried with Mr. Krauss opposed.

LIAISON REPORT

Mr. George Schlieben, 1035 Harvard Drive, President of YMS, stated they closed the Rec Program for the season with 865 players this year, which was 40 less than the fall. He stated rain has not hurt their ability to get in their games. He stated EPIC will be on May 7th and 8th. He stated they added boys to that which went very well. He stated they got more teams for boys for Mother's Day weekend than they did on Columbus Day weekend. He stated they are re-evaluating doing the Columbus Day Tournament, and he will report on that going forward.

Mr. Schlieben stated with regard to the discussion about programming, YMS has the TEC program in Falls Township which is open, after-school programming; and they are always looking to fill that so there might be an opportunity for a partnership there at some point if the Township is interested in discussing that.

Ms. Noelle Codispoti, 1908 S. Crescent Boulevard, stated PAA has started their season, and there are 772 players from three years-old to sixteen years-old across baseball, softball, and the Magik program. She stated there has been

some impact from weather getting games in. She stated Macclesfield 3 and Stoddart are completely shut down and have been since the beginning of the season.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

CAPRA Updates

Ms. Tierney stated they submitted all the documents on Friday to the review team. She stated the next step is the virtual visit. She stated as part of this packages will be created and sent out to them with items from the different Township groups including the Girl Scouts, Boys Scouts, 9/11, the Veterans Committee, and the other Committees and groups. She stated the sports groups can also contribute if they wish. Ms. Tierney stated a video will also be created about the parks, the staff, and hopefully the Park & Rec Board. She stated by providing the video, they hope that CAPRA will be able to see the amenities a little bit better.

Ms. Tierney stated the Play for All Plan will go to the Board of Supervisors, and it will be posted on April 18.

Ms. Tierney stated she provided to the Board in their packet information on where we stand compared to other Municipalities across the Nation. She stated this is something that has to be done for CAPRA, and it is a great tool for the Township for future planning.

Pool Updates

Ms. Tierney stated she provided the Board the Pool finances, and we are on track. She stated they will pick up on marketing as we get into warmer weather since the warmer weather generally promotes more memberships. She stated we are 200 Senior members ahead of the end-of-year projections for Senior memberships. She stated this was a benefit of the new pricing structure.

Camp Update

Ms. Tierney stated Camp is full adding that they did expand slightly to offer the tween program, and they already have ten registered even though the full promotion has not gone out yet. She stated they are only looking to do twenty-five in that program this year. She stated the tweens will go on bigger trips such as Hershey Park and will have a little bit more time at the Pool. Ms. Tierney stated they are being charged the same Camp rates and all trips are included in the package. Ms. Tierney stated they have found a fantastic Manager for that program who is a Phys Ed teacher in the Truman School District, and there is also an Assistant who is a Certified teacher. Ms. Tierney stated they hope to expand this program in the future if more space can be found.

Other Business

Ms. Tierney stated they are doing field prep. She stated the Pennsylvania Park & Recreation Maintenance Institute is coming to the Township this month, and people from all over Pennsylvania are being invited to our fields and they will go over maintenance, how to groom the fields, weed control, etc. She stated for the full day of training continuing education is given and our fields will get a little bit more attention. She stated the Township staff will also get their CEUs for their Pesticide License. She stated equipment is brought in from different vendors. Mr. Wysocki asked if PAA can participate in this, and Ms. Tierney stated they can, and they are aware of this. She stated there is a fee to sign up for the full training.

Mr. Brody asked about Pool staffing, and Ms. Tierney stated the new Pool Manager, Caitlyn Adams, has started. Ms. Tierney stated she comes from Sesame Place, and she has been in management for many years and worked at Lower Bucks YMCA for a few years. She stated she can train lifeguards. Ms. Tierney stated with regard to lifeguards we are on target; and while we can always use more lifeguards, we will be able to open regular hours and there will not be a one-hour shut down. Ms. Tierney stated the Thursday before Memorial Day, we will do a League Day where the Pool is open to the Leagues, and it will be a training day for the staff. She stated for those who are not Pool members, there is a \$5 charge per person. She stated the Pool opens on Saturday to Pool members at large. Ms. Tierney stated pool painting is on schedule and the annual maintenance is also on schedule.

Mr. Brody asked if there is a plan to have more chairs out this year, and Ms. Tierney stated they are going to still spread them out as they found that was more appealing.

Mr. Wysocki asked how the Leagues are made aware of League Day at the Pool on the Thursday before Memorial Day, and Ms. Tierney stated she will be in contact with the Leagues as she was waiting to get the staffing in place. She stated they have been trying to implement League Day for a number of years, and this year they are finally able to do it. Ms. Tierney stated she will be in contact with the Leagues, and it will then be up to the Leagues to communicate this to their members.

Mr. Krauss asked which Leagues are invited; and Ms. Tierney stated it is our main leagues – tennis, baseball, football, and soccer.

Mr. Krauss asked about the Dog Park, and Ms. Tierney stated a lot of maintenance was done at the Dog Park as some trees fell and knocked down one part of the fence close to the train tracks. She stated they are also working on re-seeding, and the sandy area in the large dog portion is being worked on to turn that sandy area into more of a grassy area. Mr. LaBar stated he saw the shade structure there that was a Boy Scout project, and he has received good comments about that.

There being no further business, Mr. Brody moved, Mr. Malinowski seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary