

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on February 8, 2022. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order and called the Roll.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: Douglas Krauss, Chair
Michael Brody, Vice Chair
Kim Rock, Secretary
Mike Blundi, Member
Rob LaBar, Member
David Malinowski, Member
Dennis Wysocki, Member

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Malinowski moved and Mr. LaBar seconded to approve the Minutes of November 9, 2021 as written. Motion carried with Mr. Brody abstained.

PRESENTATION OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Ms. Ann Toole was present and thanked the Board members who spoke with her adding that she still needs to speak to Mr. Malinowski and Mr. LaBar.

Ms. Toole shared a slide of the team working on this which includes the Board of Supervisors and the Park & Recreation Board noting that there is political will and support to work on this project. She stated Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Tierney, and Mr. Majewski have also been a great help.

Ms. Toole stated the purpose is to determine the priorities in the community based on what the outreach is telling us as well as the research in the field. She stated Ms. Tierney has done extensive work on Policies, Administrative Procedures, Rules and Regulations, Financing, and Budgets.

Ms. Toole stated we know that recreation, parks, and open space are an investment not a cost; and for every dollar that Lower Makefield puts into parks and recreation about another \$1.42 gets spent in the community. She stated she is writing a book on the return on investment that documents the social, recreational, health and wellness, and community cohesion, and economic benefits; and all the economists show that recreation, parks, open space, and trails are a significant benefit to the community.

Ms. Toole shared a slide of what the Township maintains and provides. She stated there is a relatively small staff and they provide a lot at a very high quality, and that comes out in the survey findings. Ms. Toole stated there is a lot of park land to take care of as well as lots of bike paths. She stated there is extensive programming, and there are partnerships with community sports so that there is something going on year round from very active recreation to the more serene places like Five Mile Woods where you can connect with nature.

Ms. Toole stated there are 23 ½ acres of publicly-owned land per thousand residents which exceeds what has been Pennsylvania's expected standard of about 10 ½ acres at a minimum. She stated that is an old standard, and it was crafted before sports were year round, before soccer took off, and before girls played sports. She stated when you look at what is needed, the Township should consider what additional land they might need.

Mr. Krauss asked how we compare relative to Bucks County peers with regard to the 23 ½ acres that we provide per thousand residents. Ms. Toole stated Maryland expects a standard of 30 acres per thousand at a minimum for parks and open space. Ms. Toole stated she will benchmark in the Plan how the Township compares to surrounding Municipalities in Bucks County. She noted that Upper Dublin has a premier system, and they have about 38 acres per thousand residents. Ms. Toole stated part of Lower Makefield's park land includes the Golf Course, and most Municipalities do not have a Municipal Golf Course so there are things about this standard that she would need to convey and that would need to be considered. She stated she believes that Makefield Highlands is approximately 195 acres which is a large part of the Township's park land; and if that were taken out of the volume of park land that there is for general public recreation, that would reduce the Township's ratio down. Mr. Krauss stated he would like there to be an apples-to-apples comparison to other Townships.

Ms. Toole stated with regard to benchmarking, 15.3% of the land is low for a suburban community, and she stated developed New York City is at least double that number. She stated open space and parks are very important even to those who do not use them other than driving by them because it adds to property values. She stated it also contributes to the rural character of the community.

Mr. Wysocki asked what the 15.3% means, and Ms. Toole stated if you look at a map of the Township 15.3% of that is in Federal, County, State, and Township-owned land which is mainly open space.

Ms. Toole showed a map and in bright green the facilities for recreation and open space are shown. She stated the column on the left lists the “big hallmarks” of the Park and Recreation system. Ms. Toole stated these facilities are well distributed through the community. She noted a heavily-developed area of the Township where there are some smaller pieces of recreation property.

Ms. Toole stated she would like there to be a way to access the River given that we are a River-front community, and she would like to hear any thoughts about that.

