

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – JANUARY 8, 2019

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on January 8, 2019. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and called the Roll.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Gordon, Chair
 David Malinowski, Vice Chair
 Douglas Krauss, Secretary
 Michael Brody, Member
 Patricia Bunn, Member (left meeting in progress)
 Bryan McNamara, Member

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director

Absent: Dennis Wysocki, Park & Rec Member
 John B. Lewis, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Brody moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of December 11, 2018 as written.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD FOR 2019

Mr. McNamara moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect David Gordon as Chair of the Park & Recreation Board for 2019.

Mr. McNamara moved and Mr. Krauss seconded to elect David Malinowski as Vice Chair of the Park & Recreation Board for 2019. Motion carried with Ms. Bunn abstained.

Mr. Brody moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect Douglas Krauss as Secretary of the Park & Recreation Board for 2019.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Tierney stated they are doing hiring at this time for the summer programs. She stated they are looking for five Park & Rec temporary hires for the summer, ten camp counselors, a camp manager, and all of the usual Pool staff. She stated the summer camp positions are full time – 40 hours a week. Mr. Gordon asked the age range. She stated they are looking for a camp manager who is a senior finishing an education degree or a newer teacher. She stated the camp counselors would need to be sixteen and older. She stated the camp counselors would be paid \$10 an hour.

Mr. McNamara asked for details about the camp, and Ms. Tierney stated it is a recreation camp. She stated they will swim every Friday and every Friday evening there will be a jamboree. She stated they will go on one to two trips per week all included in the fee. She stated they will have crafts and physical activities every day, and lots of outside time. Ms. Tierney stated the camp coordinator will be paid \$18 an hour.

Ms. Bunn noted that the paperwork does not indicate the dates of the camp. Ms. Tierney stated it will be a total of eight weeks. Ms. Bunn asked if there will be training beforehand. Ms. Tierney stated they will likely have a full weekend training and go over first aid, CPR, customer services, child abuse, etc. Mr. Krauss asked about background checks, and Ms. Tierney stated they will have background checks for those eighteen and over. She added that those under eighteen can get a waiver from their parent if they have lived in the State for a certain number of years. Ms. Tierney stated this is also true for all of the Pool staff. Mr. Krauss asked if they require drug testing, and Ms. Tierney stated they do, although they did not do this in the past. Mr. Krauss asked if the Township pays for this, and Ms. Tierney agreed stated they do.

Ms. Tierney stated some of the trips for the camp have been planned already including the aquarium, Franklin Institute, the Insectarium, and the Crayola Factory. She stated they will also have special presentations coming in. Mr. Gordon suggested a Phillies game or a Trenton Thunder game, and Ms. Tierney stated they could consider that. She stated they have four more weeks to plan out.

Mr. McNamara asked the times of the camp, and Ms. Tierney stated campers will be there Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. and the staff time will be approximately 8 to 5. She stated the age for campers is six to twelve.

Ms. Tierney stated the next First Friday Family Fun Night will be on February 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. She stated a local resident collects and races Hot Wheels, and he will be bringing in cars and a 40' racetrack to the Community Center. Ms. Tierney stated he is a member of a club in New Jersey, and he would like to bring it to Lower Makefield Township.

Ms. Tierney stated she put it on Facebook as an event, and within a half hour sixty people indicated they were interested. Ms. Tierney stated they hope to get some members of other clubs to attend as well.

Ms. Tierney stated the New Year's Eve event was successful, and approximately sixty people were in attendance. She stated they had live music and gave out Community Pride Day shirts as prizes. Ms. Tierney stated adding a theme to the First Friday Family Fun Nights has been popular. She stated in October they will have a Halloween event and then a holiday event.

Ms. Tierney stated the list of events for the year has been provided. She stated the Veterans' Day event will be held on Saturday, November 9.

Ms. Tierney stated all the trees that could be planted in the winter have been planted at the Garden of Reflection. She stated the Dog Park trees have been installed as well. She stated the Boy Scout project at the Dog Park has also been completed.

Ms. Tierney stated they are still waiting on some of the billings from 2018 from the leagues so she has not provided any of the financials for the leagues yet. Ms. Tierney stated they do not bill for t-ball, and they are not going to bill for U-6 soccer. She stated they also do not bill for the MAGIK program.

