

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2005

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on January 11, 2005. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman  
Ron Smith, Vice Chairman  
John Kuebler, Secretary  
Patricia Bunn, Member  
Henry Carpenter, Member  
Richard Jutkiewicz, Member

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager  
Donna Liney, Recreation Director  
Pete Stainthorpe, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Andrew Newbon, Park & Rec Board Member

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kuebler moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of November 9, 2004 as written.

#### REORGANIZATION OF PARK & RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Carpenter moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to re-elect David Fritchey as Chairman, Ron Smith as Vice Chairman, and John Kuebler as Secretary of the Park & Recreation Board for the year 2005.

#### PRESENTATION BY PAA OF PROTOTYPE BALLFIELD ADVERTISING SIGNS

Mr. David Truelove, Mr. Mauro, and Mr. Kloss were present from PAA. The prototype of the ballfield advertising sign was shown. Mr. Truelove stated the Board of Supervisors asked that PAA come before the Park & Recreation Board with the prototype before proceeding. He stated initially he felt that they would have a more solid type sign, but from talking to the sign professionals, it was felt that this would not be as practical as the prototype being displayed. He stated the signs will be installed in the inside part of

the outfield at Lower Makefield Baseball and Softball fields. They will be up from April 1 to July 15. He stated this will help them generate revenue as the registration fees are becoming prohibitive for some of their families. This will also help them bring the program up to a level that will permit a sustainable funding base that will go on for many years. They hope that local businesses will advertise during the season making use of these signs. They estimate that this could generate income up to \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year. The first year will represent the biggest cost and generate the least revenue, but they feel they will be able to reuse the signs for a few years. The sign shown is 3' by 8'. The openings at the fields are 10'. The sign manufacturer has done this at other fields in Lower Bucks County and suggested that they keep at least 1' open on either side to reduce wind damage. He stated there are 180 spaces available. The writing is digitally screened. After the end of the season, they will take the signs down, roll them up, and store them in one of their storage facilities. Mr. Truelove stated while most of the signs will be white, they may need to have signs with a green background at a few locations because of problems with visibility and safety concerns. They would like to go out to sponsors as soon as they get approval from the Township.

Mr. Fedorchak stated he did not feel that the Township was restricting them to signs with a white background. Mr. Carpenter stated he feels that if it were green, it would not be as visible from the road.

Ms. Bunn asked about securing the signs because of concerns with vandalism.

Mr. Truelove stated they intend to keep the signs up until after the end of the season, so vandalism is a risk. Ms. Bunn noted particularly Macclesfield Park, and Mr. Truelove stated they are only requesting permission to have the signs at Stoddard and the Girls Complex.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Minutes when this was previously discussed indicate that the Township would have the right to approve the signs and the dates that they could be installed, but there is nothing specifying color. Mr. Fedorchak stated he would prefer something other than white. A representative from PAA stated at the Girls field, they would like white because they use a yellow ball. Mr. Truelove stated the cost they anticipated was using up to three colors. Mr. Smith stated they do want to be careful about visibility of a pitched ball.

It was the consensus of the Park & Recreation Board that they were in favor of the proposal as presented.

Mr. Truelove asked if they want to see every sign before installation, and Mr. Stainthorpe stated they would not have to show the actual sign, but should bring in a proof before they proceed with making the sign and get approve from the Township through Ms. Liney.

Mr. Carpenter stated he wants to make sure that there is not a 300' white swatch going down the road. Mr. Fritchey suggested that consider a uniform green for the back. Mr. Stainthorpe stated he feels that to make the back green, it could possibly double the cost. Mr. Fritchey stated he is suggesting that they have two signs – one on the back and one on the front with double grommet holes, where the green back would be permanent. Mr. Jutkiewicz stated he would want to make sure that a child could not get caught between the sign and the ground.

Mr. Mauro asked Park & Recreation the status of projects proposed in 2005. Ms. Liney stated she is in the process of getting bids for replacing the backstops at Field A, and is looking to see if they can use the light posts to install netting between A and B. The dug out roofs are moving along. They are not doing the third field at Stoddart because the dugouts are located in the playing field and do not have concrete footers or floors. They will then move onto Roelofs. With regard to the lights at Macclesfield H, the engineers are developing the specifications at this time. Plans are to advertise for bids six to eight weeks to encourage competitive bids. They hope to have a bid recommendation before the Board of Supervisors in March noting that it would be the fall at the earliest for project completion.