Ms. Toole stated the Township has twenty-five miles of bike paths in place which she feels compares well with all Bucks County Municipalities. She stated there are a few more that are critical to the system as a whole, and what is missing are some difficult connections, and the Township needs to work on a safe, connected system so people can walk and ride bikes. She stated they found in the survey that is a priority. She noted a map showing the level of development; and if the trails are not in place, it is difficult to get those connections.

Ms. Toole discussed pedestrian and bike path plans she has done for other communities where they were able to get funding. She stated there is now Federal funding for infrastructure and that includes transportation. She stated in the transportation funding, there is a lot of money for bike paths; and now is the time to start trying to see what to go after to make those connections. Ms. Toole stated she and Ms. Tierney have been talking with Mr. Majewski to determine what the next step is in deciding what the Township’s priorities are for connecting the bike path system. Ms. Toole stated she spoke with a lot of cyclists in her outreach.

A map was shown of open space, with Township-owned property shown in dark blue. She noted the bright green which are the vulnerable parcels that could be developed. She stated there is about 1,100 acres of vulnerable open space. She noted the farms around the I-95 area. She stated these parcels would be available for protection in some way either through acquisition, partnership, Conservation Easements, or donation. She stated she has found in other communities that owners of large properties in developed areas do at times want to see their land preserved and they do not want to “cash out” to a developer necessarily. She noted a project she worked on called Creybilly Farm near Longwood Gardens which was recently preserved.

Ms. Toole noted on the map the former Grey Nun Academy which is owned by Holy Redeemer Hospital with their Development Plans on hold. That site is 88.5 acres. Ms. Toole stated there are buildings on that site as well as outdoor recreation facilities.

Ms. Toole stated while land and facilities are a focus of the Plan, we also have nature; and she stated that people in the survey indicated that they really want to be able to connect to nature. Ms. Toole stated since Ms. Tierney came on the Programming has increased, and people love the Programs and are asking for more. Ms. Toole stated they are very high quality, and Programs and services are of vital importance to the community.

Ms. Toole stated we are looking at more than traditionally-designs parks, and we are looking at a premier system, year round, for people for all ages, abilities, and interests. She stated supporting what we have in terms of the sports leagues is key as the Township would never be able to afford to provide the services that the organized sports leagues provide. She stated that partnership is very important.

Ms. Toole stated all of this combined builds a strong sense of community in the Township since as a Residential, bedroom, suburban community Lower Makefield does not have a “Main Street. She stated the Township has the parks, the Community Center, the Pool, and the Golf Course which are all the “Main Street” where neighbors meet, you find new friends, and you bring your family and guests from out of town.

Ms. Toole stated taking care of what we have is a resounding theme in the Plan, and they heard this over and over. She stated it is a lot easier to get Grant money to build something new, but taking care of the facilities is very hard; and it is very difficult to get support for the staff and the equipment and materials

needed to take care of a park especially to the degree that those in Lower Makefield would come to expect. She stated a community of this caliber would expect to have five star facilities. She stated that for every dollar it takes to develop a park, it costs another \$4 to maintain it over its lifetime. She stated the Township does not do this alone, and that is why partnerships are important with the sports group and with the caretaker at Five Mile Woods.

Ms. Toole stated Ms. Tierney and her staff found a new possibility today with Holy Redeemer Hospital. Ms. Toole stated she and Ms. Tierney also met today with the new School Superintendent, Dr. Smith, who has a willingness and desire to partner on looking at things that we find as community needs in common particularly for middle school students up to the driving age who are not involved in organized sports who are interested in music, drama, and tech. Ms. Toole stated that Ms. Tierney also reached out to the surrounding Municipalities in the School District to have a discussion as to how to work together. Ms. Toole stated we may be able to get Grant funding to facilitate that discussion and move ahead with multi-Municipal collaboration.

Ms. Toole stated the public indicated that the facilities and the programs are good to excellent. She stated the top three preferred activities in the parks are enjoying nature, walking and running, and special events. They have requested that there be more programming in nature, fitness, and more programs for adults.

Ms. Toole stated we need to determine how to make the best of what we already have as that is important to the community. She stated this should be done holistically rather than in bits and pieces.