Mr. Brody asked if we should have a Facebook "check-in" point for Kids Kingdom, the baseball fields, etc. so that it creates a marketing page and brings more awareness. Mr. Brody stated they would not have to update it or allow posts to it. He stated this would bring more awareness to what we offer in the Township. Ms. Tierney stated she found out today that she can enter multiple addresses and locations to the one site, and she will work on that further. Mr. Brody asked if they can send from the LMT page advertisements for sign ups for the different leagues that pay user fees. Ms. Tierney stated they could do a one-time post twice a year. Mr. Krauss stated they have done this in the past and used the Township website. Mr. Brody stated now we have a Facebook feed. Ms. Tierney stated she could share their pages and provide the links. Mr. Brody stated he would be in favor of anything that bridges the gap between the leagues and the Township.

There was further discussion about the dates for the summer camp, and Ms. Tierney stated they will go by the school calendar. Ms. Bunn asked what happens if school goes later in the year, and Ms. Tierney stated they would add additional days to the end of the season.

Ms. Tierney stated they are starting to move forward with the pool wall, and they will be putting the RFP together, and putting it out to bid. She stated it is a pre-season project, but noted it will be a tight timeline. Ms. Tierney stated they are going to start on the project ASAP. Mr. Gordon asked if it can be done in the winter; and Ms. Tierney stated it can, although it has to be done carefully. Ms. Tierney stated it should be done approximately three weeks before the start of the season with time to allow them to fill the pool. She stated if that cannot be done, they will have to consider what they will have to do. Ms. Tierney stated they are meeting weekly on the project, and they understand that it needs to be done very carefully. She stated they want it done now so that there is no trouble during the season. There was discussion on the time requirements for the RFP and bids. Ms. Tierney stated the project is estimated at approximately \$500,000 for the wall and the gutter system.

Mr. McNamara asked Ms. Tierney if she was able to visit the East Brunswick pool; however, Ms. Tierney stated she did not. She added that as they go into the Pool Feasibility Study, that would be something to look into.

There was discussion about the proposed sign for the Community Center. Ms. Tierney stated at the last meeting there was discussion about a digital sign. She stated she did look into the cost of that, and it was significantly higher than the amount of money they can spend on a sign.

Ms. Tierney stated the new system is working well at the Dog Park. Mr. Krauss stated he has been there several times, and there is a lot of mud on the large dog side as well as at the entrance since everything slopes toward the entrance. He asked if they could put turf at the entrance. Ms. Tierney stated she does not feel it is just the slope as those at other dog parks have indicated they have that same problem at the entrance. Ms. Tierney stated they are not yet able to use the rotation field, but it will be available soon, and that should help the grass grow once they can start rotating. Mr. Krauss stated the rotation area does not seem to be as large as it was previously, and Mr. Tierney agreed. Mr. Krauss asked if there is a site plan they could see; and Ms. Tierney stated while she knows that one exists, she does not have it. She stated if she can get a site plan, she will e-mail it to Mr. Krauss. Ms. Tierney stated the Park & Recreation employees are doing the work on the rotation field in addition to their normal duties. Ms. Bunn stated she feels turf would get muddy as well. Mr. Gordon noted this was a very wet year. Ms. Tierney stated she will continue to look into options.

Mr. Gordon asked about the Pool Manager plan. Ms. Tierney stated right now they will be following the 2018 Model Aquatics Code, and they are looking for someone who will be able to help us implement that.

Ms. Bunn asked if the application is online for the camp counselors, etc., and Ms. Tierney stated it is online for the Pool, but not yet for the camp counselors as they just finished that this week. She stated camp registration will go up in early February.

Mr. McNamara stated he feels they need an update on the alternative plans they are working out for Snipes such as using Memorial Park and taking out some of the arboretum and working with Pennsbury to use part of Quarry and Afton fields. Ms. Tierney stated if she gets any updates, she will advise the Park & Recreation Board. Mr. Gordon asked that Ms. Tierney advise Mr. Lewis that they would like to discuss this at the next Park & Recreation Board meeting.

Ms. Bunn left the meeting at this time.

There was discussion about what happened with the funds that had been set aside for Snipes that is no longer available.

Ms. Tierney asked the Board to let her know if there is anything else they would like her to focus on this year apart from Snipes, as Snipes is probably outside of her purview this year.

Mr. Krauss asked for an update on the east side of Memorial Park and asked about grant money. Mr. Krauss asked the plan for courts and if instead of having more tennis courts, they could consider dedicated pickleball courts and unlining the pickleball courts at Cardinal. He stated he feels having pickleball away from houses is a good idea.