#### UPDATE ON MEMORIAL PARK

Mr. Fedorchak stated the Board of Supervisors approved the contract for Phase I of Memorial Park. The total cost is just under \$1 million which was what the Board of Supervisors had put in the Budget. Phase I includes the main entrance and the circular drive. These areas will be paved. From that point on further up including the parking lots, they will have gravel in order to save money. They will be able to have some soccer fields and hopefully both the basketball courts will be constructed. They hope to install a picnic area and pavilion. The contractor is anxious to get started. They feel it will take eight months for completion. It has been suggested by the engineer that the final wearing surface of the roadway not be completed until after the Memorial itself is completed. They would like to have the grass planted by September. All utilities are included with the exception of electrical because of outstanding issues with regard to the Memorial itself. The engineer who worked on the lights at Macclesfield Park will be handling the lighting. The conduits will be installed as part of Phase I.

Mr. Fritchey asked about the status of the Memorial itself. Mr. Fedorchak stated he feels they are close to putting it out to bid. He did receive a draft bid spec from the architect and they are reviewing it now. He stated he is aware that there are certain design elements that have not yet been completed including the lighting fixtures that still need to be resolved. He hopes that they will let out the contract in a few months. It does have to

go through the public bid process, and the Board of Supervisors will eventually let the contract. He stated he does not anticipate awarding the bid until at least May or June.

Ms. Bunn asked what would happen if the bids for the Memorial come back too high. She asked how much the Committee has raised. Mr. Fedorchak stated he feels they have raised approximately \$500,000. Mr. Stainthorpe stated if the bids come in significantly higher, the Memorial Committee will have to revise their plans. Mr. Fedorchak stated there were discussions about how to include the 3,000 names; and he feels this has been resolved although he is not sure. He stated he does not feel there should be an expectation on the part of the Committee that the Township will be adding any additional funds other than the \$1 million which has been committed by the Township. Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Board of Supervisors has made it very clear from the beginning that the Township would be responsible for the infrastructure only, and that the Committee would be responsible for raising the funds for the Memorial itself.

Mr. Jutkiewicz asked if the residents will be notified about the first phase of construction, and Ms. Liney stated she did notify the residents that this would be discussed this evening.

#### SUPERVISOR LIAISON'S REPORT

Mr. Stainthorpe stated it is a pleasure to be the liaison to the Park & Recreation Board. He stated the Golf Course is extremely successful, and they will continue to open as long as the weather cooperates. They will consider closing one or two days a week in the spring to give the Course a rest.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated this year he would like to see the Township finish up some of the things that have been on the table for some time including completion of the 9-11 Memorial as soon as possible. He stated they will also be working with the Heritage Conservancy to put together a plan for Township-owned historic properties. He would also hope to have the Matrix matter resolved.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated he would like to see Park & Recreation move forward with completion of a Master Plan for the land the Township has. He noted items discussed on the Road Tour particularly for the Samost tract. Mr. Fritchey stated one of the causes for a log jam to any plan was the continuing controversy as to whether or not there would be a Senior Center constructed and if so, where it would be constructed. He stated if it was to be across the street, this would affect what the planning would be for the Samost Tract. If there is a solution to that issue, they could move forward with some degree of confidence. Mr. Smith stated the lack of progress on moving projects ahead has not been the fault of the Park & Recreation Board. Mr. Stainthorpe stated he did not want this to be inferred from his comments. Mr. Smith stated they would like to work with the Board of Supervisors to move forward with some of these projects.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated he wants the Park & Recommendation Board to recommend to the Board of Supervisors what they feel the Township needs, and the Board of Supervisors can then make a final decision. He stated he does not feel anything will happen with a Senior Center this year.

Ms. Bunn stated she does not feel the Park & Recreation Board can recommend consideration of a Senior Center when it was voted down twice. Mr. Stainthorpe stated they may be getting funds from Matrix that could be put toward a Senior Center. Mr. Fritchey stated a majority of the Park & Recreation Board is on record as being in favor of construction of a Senior Center.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Board of Supervisors will also be considering truck traffic on Lindenhurst Road. He stated they have received funding from Harrisburg to install traffic calming measures, and they will be proceeding with this to try to slow the traffic down. He stated Swamp Road is now open to trucks again so this should spread out the traffic.

#### RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated she is issuing the paperwork for upcoming purchases and projects which were approved in the Park & Recreation Operating Budget.

The Township will enroll all Park & Recreation Board members in the PA Park & Recreation Society for 2005 as well as the Township's ongoing participation in the Bucks County Recreation Council for 2005.