Ms. Toole stated to the question of what do you do when you visit the parks, dog walking, bringing out of town guests, and relaxing were the lowest. She stated playing or watching sports came in at fifth.

Ms. Toole stated the survey allowed for comments, and they have pages of comments which will be shown to the Park & Recreation Board. She stated they are close to 2,000 having completed the survey.

Ms. Toole stated with regard to improvements that the public wanted to see the priorities were first improved restrooms, second expanded bike trails, third open space and natural areas, and fourth more sports fields. Mr. Brody stated on this slide it seems that open space/natural areas and more sports fields are almost equal; however, on previous slides the indication was that more sports fields were not being specifically asked for. Ms. Toole agreed adding that this

is why they ask the questions almost repeatedly to see if you get that kind of variation. Ms. Toole stated when it was asked what people did when they visited parks, sports was not listed as high; but when they asked what type of improvements people were looking for, more sports fields came in fourth.

Ms. Toole showed a slide where those completing the survey were asked what kinds of new programs they were interested in within the next year, and she noted that more sports was ranked highest. She stated this is not organized sports like soccer, football, or baseball; and it could be pickleball. She stated it is known that pickleball courts cannot be built fast enough across the State. She stated sports can also be action sports such as a BMX track or a skate park that can be used by individuals and is not part of organized sports. Ms. Toole stated other program priorities were programs for fitness and mental health, adult programs, special events, family programs, and school-age programs.

Ms. Toole showed a slide of a graph which shows priorities in priority order and the highest on this graph was more athletic facilities, followed by more bike trails, the Township Pool, and environmental areas. She stated there needs to be a balance of athletic facilities and nature connected by trails. Ms. Toole stated that would define a good system, and the citizens are saying that is what they want.

Ms. Toole stated there was a survey question as to how people would spend \$100, and it came up highest on athletic facilities, next on conservation and natural areas, followed by the bike trails, and next park maintenance. She stated Lower Makefield has an enlightened community that wants to spend their money on park maintenance, and this is an important statistic to bring out when working on Budgets as it is hard to get financial support for park maintenance. Ms. Toole stated increasing programming and indoor recreation came in lower which she believes was because the Township is already doing a great job on programming and it is still new. Ms. Toole stated this is an outdoor community; and while we have not documented a specific need for indoor recreation, we know from Dr. Smith that there are people renting gyms and indoor facilities so the Township is exporting some of their participants elsewhere.

Ms. Toole showed the slide which asked the question how people would like to see the Snipes Tract used in the future, and a number of options were provided to choose from. She stated nature and open space slightly prevailed over athletics and a community park. She stated this is evidence for the

pattern that they saw that there should be a balance on that site for activities with a nature focus as well as facilities for organized sports. She stated this slide gives a clear directive as to how to satisfy the community at large.

Ms. Toole stated if that site is developed with a blend of active recreation facilities including fields and courts for organized sports along with pathways, landscaping, seating, pavilions, and playgrounds that would be a “big win” for the community.

Ms. Toole showed a slide asking what one thing people would most like to see improved, and the many responses received were shown.

Ms. Toole showed a slide listing the Township strengths noting the parks, recreation, and trails are a priority, the facilities are clean and safe, there is high satisfaction with the programs, there is public and private support, significant investment in parks, and the Township is an industry leader. Ms. Toole stated under Ms. Tierney’s leadership Lower Makefield will be the first Department in Pennsylvania that is Certified by the National Recreation and Park Association for optimal management in a public park and recreation system, which is an amazing feat. Ms. Toole stated it is an honor to be involved in this effort.

Ms. Toole showed a slide listing the challenges including balancing what we provide for the residents and the stakeholders. She stated we also need to take care of what we have and are doing the best with what we have. She stated there are not enough athletic facilities for the needs, and we also need to provide diverse opportunities for everyone. She stated a number of survey responders asked for facilities for cricket and people have also talked about Ultimate Frisbee as well as the quality of the volleyball team at Pennsbury, Championship soccer, and swimming. Ms. Toole stated there is limited open space remaining and it is expensive. Ms. Toole stated the Community Center is undersized. She stated there are gaps in the trail system, and Snipes has been eighteen years in the making.