Mr. Krauss stated that pickleball was included as a league, but he would like there to be a discussion about different options as to how to make it more affordable and without making them have to get insurance. He stated he would like to see a different fee structure such that they could pay in two sessions and/or if people want to play, there is a per day fee. He stated this would help them grow their membership. He stated there are a lot more places to play pickleball, and those who were coming over from New Jersey can now play at locations in New Jersey where they have opened up more pickleball courts. Mr. Krauss stated they have to pay the LMT fee and insurance, and they are not really a league. He stated they are just a group that meets up and plays. Ms. Tierney stated she has already been reaching out to all of the other townships to see how they structure their pickleball

since she agrees that it is different than a league. She stated she will present a number of different options to the Park & Rec Board in the future and they can also discuss the logistics.

Ms. Tierney stated with regard to the east side of Memorial Park, the last discussion they had the consensus was it would be tennis courts, and they would convert the other courts over to 100% pickleball where they could fit six courts. Mr. Krauss stated it would depend on where that would be, and Ms. Tierney stated she believes it was Revere. Mr. Krauss stated there are homes there, and pickleball is louder than tennis. Ms. Tierney stated the Plan for Memorial Park had four full tennis courts. She stated they could possibly take two of them and make them pickleball courts. Mr. Gordon asked if that is in for 2019 construction, and Ms. Tierney stated it is. She stated the design is already done, but a small modification like changing a court should not be a problem. Ms. Tierney stated they would have to see what the price difference would be and to install different hardware. She stated she would have to see what could be done and still stay within the Grant.

Mr. Brody asked about the sign on Schuyler near the tennis courts with an arrow pointing in the opposite direction from those tennis courts. Ms. Tierney stated the purpose of that sign was to show where there were additional tennis courts if the Schuyler courts were full. Ms. Tierney stated a small decal could be added to the sign indicating “more” tennis courts.

Mr. Gordon asked that there be an update on Memorial Park East in February.

Mr. Brody stated he would also like the Park & Recreation Board to have more formal conversations with the leagues about what they would like to see for Snipes. He stated in the little time he has been on the Park Board, everyone from the Leagues seems to imply a dissatisfaction with their interaction with the overall Township. He stated they are upset about Snipes, and what he has seen since Snipes has not moved forward is that there are “back-door” conversations between the Supervisors and the leagues. He stated he recognizes that ultimately the Supervisors are going to make the decision, but he feels it is the job of the Park & Recreation Board to be giving them suggestions. He stated he would also like to hear from the leagues more directly what they see as feasible alternatives if Snipes is “not happening tomorrow.” He stated he feels the Park & Recreation Board should be proactive in what they feel the plan should be and passing that forward to the Board. Mr. Brody stated if they get feedback that the leagues can use Memorial Park, he might want to reconsider whether for 65 people, 44 of which are not residents, pickleball should be a priority for that space or if they can use it for something else.

Mr. Gordon stated there was a lot of Snipes planning that took place over the years, and Mr. Brody is coming in at the end of this; and Mr. Brody agreed. Mr. Gordon stated it is very frustrating that they got so close to the “finish line,” and it did not happen.

Mr. Brody stated from a Snipes perspective, the best thing that could happen would be that we not get the Grant for the bike path since then they would have a Park & Rec rate increase with no bike path to spend it on; and then we would have extra money to reallocate.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels they can have the leagues in to discuss their plans. He added that even if Snipes were to proceed, it would not be a playable field for a minimum of two years if not three. Ms. Tierney stated they need to consider how they want to formalize it in order to have a productive discussion. Mr. McNamara stated the alternatives are Memorial Park or talking to Pennsbury about using Afton and Quarry Hill. Mr. Krauss stated the problem is not going away since Macclesfield is overused, and the other leagues that need space cannot play here, and that situation has not changed. He stated if Snipes is not happening for 18 to 36 months, they still need to see if they can facilitate a solution.

Ms. Tierney stated last week she sent out an e-mail to all the league heads to book their space for next season, and there is so much overlap in the bookings, that she is having taking time to determine the allocations.

Mr. Gordon asked if YMS is considering a second turf field on Field D, and Ms. Tierney stated they are discussing it although she is not sure it is affordable for them at this point. Mr. Gordon discussed how many teams they can get on a turf field for practice.

There being no further business, Mr. Brody moved, Mr. Malinowski seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Krauss, Secretary