Ms. Liney reported she is in the process of confirming the 2005 summer camp schedule, and hopes to have more information available for the community by the February Park Board meeting. Preliminary scheduling includes the Roving Nature Center at the Five Mile Woods Preserve, Yardley Makefield Tennis, Elite Soccer and YMS soccer, Quickstic Lacrosse and the U.S. Sports Institute Multi-Sports Camp.

Ms. Liney stated a new event planned for 2005 will include a 5K race hosted by the Friends of the Delaware Canal on Saturday April 9 at 9A.M. beginning and ending in the rear pavilion at Macclesfield.

She stated the Pennsbury High School Boys lacrosse has requested an evening game at Macclesfield Field G for Thursday, April 28 which the Township should be able to accommodate.

Ms. Liney stated the Park & Recreation office is coordinating with all user groups to restrict play on Macclesfield C, D, E, and G through the end of April in order to promote grass growth and filling in the bare turf areas on those fields. She thanked all the

volunteer organizations for their ongoing assistance in helping the Township maintain the good condition of the playing fields.

Ms. Liney stated the fall 2004 user fees and light fees have been paid by the organizations and she commended those involved for their cooperation.

Mr. Fritchey stated they do still have an outstanding bill from the spring due from Yardley Baseball. Ms. Bunn asked if something cannot be done about this situation. Ms. Liney stated the Board of Supervisors would have to make this decision. She stated the amount due is \$338. Mr. Stainthorpe stated Dr. Buckley should not come back and request any field time.

Ms. Liney reported that the dual slide project continues this week at the Pool with the installation of the slide structure itself. The tower, stairs, and platforms are on track for completion. Wednesday the speed slide is scheduled for installation and the flume slide is targeted for Thursday and Friday. Saturday and Sunday are button down days for this project, and the critical construction phase should then be complete. Landscaping and grading restoration will begin after than time. Wallover Architects was on site today and will return Thursday to verify all the outfalls are plum and everything is in order. Ms. Liney stated she will be in touch with Delaware Valley Insurance Trust and be hosting instructional classes for safety and operating the slides for pool staff.

Ms. Liney stated Park & Recreation continues to provide support to the Five Mile Woods facility and other special projects as assigned, and looks forward to a successful 2005.

There was a question about the program offered by U.S. Sports Institute Multi-Camp, and Ms. Liney stated it includes sports not traditionally offered through the Township. She stated it is similar to gym class activities geared to five to seven-year olds. It will be an outdoor activity the week of July 18.

Mr. Jutkiewicz stated the proposed 5K Race may conflict with the opening of trout season which is typically very busy. Ms. Liney stated she will pass this information onto to the Friends of the Delaware Canal representative who is coordinating the Race.

## LEAGUE LIAISON REPORTS

Lower Bucks Lacrosse – Mr. Jutkiewicz stated they have finished Registrations and they did have to stop registrations at the end of December. He stated it is an exciting year for Lacrosse as the 2005 Collegiate Championship will be held at Lincoln Financial Field this year. They anticipate 50,000 to 60,000 could be at this event. Mr. Jutkiewicz stated Lower Bucks Lacrosse's registration numbers reflect this increased interest in Lacrosse.

PAA – Mr. Fred Allan stated registrations are coming up this month. He thanked everyone for their support. He also thanked Ms. Liney and the Recreation staff for the work they have done. He stated at the Father's Day Tournament there were over seventy teams and everyone was very impressed with the facilities. He stated the pavilion was also an asset. Ms. Bunn asked about complaints raised last year with children at Afton using the woods as bathrooms. Ms. Liney stated she has discussed this with the PAA representatives, and the coaches in this age group have been alerted. She will continue to follow up on this. Mr. Allan stated he feels they are trying to install port-a-pots at both Afton and Quarry Hill. Mr. Fritchey stated these are not Township fields but a citizen did come to the Park & Recreation Board concerning this and asked that the Park & Recreation Board discuss this with PAA which they did. Mr. Allan stated the softball fields were in great shape, and the drainage work done and use of the tarps made for a successful season.

Pop Warner Football – Mr. Kuebler stated they had a good year and the players enjoyed themselves. Ms. Liney stated 2005 registration is scheduled for the third Wednesday in January.

YMS – Mr. Smith stated YMS is going to 90% on-line-registration and will be doing very few walk-ins. They will be dropping off brochures to give out to new residents who move in so that they can visit the YMS Website. They handed in their applications for spring this evening. Mr. Smith stated there was discussion at a recent YMS Board meeting that people are coming into the Township offices and speaking on behalf of YMS. Mr. Smith stated the only one who can really make decisions is the President regardless of who comes in to the Township building.