Ms. Toole showed a slide outlining a way for the Township to move ahead which she would like the Board to comment on as follows:

1. Strive to achieve balance in park and recreation with opportunities for everyone
2. Move forward with Snipes as a true community park

3. Conduct a professional assessment of Macclesfield Park regarding number and type of fields, parking, and access; and use traffic counts to support decisions made

Ms. Toole noted that there was a lot of discussion about traffic and parking in Macclesfield, and there was an individual who indicated at a public meeting that it can take forty minutes to get from the back of Macclesfield Park to the front with a fear of running over kids “on the loose” in the Park. This assessment would not just be how to add more ballfields but also the layout and the capacity of the Park. She stated she had looked at the parking lot area which is two and half acres, and it should be at least six acres. She stated some Municipalities with a park of this size would have up to sixteen acres of parking. She stated the reason they would need those higher limits is because of the way athletic organizations schedule their turn-over so that they can get more games in because they do not have enough fields and the turn-over is an insufficient time and results in parking and access problems. She stated determining what to do with Macclesfield would have a domino effect to see where else some additional fields could be placed including Snipes; and if Snipes is not enough, whether we should look at Patterson which has 41 acres. She stated if they do not want to do anything at Patterson, they would need to consider if they want to buy land.

4. Plan to optimize Five Mile Woods.

Mr. Toole stated Five Mile Woods is a “gem” of several hundred acres in the Township, but it needs to be optimized.

5. Implement the LMT Pool Improvement Plan

Ms. Toole stated there was a great study done for the Pool but it was cut off due to COVID, and the Township should implement that Plan rather than letting it sit on a shelf.

6. Continue working on a safe connected walking and bicycle path network

Mr. Wysocki asked what is meant by optimizing Five Mile Woods. Ms. Toole stated the Five Mile Woods does not look like a premier nature-based park and the house needs improvements as well as the signage, the parking area, and the trail system. She stated there is a group called ACE which are premier environmental educators that can be retained for a two-to three day intensive

work session and they will look at your facility and provide ideas as to how it can be improved. Ms. Toole stated the Five Mile Woods is a large tract, but there is no plan for it. Mr. Wysocki stated he understands that they would improve access and make it more inviting. Ms. Toole stated it should be more useful and educational with more programming which could make it more revenue-generating. She stated she did plans for Churchville Nature Center and 90% of their Budget comes from non-tax Revenues through environmental programs.

7. Address the remaining open space

Ms. Toole stated it is likely that the Township is going to want more land once the Township figures out Macclesfield and Snipes and what they want to do with Patterson.

8. Work with the Pennsbury School District and Municipalities within the School District

9. Ensure continued operational excellence

Ms. Toole stated the Township management is excellent including the way the meetings are run by contracting with a professional meeting management company that makes sure everything goes smoothly, and she sees this in every Department in the Township where there is operational excellence. She stated that does not mean that the Township cannot make improvements, and she specifically noted Maintenance; and while they are trying their best, Macclesfield needs help which due to the overcrowding and overuse of the Park cannot be maintained.

Ms. Toole stated they have listed nine reasonable, practical, achievable steps for the Township to work toward having a premier park and recreation system that is CAPRA certified. Ms. Toole stated the Township has a successful track record of implementing plans, and by focusing on these areas they should be able to do this.

Mr. Brody asked if there is any data on the demographics of the respondents, and Ms. Toole stated there is. She stated they were 95% Township residents largely in the 35 to 64 age group almost equally split between males and females. She stated many of them were family households. She stated they also got some responses from people in their 80's. Mr. Brody stated without having an understanding as to who is submitting these answers, it could be a biased survey even

though it was randomly-generated. He added that YMS was heavily featured, and since YMS has a large audience they would push for that. He stated this would be true for other groups as well. He stated if we are getting 60% of the respondents in favor of nature and 40% in favor of fields, it would be interesting to know of the people who submitted comments if 40% are families who are still using the sports fields and 60% are not. Ms. Toole stated what has been shown are the findings as a whole, and they are just getting to the end of the collection of surveys. She stated the next part of the interpretation is to do the cross-tabulations to see what respondents with children in the households say, what do Senior adults say, etc. She stated they will be able to drill down more on that, and she agrees that is vital information to have.

Mr. Brody asked to what extent did the Committee contemplate the previously-proposed plan for Snipes and how that fits into what the report will say.

Ms. Toole stated the Advisory Committee has not discussed Snipes although they will. She stated this informal Advisory Committee is a group of residents with a mix of interests and ages. Mr. Brody asked if the role of this document is to provide guidance in how we should contemplate developing Snipes with the community, and will the Advisory Committee consider the details as to how Snipes should be developed. Ms. Tierney stated the Advisory Committee is an informal group with no voting ability, and the Park & Recreation Board will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors moving forward. She stated the details about Snipes will not be part of the Plan, but the idea of moving forward with Snipes will be part of the Plan.

Mr. Brody stated he wants to make sure that everyone has a voice and it is not just driven by the survey. He stated he had advised Ms. Toole that he believes that the majority of the people who use the parks may not have made time to complete the survey.

Ms. Toole stated getting 2,000 people to respond to a survey is amazing, and it was available to the community at large. She noted the average public meeting attendance is eight people so getting 2,000 people commenting on parks is something to listen to.

Ms. Toole stated she believes that the answer for Snipes is to have a balance of it being a true community park with athletic facilities, trails, pavilions, playgrounds, and restrooms. She stated to push this forward, a strategy that she and Ms. Tierney are talking about is completing a design looking at what was done already and take it through a public process. She stated that would

involve two or three public meeting with an initial meeting being an open house meeting from 12 to 8 to get comments on a concept, tweak that and then present a pre-final design to the public and then finalize it. She stated the Park & Rec Board would make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors who would be part of the process and adopt it. Ms. Toole stated the Township could apply for a Grant the end of May, and they could use that to apply for another Grant next April so that there would be significant funding for that park.

Mr. Blundi thanked Ms. Toole for her work on this. He stated he feels getting 2,000 responses is a good number.

Mr. Wysocki stated he feels that some of the feedback received that we need more athletic fields probably means more athletic field capacity, and he feels there are other ways to do that other than real estate. He stated they could increase capacity of a field by installing lights. Ms. Toole stated that is an important point and lighting, turf fields, and partnerships have come up. Ms. Toole stated she discussed with Ms. Tierney a West Coast alternative for a rectangular field surface that is seen in rainy climates although that may not meet the aesthetics that the Lower Makefield community prefers. Ms. Toole stated it is also important to consider maintenance as lights and turf fields do require maintenance. She stated YMS has already indicated that they would contribute to building another turf field which is a serious consideration.

Mr. Krauss thanked Ms. Toole, Ms. Tierney and the team for getting all of this information out to the public so that we were able to get the responses that we did. He asked what are the next steps. Ms. Tierney stated at the March 8 Park & Recreation Board meeting they are looking to wrap up all of the data and present the proposed plan, and it would go to the Board of Supervisors after that on March 16. Ms. Toole stated they will strive to meet those deadlines. Mr. Krauss stated he wants to make sure everyone is given enough time to review the materials. Ms. Tierney stated they want a Plan that everybody feels good about.

GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD PROJECT

Ms. Jenna Glen, 406 Essex Lane, stated she is in Troop 2098 at William Penn Middle School. She stated packets were provided on her proposal to build a Little Free Library at Macclesfield Park for her Silver Award which is the

highest award a Girl Scout can earn, and only 10% of Girl Scouts earn that award. She stated the project must help the community and be self-sustaining. She stated as part of her Cadet Journey she did an outdoor take action project and made posters about not polluting sewer drains, and one of those is at the Township Community Center.