Mr. Smith stated there were some issues about field mowing and he has addressed these with Ms. Liney. He stated a request was made what the impediments would be to working with the Township to have YMS take over the maintenance of fields C & D so that they could help the Township in this respect. Ms. Liney stated YMS would like these fields to be cut 1" and the Township does not cut this close to the ground. Mr. Smith stated he was told it was a problem with the timing of the mowing rather than the cutting itself. Mr. Fedorchak stated he does not have any problems with YMS cutting the grass as long as they work it out with Ms. Liney. Mr. Dennis Wysocki stated they have actually used hand mowers before some of the key matches. He also stated when re-seeding, possibly they could use a kind of seed that is a dwarf so that it does not grow so much. Ms. Bunn stated she felt the grass could not be cut lower than 2 ½" or they would not get seed. Mr. Allan suggested they contact Penn Sate which has a program that deals specifically with grass. Ms. Liney stated they have been working with the turf manager from the Golf Course to improve the grass conditions at Macclesfield.

Mr. Smith stated in an effort to work with the Township YMS has put together an Agenda of events that will be held during 2005. They have indicated that they will not do a Showcase Tournament this year or the Regional 3 x 3 tournament in August. They want to do the events which are important to the Township and the Township residents. Mr. Smith stated he would like to discuss a date conflict with Ms. Liney.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Smith stated they are closing certain fields at Macclesfield Park until May 1 – not because they want to close them down, but because they have to because of over-use. He stated this leads to the fact that they are still in need of additional athletic facilities.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated this is why he wants to move forward with a Master Plan and decide what Park & Recreation would want to do depending on the financial capability of the Township. Mr. Fritchey stated they have basically completed a Master Plan for the Snipes Tract. He asked about the status of the Fire Station, and Mr. Fedorchak stated currently it is on hold. He stated the Board of Supervisors will be sitting down with the Fire Company to discuss a number of issues that relate to the Department including the status of the Northern Station.

Mr. Kuebler asked if YMS could loan the money to the Township to develop the fields and then when the Township gets money, they could pay them back. Mr. Smith stated currently they are sorely pressured with their financials. They would like to work with the Township to develop a tract such as the Snipes tract which would result in exclusivity. He stated they do not have a dedicated space currently for their own fields although they traditionally do get Fields C & D.

Mr. Fedorchak stated the issue for 2005 is money as they have a very tight budget. He stated they do not have any money in the budget for development of the Snipes tract for this year. He stated 2006 should be different, and they should consider this at Budget time for 2006.

Mr. Fritchey asked if they presented the Snipes Plan to the Board of Supervisors, and Ms. Liney stated they did not. It was noted that there is a Plan prepared which could be easily submitted to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Kuebler asked what improvements could be made to provide some fields in the spring. Mr. Stainthorpe stated they did provide some additional fields in that location already. Mr. Kuebler stated he feels some people could work on this to take out some additional trees and move dirt around and plant grass. Mr. Smith stated he feels the YMS Facility Director would be willing to work on this, and this would give people in the north end of the Township a place to play soccer in that area. Mr. Kuebler suggested that they put the Plan they have for the Snipes Trace before the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Stainthorpe suggested that this be considered

for March at the earliest as the Board of Supervisors will only have one meeting a month in January and February. Ms. Bunn stated she feels Snipes would be a priority before completing Memorial Park because it would result in the fields being available quickly. Mr. Smith stated fields at Snipes should also not result in any problems for any adjacent neighbors.

Mr. Jutkiewicz stated he would be willing to work on a ten-year plan to present before the Park & Recreation Board. Mr. Fritchey stated there was a Park & Recreation Master Plan prepared. Mr. Smith stated the Park & Recreation Board can come up with an Agenda on what they feel is necessary and doable. Mr. Fritchey stated they need to consider Samost, Snipes, and Memorial Park. Mr. Kuebler asked why they cannot put the Plan for Snipes before the Board of Supervisors as a plan, and Mr. Fritchey stated they can.

Mr. Kuebler moved to take the Snipes Plan to the Board of Supervisors in March. Ms. Bunn seconded with the amendment that this is the next Park they would like to see built rather than completion of Memorial Park. No vote was taken.

Mr. Smith suggested that they put this matter on the Agenda for the next Park & Recreation Board meeting to review it. Mr. Smith stated the Five Mile Woods group generally comes in during the meeting in February with their Annual Report. Mr. Smith stated he feels that they would be able to consider both items at the February Park & Recreation Board meeting. Mr. Smith stated he feels that they should also bring in the residents if they are going to discuss the Snipes tract.

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Carpenter seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Kuebler, Secretary