Ms. Glen stated a Little Free Library is a take a book, return a book free book exchange which has easy access. They are self-sustaining so that once it is in the ground nothing has to be done to update it. She stated it is a small wooden box on a pole and books are put in it. She stated it will help the community since reading improves mental health and provides easier access to books. She stated she feels it would be good to put it at Macclesfield because a lot of people go there, and it could be a routine for parents and children to use it when they are there for sporting events. She stated there are over 100,000 Little Free Libraries worldwide.

A picture of Macclesfield Park was shown with the location shown where she would like to put the Little Free Library next to the snack stand/bathrooms which would be seen by many people.

Mr. Malinowski asked the size of the box, and Ms. Glen stated the size can vary. Ms. Glen was not certain how many books it would hold, but it would be less than one hundred. Ms. Rock stated she has seen them at other locations which hold approximately thirty books. Ms. Rock stated she would be in favor of the project. She asked about the maintenance noting that she is aware of one in Newtown where bees started building a bee hive in it. It was noted that Park maintenance would keep an eye on it.

Mr. Krauss asked the timeframe for completion. Ms. Glen stated after approval from the Township, the Girl Scouts needs to approve it. She stated she would like to complete the project before summer. Ms. Glen stated she will have people helping her build it and put it into the ground. She will be looking for donations and doing fundraising. Mr. Krauss stated he understands that the books will be donated, and Ms. Glen agreed. She stated since there will be a lot of kids at this location, she feels the books would be targeted more toward kids.

The Stoddard snack stand was also discussed as a possible location, and Ms. Tierney stated either site would be fine. Mr. Brody stated while he does not have a problem, to have one at Stoddard could be redundant since there

is one at the Community Center. He stated with regard to Macclesfield, there are many people going there that are not from the Township, and he asked if Memorial Park would be a better location. It was noted there is already one at that location. Mr. Brody stated he would therefore be in favor of the location at Macclesfield Park.

Mr. Wysocki stated he is in favor of the project. He stated he understands that people can also bring books and leave them there as well, and Ms. Glen agreed a book can be left at any time.

Other possible locations were discussed. Mr. Krauss specifically noted the park at Cardinal with the tennis courts as that is near a neighborhood. It was noted that there is one at the Dog Park already. Ms. Tierney stated Kids Kingdom is a potential location as well. She added that both sites Ms. Glen has suggested would be good locations because they have high visibility.

Mr. Blundi stated he is in favor of the idea, and feels Macclesfield would be a good location.

There was further discussion as to the exact location if it were to be built in Macclesfield.

Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Little Free Library project at Macclesfield Park with the exact location to be determined.

DISCUSSION OF PARTICIPATION IN JOINT MUNICIPAL EARTH DAY EVENT

Ms. Tierney stated there is a joint Municipal Earth Day Event at Core Creek Park which is held annually, and the Township has been invited to participate. She stated the EAC is going to participate, and she would to know if the Park Board would like to assist that day with a table/booth; and we could come up with something that Lower Makefield could provide. She stated a lot of Lower Bucks Park and Recreation Boards and EACs get involved in this.

Mr. Krauss asked the date of the event; and Ms. Tierney stated while she did not have the exact date it is to be held the weekend around Earth Day. She stated she can provide the flyer to the Board. She stated Middletown Park & Rec organizes this, and they have asked what kind of service or information we

would like to provide and what special requirements we would need at the event. Ms. Tierney stated once the Board is provided the information, they can come up jointly with what we would like to do and how we can work with the EAC.

LIAISON REPORT

Mr. George Schlieben, 1035 Harvard Drive, President of YMS, was present. He thanked Ms. Tierney and Ms. Toole for the Needs Assessment, adding it was good to be a part of it. He stated YMS is going to evaluate the fields and field usage once it is warmer. He stated he believes some areas of Macclesfield are going to have to be rested again due to their condition. He stated the YMS Rec program is pacing ahead of the fall which was unexpected, and they are excited about the numbers.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

CAPRA Updates

Ms. Tierney stated we are tracking to submit our forms on April 11. She stated they are working with the EAC on a recycling plan. She stated when the EAC did an assessment of the parks, they found that there was a one to twelve ratio of trash cans to recycle cans in our parks so we are working on a plan that could be implemented over time. She stated the EAC is very interested in composting and seeing how the Township could participate in that, and that is being explored. Ms. Tierney stated this seems overwhelming, but they are exploring the potential implementation of a single compost site at the Pool because there is food consumption and there is staff there that could control it. She stated this is not something that is needed as part of the CAPRA process because we do a great job environmentally in the Township already, but it could be a great addition.

Pool Updates

Ms. Tierney stated the Park & Recreation Board members were provided with the financials. In the first month, we sold \$108,000 worth of memberships. She stated we are still getting questions about how the membership works. She stated whenever a newsletter is sent out, a lot of people come in to register.

Mr. Krauss asked if the feedback about the new rates been mostly positive; and Ms. Tierney stated there have been calls about the impact on large families, but overall most do understand why the rates had to be raised, and a number of people with smaller families were very happy with this.

Camp Update

Ms. Tierney stated Camp was filled in the first day and a half, and it was slightly expanded to allow for some additional participants. She stated there are twenty-six on the waiting list. She stated they are trying to find a way to accommodate more people and looked into some additional sites including the Masonic Lodge and Grey Nun which were not available. Ms. Tierney stated there is a big need to provide for the 12/13/14 age group, and they are exploring adding that age group in some way.

Mr. Krauss asked what is the capacity per week, and Ms. Tierney stated they were looking at a capacity of thirty-five kids. She stated it is not very big because space needs to be shared with the Seniors and other programming. She stated they did take it to forty-five for some of the weeks which she is comfortable with. Mr. Krauss asked if there have been discussions with the Schools; and Ms. Tierney stated she did reach out to Edgewood, and while they were not available at that time, she plans to reach out to them again. She stated as Ms. Toole noted they did talk to the Superintendent about some of our indoor needs, and there is the potential for partnership in the future. Mr. Brody noted the Abrams Hebrew Academy in Yardley Borough, and Mr. Krauss noted St. John's as well. Ms. Tierney stated she is still exploring this, although she is not sure that there will be an answer for this year. Ms. Tierney stated there were people who did not even try to register because they saw there was a waiting list, and they are also still people calling to see if there is space.

Pickleball Registration Software Discussion

Ms. Tierney stated she had previously discussed using Community Pass to manage pickleball; however, when she went to the presentation and saw how it would look to the end user, she realized they could not use that option. She stated they are now looking at new software called Court Reserve which is an app; and if they decide to move forward with it, they will do so quickly since pickleball will ramp up in March. Ms. Tierney stated they would be able to upload our current

membership into the app so that there should be a smooth transition. She stated many pickleball players already use this. She will keep the Park & Recreation Board updated on this.

Mr. Brody stated with regard to composting they should make sure that we will not be impacted by bugs because he would not want there to be more bugs at the Pool. Ms. Tierney stated they met with a Township resident who is a compost professional, and she provided a lot of information on how this would operate. Mr. Brody asked if the Pool will still be closed for an hour mid-day; and Ms. Tierney stated she cannot yet answer that, and she is still hoping that we get enough staff so that the Pool does not need to be closed for that one hour. She added that people feel good about the pay rates which are very competitive with other pools.

Mr. Brody asked with regard to the pickleball software, would pavilions and other things be put into that system; and Ms. Tierney stated it would just be for pickleball. She stated there is already a scheduling system for things other than pickleball although that is something that could be done in the future.

Mr. Krauss asked if composting would be an option at the Golf Course, and Ms. Tierney stated she would have to discuss that with them. She stated another consideration was at the pavilions because of the food waste, but they would need to consider how to educate people about what to compost including signage. Mr. Brody stated we currently have recycle cans, and he asked who corrects those mistakes; and Ms. Tierney stated that is a big part of the issue, and if there are a lot of contaminants in the recycle bins, the staff just puts it all in the waste bins because they do not have time to sort through all of the recycling. She stated they need to consider how this could be mitigated as they move through the process.

There being no further business, Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary

