

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held remotely on April 13, 2021. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and called the Roll.

Those Present:

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. LaBar moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2021 as written.

Ms. Rock and Mr. Malinowski joined the meeting at this time.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROPOSAL

Mr. David Nirschl was present and stated a number of years ago Ms. Tierney recruited him to help organize the Community Gardens, and he has been serving in this volunteer role since that time. He stated 2021 is their biggest year ever, which may have been driven by interest in gardening following COVID times; and they are almost full which has not been the case since the time that he has been gardening here for the last ten years. Mr. Nirschl stated he would like to discuss some proposals that the members of the Community Garden have been discussing including soil sampling, honeybees, and Plot 16.

Mr. Nirschl stated with regard to soil sampling he has used testing services from Penn State Agricultural Laboratory. He stated you take a core sample 10" deep and 1" in diameter which is sent to Penn State, and for \$9 they provide a report, a sample of which he showed. He stated this sample is his plot, and it can be seen from the report dated April 1, 2021 that the fertility of the soil naturally is low. He stated he fertilized the plot heavily two years ago based on a soil test, and already it is well below optimum levels so he will have to amend the soil on his plot this year. Mr. Nirschl stated given the low natural fertility, he recommended to all of the gardeners that they undergo the same type of testing this year. He stated each plot is slightly different based on who has been gardening there and what plants/weeds have been growing there.

Mr. Nirschl stated tonight he is requesting a budget of about \$200, \$150 of which would to cover the \$9 charge for the Penn Stated Agricultural Analytical Services for each gardener. He stated there are around eighteen gardeners this year, and he does not know if they will all want to participate in this and request reimbursement. He stated he is estimating \$150 at the maximum. He stated he believes it would be useful to purchase one of the soil sampling tubes which is a device that allows you to get the proper amount of soil, and the cost for that is \$50. He stated they can decide if they would want him to maintain it or keep it with the Township Park Department.

Mr. Brody asked for more details about the Community Gardens. Mr. Nirschl stated the area of the Community Gardens is at Memorial Park to the east of the main driveway between the roadway and the fountains. He stated it is about 250' by 300' in total area. He stated there is water which the Township provides at one location. He stated residents can request a plot which will remain theirs until they no longer desire to use it. He stated each gardener is responsible for their own fencing. Fencing is a must because of the deer population as well as groundhogs and rabbits. He stated generally the fence needs to be 6' to keep the deer out. He stated in addition to providing water, the Township also does a great job of maintaining the grass surrounding the area, and they come through with a mower throughout the summer. He stated the gardeners tend to keep the aisleways clear as there is a 3' to 4' aisle in between many of the plots.

Mr. Krauss asked how many plots there are, and he asked the plot sizes. Mr. Nirschl stated there are generally two sizes 25' by 25' and 25' by 50'. Mr. Krauss stated the 25' by 50' plots can be subdivided into two 25' by 25' plots, and those are given an A/B designation. He stated while there are twenty-five plots, if you were to split all of them, you could have up to fifty

plots. Mr. Krauss asked how many plots are occupied today. Mr. Nirschl stated there are eighteen individual plot owners; and while it has been as low as ten in previous years, it has grown for the past five years up to the current eighteen. Mr. Krauss asked if there are therefore seven vacant plots. Mr. Nirschl stated because of low utilization in the past, there are some gardeners, himself included, who occupy two of the 25' by 50' plots. Mr. Krauss asked if there are any vacant plots right now, and Mr. Nirschl stated Plot 16 is vacant which he will discuss subsequently.

Mr. Krauss asked if it is up to the individual to use the type of materials they wish for the fencing or are there specs/guidelines that are given to the gardeners which are recommended. Mr. Nirschl stated they can choose what they want, and the only recommendation that he personally gives is that the fencing be at least 6' high to deter the deer. Mr. Wysocki asked if there is a requirement to install a fence, and Mr. Nirschl stated there is not. Ms. Tierney stated it appears that they all use basically the same type of fence. Mr. Nirschl stated the posts are generally metal poles or wood. He stated almost all of the deer fencing is black although it can sometimes be the green gardening fencing that can be seen on metal fencing.

Mr. Wysocki asked if there is a fee charged to the gardeners to be paid to the Township, and Ms. Tierney stated there is not. Ms. Tierney stated a lot of the gardeners donate their produce to the needy/homeless.

Mr. Wysocki asked if it would make sense to consider putting up a fence around the entire gardening area so that there is one fence and less material. Mr. Nirschl stated while this was a long-term objective of his, he does not know what it would cost to do the entire area. Mr. Nirschl stated they would need to consider the number of access points needed to make sure that people can easily get into their plots to drop off compost, etc. Mr. Nirschl stated approximately five years ago, the Township provided an additional service which is no longer done, and that was they came through with a tractor with a tilling device on the back that would turn the soil. He stated because of that, all of the gardeners needed to remove their fencing in the fall so that the Township could till the property in the spring. Mr. Nirschl stated that was disruptive and actually spread more weed seeds, and it also did not do a good job of tiling the soil. He stated it involves a lot of work to take the fencing down in the fall and put it back up in the spring, and may have been the reason there were not a lot of repeat gardeners, particularly because a lot of their gardeners are older including some who are in their late 80s and early 90's. He stated they now keep the fencing up year round so fencing the area is less incentivizing but is still something that could be discussed if they wanted there to be a more unified, visually-appealing look.

Mr. Wysocki stated he has seen a tilling machine there, and Mr. Nirschl stated he has one which is covered with a tarp most of the year. He added he has talked to someone from Park & Rec about trying to keep some materials in the existing shed. He stated he would be willing to purchase a large tiller although he does not have a way to transport it; and if they could find space in the existing shed that would be helpful, and they would not have to keep things outside.

Mr. Krauss stated as part of the Road Tour, they could look into this and discuss if one fence would make sense as a site improvement as well as discuss use of the shed so that they could provide space for additional equipment. Mr. Nirschl stated the existing shed is fairly full. Mr. Krauss stated they might need a larger shed, and Ms. Tierney stated they might also consider a small garden shed for the Community Gardens.

Mr. Krauss stated while the cost of the soil sampling is not that high, it would have to come out of the Park & Recreation Budget. Mr. Nirschl stated if they get the sampling tube, he could go out and take all the samples himself. Ms. Tierney asked if this could be charged to the gardeners for the testing. Mr. Nirschl stated he would not force anyone to do it. He stated he did not want to take this from the Township Budget. He stated he paid for it himself for his own area and knows others have as well. He stated this would be voluntary. He stated he has provided everyone with the information on how to do it.

Mr. Krauss stated he does not know what other services the Township provides. He stated there could be a Plot Fee, and this could include an annual soil sample. Mr. Wysocki asked if the gardeners were asked to pay a Fee, what would be the amount that they would consider “insignificant.” He stated if there was a Fee, there could be a fund set up that could pay for things such as the soil sampling. Mr. Nirschl stated he feels \$20 to \$25 per person would be reasonable. Mr. Wysocki stated while it is too late to start that for this year, it could be considered for next year. He stated there could be things provided that would help the gardeners for this nominal Fee. Mr. Krauss stated the annual Fee for the plot would include the annual soil sample, maintenance by the Township, water service, etc.

Ms. Tierney stated she feels in the future they could make the program a little better if they do start charging a Plot Fee so that they can support the gardeners more and work better together. Ms. Tierney stated if the Board wants to do something this year with regard to the soil sampling they could, or they may want to leave it up to each individual gardener this year and discuss it further going forward.

Mr. Nirschl stated the newer gardeners get plots that have been grass covered for a number of years, and it is difficult to take up the grass. He stated one of the gardeners had a sod cutter, and a number of the gardeners were doing that over the weekend. Another gardener has a tiller, and they hope to use that to break up the soil.

Mr. Wysocki stated he feels that since farming is such an inherent part of the basis of the community, if there is some nominal Fee that is charged, it could be self-sustaining and include paying for items needed without impacting the Taxes. He stated he feels they should consider a Fee in the future.

Mr. Nirschl stated honeybees are a critical part of agricultural crops as pollinators. He stated they would like to know if the Township would approve having two honeybee hives in the garden area. He stated they are not asking the Township to pay for this, and it would be managed by the members of the garden. Mr. Nirschl stated he is proposing that the hives be present spring through fall; and he would not want to keep the hives there over the winter since there is no break from the wind; and he proposes to take them off site. Mr. Nirschl stated he is a beekeeper, and this proposal would be dependent on having someone willing to do the work to manage the bees. Mr. Nirschl stated there is some liability; however, honeybees are not really dangerous and it is the wasps and hornets that are dangerous to people. He stated he understands that there are some community members who would be concerned about the presence of bees, and he would recommend that if they proceed with this, they put up signage and some sort of screening so that the hives are not visible from the main road. He stated they would register the name of the beekeeper so that the Park & Recreation Board would know who is responsible for taking care of the hives and removing them at the end of the season.

Mr. Nirschl stated he believes that there could be community benefit given the struggles that honeybees are currently having. He stated it is useful to continue to invest in honeybees so that we can maintain them as part of our ecosystem.

Mr. Wysocki asked how far bees venture from the hives, and Mr. Nirschl stated they fly up to two miles from the hive. Mr. Brody asked the number of bees in a hive; and Mr. Nirschl stated over the winter it probably drops to about 5,000, and over the summer it can get as high as 50,000. Mr. Brody stated it seems that they could be introducing 100,000 bees to Memorial Park. Mr. Nirschl agreed adding that is the best thing that could happen for a natural garden area.

Mr. Krauss asked if Mr. Nirschl has a location in mind relative to the garden where the hives would be located. Mr. Nirschl stated he would propose to put it in the garden plot area to the east of the main entrance road. He stated they could discuss if there was a more remote spot further from the road which would make it less likely for vandalism although he does not feel that vandalism is a problem in Lower Makefield in general. He stated he does feel that signage is important. Mr. Krauss stated this would be introducing it to Memorial Park and he understands it would not have to be close to the garden plots, and Mr. Nirschl agreed. Mr. Krauss stated they are developing the other side of the Park as well so there will be more activity at the Park in the future. Mr. Krauss stated there may be a location in the Park that is not as close to the main area.

Mr. Wysocki asked if there are any restrictions for residents who want to have bee hives on their properties. Ms. Tierney stated while she does not believe so, she will check with Mr. Majewski about this. She stated she knows that Silver Lake Park and possible Shady Brook farm have bees, and you do not notice them when you walk past. She stated this may have to go before the Board of Supervisors. She stated she feels this is a good idea, but there are some logistics they will have to work through in order to make this happen.

Ms. Tierney asked what would be done with the honey, and she also asked where the bees would go in the winter if they are not left in the Park. Mr. Nirschl stated if they can find a sheltered location in the Park, they may be able to leave them there in the winter; however, he would not want to leave them if they were at the garden proper because of the wind. He stated if they were taken off site it would be to someone's home where they could be sheltered.

Mr. Krauss asked if there is an optimal time that the hives should be put in, and Mr. Nirschl stated it is usually done in May.

Mr. Nirschl asked if the Board feels that there could be other peripheral benefit to having the bees such as a Community Day to talk about the bees. He stated he has had a Boy Scout Troop ask about gardening, and he did a tour

of the gardens for a Boy Scout Troop last year. He stated possibly there would be a similar opportunity to do an event like that with local Scout Chapters who might be interested in the honeybees, and they could arrange for that as a mutual benefit for the Township. Ms. Rock stated she would be in favor of that with the beekeeper harvesting the honey and the Scouts having the chance to watch. She stated she knows beekeepers and knows that you really do not notice the bees and it is not dangerous. She stated she feels that they should be in a fenced remote area so that no one disturbs the hives.

Ms. Tierney stated she feels this would be a great way to introduce pollinators at Memorial Park.

Mr. Krauss stated as they are looking for programming, this could be an opportunity for the Township to offer a program about gardening and bees.

Mr. Blundi asked how the process works with bees that allows the bees to fly up to two miles away. Mr. Nirschl discussed the lifecycle of bees including the jobs of different bees in the hive and how they go in and out of the hive. Mr. Nirschl stated that if the forager bees find everything they need in close proximity to the hive, they will not travel two miles away if they do not need to. Mr. Blundi asked if there is a plan for having what they need readily available. Mr. Nirschl stated the one concern is the fountain as they would probably want to provide an alternative water source so that they are not going over to the fountain to get water. He stated everything else they need comes from nature.

Mr. Krauss stated while he feels this is an excellent idea, he feels this should be brought before the Board of Supervisors before they proceed. Mr. LaBar stated he feels it is premature at this point to go before the Board of Supervisors since they do not know where exactly they would put the hives or what the liability issues could be. He stated while there is not a lot of vandalism in the Township, they would need to consider fencing in order to try to prevent that; and he would like to see a more detailed proposal. Mr. Nirschl stated he could continue to work with Ms. Tierney with a proposal.

Ms. Tierney stated she was just advised that Farmland Preservation is also looking to have hives on one of their properties, and she could reach out to them to find out what information they have which could be helpful. Mr. Krauss asked Mr. McCartney what he would recommend with regard to bringing this before the Board of Supervisors. Mr. McCartney stated he feels that this should be looked into further before they make a presentation to the Board of Supervisors. He agreed that Farmland Preservation is working

with someone who had a request to do this on Farmland Preservation land, and suggested that Ms. Tierney reach out to Mr. Blank about that proposal. Mr. McCartney stated he feels this is a great idea provided that they can work out the liability and other issues including the water source as they would not want the bees to rely on the Garden of Reflection fountain as their water source.

Ms. Tierney suggested that they ask Mr. Nirschl to come back at the next meeting and they will work together over the next month.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the bees are sustain themselves once they are initially procured or do they have to be replenished. Mr. Nirschl stated if you do a good job as a beekeeper, they do sustain themselves. He reviewed what needs to be done to keep the hive healthy.

Mr. LaBar stated he would also like to know what is going to be done with the honey and if the gardeners would be profiting from it.

Mr. Nirschl showed an aerial view of the garden area, and he noted Plot 16 which is toward the front/western side. He stated a number of years ago in a heavy storm event, the water ran through and washed off a lot of the topsoil. He stated as the volunteer organizer he has left it empty because it is lacking topsoil and there are a number of large ruts from where the water ran through. He stated if they wanted to use it, they would need to have someone who understands stormwater run-off make a proposal as to how they could address this property to re-route the water during storm events. He stated if they are able to address the stormwater, they would need to have someone come in and replace the topsoil to make the plot workable.

Mr. Blundi asked if there is anyone in the Township would could look into this, and Ms. Tierney stated she could have Mr. Majewski look into it. Mr. McCartney stated that would be his recommendation as well.

Mr. Brody stated a Boy Scout had come in previously with a proposal to install drainage at a volleyball court, and he asked if that would work here as well. Ms. Tierney stated she does not know if that would work in this situation because of the piping involved, and she feels they would need to come up with a different solution. Ms. Tierney stated she feels they would need to have some kind of diversion.

CAPRA

Marketing and Community Outreach Plan

Ms. Tierney stated Ms. Sydney Rosebrough is one of the Park & Recreation Interns this term from Temple University, and she worked on CAPRA Chapter 3. Part of that section covers the Marketing and Community Relations of the Park & Recreation Department.

Ms. Rosebrough stated the main goal is to provide timely information to residents of the community to help spread awareness of the Township's available amenities, resources, and services and to feature what makes Lower Makefield a great place to live, work, and play and to help further the mission of the Park & Recreation Department.

Ms. Rosebrough stated since the 2003 Master Plan Update, several changes have occurred in the community including slowing of housing development. She stated the population is aging in Lower Makefield, and from 2000 to 2017, the number of individuals between 55 and 64 has increased by 6.5% and is the largest increase in age in the Township. She stated there are extremely high education levels in the Township.

Ms. Rosebrough stated new expansions and enhancements to the Park & Rec Department land and facilities include Memorial Park, the Dog Park, and the Community Center over the last twenty years; and there are also several projects underway.

Ms. Rosebrough showed a number of demographics including the median age in Lower Makefield Township which is 47 and the median income which is \$139,808 which is double the amount of the base median income for Pennsylvania which is \$61,744, and the National income which is \$68,703.

Ms. Rosebrough stated this information was used to help determine marketing efforts to help complete this section of Chapter 3. She stated the section on marketing outlines methods the Department will use to create effective marketing strategies for future programming and communication efforts. She reviewed the marketing channels used by the Department, and the document includes details on each of the methods used. She showed a section of a document included in Appendix A which highlights the specific channels the Park & Recreation utilizes.

Ms. Rosebrough stated the way that the Park & Recreation Department makes sure that these marketing strategies and techniques are working is through evaluation criteria and methods. She stated they have created an After-Action Report which will be sent to all stakeholders and partners for a program or event to get feedback for the event. Ms. Rosebrough stated this document can be found in Appendix D. She stated for a Quantitative Evaluation they use analytics from social media platforms and Registration numbers and more information about those can be found in Section 5.2

Ms. Rosebrough showed an example of the social media numbers which can be found in Appendix E and Appendix F.

Ms. Rosebrough noted with regard to Community Relations of the Park & Rec Department, the goal of this Section is to help establish rapport and encourage participation and to help to engage stakeholders within the community. Ms. Rosebrough showed a slide listing some of the Community Partners within the Township including the LMT Seniors, religious organizations, Township Boards, local schools, sports leagues, local businesses, Friends groups such as the Five Mile Woods, and Boy and Girl Scouts. She added this is not an exclusive list, and there are many more partners that work with the Park & Rec Department.

Ms. Rosebrough showed a slide of an example of the User Groups in the Township, and this can be found in Appendix C. She stated the User Group document details who uses the facilities and the Fees associated with their use. It also goes into detail about insurance, housekeeping, etc.

Ms. Rosebrough stated this is a fluid document which will be updated and will be changing to adhere to the changes in the World and the changes in Lower Makefield Township especially the marketing side of things since marketing is constantly evolving. The document will change to try to adhere to the needs of the community. She stated what she has presented is a snapshot of the Chapter Sections 3.3 and 3.4, and the document goes into much more detail in these areas.

Ms. Rosebrough was thanked by the Board for the work done. Mr. Krauss asked Ms. Rosebrough if she has a recommendation with regard to evaluation and analysis as to how to communicate that back to the key stakeholders. Ms. Rosebrough stated the After Action Report will be sent to all stakeholders after an event. She stated the community partners also get a copy of the Registration numbers. Ms. Tierney stated she feels they could do an annual

report to review the annual numbers. She stated at the end of each event she feels they would get into the habit of letting people know how many touch points they are getting with their marketing dollars and sponsorships. Ms. Tierney stated they could look at having a quarterly evaluation by event to see what kind of attention different ads are getting, recognizing that they have to work within the scope of the Municipal Budget.

Approve Recommendation of Programming and Events Policy to the Board of Supervisors

Ms. Tierney stated the Park & Recreation Board saw this document previously and it had been sent out in the Board's last packet and re-sent today.

Mr. Brody moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the Programming and Events Policy.

Master Plan and Needs Assessment Bid Results Discussion

Ms. Tierney stated she included this information in the Board's packet. She stated Toole Recreation and Planning was the most on point financially, and it was a great proposal. Ms. Tierney stated Ann Toole is experienced and local. Ms. Tierney stated one Bid was a little less but they were only planning to do the Needs Assessment portion and not the Master Plan portion so that Bid was negated. Ms. Tierney stated the other two Bids were very high in terms of pricing. Ms. Tierney stated this will go before the Board of Supervisors at their next meeting.

Mr. Krauss asked about the timeline, and Ms. Tierney stated she would like to have this completed in the fall.

ADA Transition Plan Update

Ms. Tierney advised the Board that the ADA Transition Plan was approved by the Disability Advisory Board, and it will be on the Agenda of the Board of Supervisors for their next meeting.

Oxford Valley Road Bike Path Update

Ms. Tierney stated she hopes the Oxford Valley bike path will get started this summer/fall and possibly completed by fall or early next year.

Memorial Park Update

Ms. Tierney stated there is enough Fee-In-Lieu money so that we can Bid out the tennis/pickleball courts and some other parts of the Memorial Park project. She stated the Board of Supervisors approved going out to Bid in a phased fashion. She stated hopefully they will be able to get this portion of the project done in the summer since pickleball is booming, and the additional courts will bring some relief.

Mr. Wysocki stated the new part of the parking lot is being used by an ad hoc group playing volleyball there regularly. He stated they are playing in the area in the grass near the new parking lot using their own net.

LIAISON REPORT

PAA Update and Drainage Discussion

Ms. Noelle Codispoti stated the season officially started over the weekend with both travel and in-house teams. She stated since her last update they have added about thirty-five additional players so they have 171 girls in the softball program, 514 boys and girls in the baseball program, 50 girls in the Gems travel program, and 30 in the MAGIK program with 172 Township volunteers who have done an amazing job. She stated they are using all available Township and School District fields.

Ms. Codispoti stated since the last meeting they were told that this year they will be the host of both the 8U State Baseball Tournament as well as the 8U Girls Softball State Tournament. She stated the Girls Tournament will be the last weekend in June, and the 8U Baseball Tournament will be the weekend of July 9th. She stated these Tournaments provide a chance to showcase our facilities and the Township.

Ms. Codispoti stated they are maintaining their COVID protocols to the point where there have not been any instances where they had to shut teams down, and all of the coaches and families have been following the rules. She stated hopefully over the next couple of months they will be given new guidance that may allow them to pull back a little, but for now they are being as strict as possible so that they can keep their families safe.

Ms. Codispoti stated she and Ms. Tierney have had discussions about drainage at the fields. Some of their plans had been delayed due to COVID, but they plan to do some short-term work at Fred Allan and some of the other fields to help with the water that sits on the fields. She stated in conjunction with the bike path that will be installed and some other work in the area, some drainage issues are being considered, and hopefully something will be done long-term as plans are developed.

Mr. Krauss asked about the snack stand, and Ms. Codispoti stated Steve Sicilia is going to run it this year, and it will be open when the fields are used enough to warrant the snack stand being open.

Mr. Wysocki stated he knows how challenging it is to find field space, and he noted that there is a baseball field at Memorial Park which is never used. He stated while he is not suggesting that it be provided on a permanent basis long-term, he asked if they could allow PAA to use it occasionally in exchange for PAA doing some work on that field in the spring. He stated while it is intended for non-Permitted use, he feels that during week it could be used by PAA. Ms. Codispoti stated they would be open to that particularly during the week which the hardest time for them to find fields. She stated they have had to spend close to \$8,000 to put indoor space on hold in the event that they need extra space.

Mr. Krauss stated he would be in favor of use of this field by PAA if there is a particular Division that is more challenged finding field space. Ms. Codispoti stated it is usually the younger players that would need it the most. Ms. Tierney stated it may be a good t-ball space. Mr. Krauss asked Ms. Tierney to work with Ms. Codispoti to see if there is a way to offer this additional space during the week and leave it open on the weekends.

Mr. Brody thanked Ms. Codispoti for all the work she has done to keep the program running and keeping everyone safe. Ms. Codispoti stated while it is a lot of work especially with COVID she loves being involved in the League.

Mr. Brody stated over the last six months where you pull into the gravel parking lot to the left at the Caiola Complex numerous holes have developed. He stated it is near where the clothing bins are which is a heavily-used lot. Ms. Tierney stated she saw this yesterday, and that project is on their list to work on. She added they brought on two new maintenance staff, and another will be coming on board shortly.

LMFA Agreement Recommendation

Ms. Tierney stated the Football Agreement was for one year at Memorial Park. She stated while she has not discussed with LMFA whether they would like to continue this, she feels the Board needs to discuss this shortly since they would be starting in August. Mr. Wysocki asked if there were any issues last year. Ms. Tierney stated initially there were some parking issues; however, they were then trained to park in the lower lot. Ms. Tierney stated when there is pickleball and tennis there, there may be more of an issue related to parking. She stated other than that, there were no problems or complaints.

Mr. Brody stated his son was involved, and he cannot imagine having Football this year without the use of that field. He stated they were very efficient with use of the field, and a good plan was put in place. Ms. Tierney stated she was there a number of times, and felt it went well, and they stayed in their area. She stated they were great to work with, and she would be in favor of doing this again until there is more field space available.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the Park & Recreation Board could empower Ms. Tierney to take a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that this be permitted again this year. Mr. Brody stated he would be in favor of this being permitted for a longer period of time so they do not have to go back to the Board of Supervisors every year. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels that if there is a long-range plan for new fields created, this field could be restored to the non-structured use of the Park. Mr. Krauss stated if something did not go well, he would not want to have it open-ended; and he would be in favor of it being renewable on a yearly basis. Mr. LaBar stated once tennis and pickleball are there, that could create some issues with parking, etc. so he does not feel it should be open-ended.

Mr. Blundi moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to empower Ms. Tierney to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval to renew LMFA usage of Memorial Park for fall of 2021.

Lower Bucks Lacrosse

Mr. Dean Curtis stated Lower Bucks Lacrosse is in full swing. He stated they made a decision in January to take their whole program in-house due to the uncertainty of COVID. He stated they were concerned that would impact their numbers, but their numbers are strong with approximately 400 players in the program this year. He stated in addition they are running the TryLax Program. He stated they are playing small-sided games instead of full field which is different from all the other Clubs which were playing this spring. He stated they are seeing great improvement in skills. He stated the girls program is run out of Charles Boehm and the boys program is run out of Middletown Community Park, and they do not use any Lower Makefield Township fields.

Mr. Curtis stated the TryLax Program is run out of Pennsbury High School, and it has 41 boys and 20 girls. He stated this summer he would like to bring TryLax to LMT. He stated TryLax is a program where they do five, one-hour sessions. He stated the cost is approximately \$125 and they provide all of the equipment. He stated they have a deal with one of the manufacturers to get the players their first Lacrosse stick. He stated he has run seven of these himself with the help of local High School kids as volunteers. He stated it is a great way to introduce the game. He stated Lacrosse is an expensive sport, and in Lower Bucks Lacrosse they have done some things to mitigate that including the TryLax Program. He stated they also offer an equipment rental program, and players can rent their equipment for \$60 for the season, and they then have the opportunity to buy it. He stated this year thirty players are renting equipment.

Mr. Wysocki asked for more details about the TryLax Program. Mr. Curtis stated the one he is doing is a five-week, one-hour session at a time; however, they can do it other ways as well. He stated they are teaching all of the basic skills. He stated they would like to bring it to LMT this summer in some way. Ms. Tierney stated she feels they could possibly do this. She added that they brought on Elizabeth Lawson who was an Intern and will now be the Program Coordinator, and she would like Mr. Curtis to discuss this with her to see what can be done to work this into the schedule.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Pool Update

Ms. Tierney stated they had predicted a 15% deficit on Pool Registration, but we are ahead of that and are on par with the 2019 goals. She stated they purchased some additional signage to put around the Pool, and the Pool banner will be put up in the next week or so which is earlier than normal. She stated there is now more information coming in from the County and the State as to the new guidelines, and she feels there is a good plan in place for the Pool. There will be a presentation on May 10. She stated she has been working closely with the Swim Team to see what can be done about offering a few in-person Swim Meets this year. She stated she is trying to make the Pool season as normal as she can in a COVID environment. She stated they will be able to offer Swim Lesson and water aerobics.

Summer Programming

Ms. Tierney stated they are starting to bring back some in-person activities. There will be Yoga at Memorial Park in May and the Walking Club is starting back up. She stated they are slowly going to bring things back into the Community Center starting mostly in June. She will start communicating with the Seniors about bringing them back as well.

Ms. Tierney stated they limited Summer Camp Registration to twenty. They are trying to bring in other one-week camps including a science camp and a skateboard camp. She stated there is a significant waiting list for Summer Camp. She stated they are not able to do trips as they did in the past so they have to limit the number coming to Summer Camp because of space limitations if they bring back the Seniors and offer other programs. She stated there is currently a twenty-person wait list for every week of Summer Camp. She stated if they can expand, they will.

Maintenance

Ms. Tierney stated as part of CAPRA there needs to be a Maintenance Plan in place and she, Lynn Todd, and Bob Copson have been working on developing a comprehensive plan. She stated this would be something that is more preventative. Ms. Tierney stated they want to include the community as well, and they will present this to the Park Board next month when Ms. Todd will also be present.

Pennsbury Tournament

Ms. Tierney stated she met with Les Finella Venella about the Pennsbury Tournament and they will be doing things differently this year. They will just be using our softball field and the Pool field.

Community Day

Ms. Tierney stated they are looking at having Community Day, and she feels that they can have vendors with masking protocols and spacing. She stated she has concerns about bounce houses, rides, etc.; and it is going to be a different type of Community Day with races, etc. versus high-touch point activities. She stated she is looking into bringing the fireworks back. She stated they are looking at adding a 5K in the morning, partnering with another group; and she will discuss this in more detail with the Park Board in the future.

Volleyball Net Improvements

Ms. Tierney stated she had a discussion yesterday with a resident who was concerned about the sand volleyball nets across from the Township building. She stated they are old and outdated, and she is recommending that the poles be replaced as they are over twenty years old. She stated a lot of people use this facility. Ms. Tierney stated it seems that the poles may have been painted at one point, but they are in bad shape. She stated she will start looking at prices to see if it can be done for a reasonable price.

Mr. Krauss asked if they should look at all of the volleyball courts in the Township, and Ms. Tierney agreed they will. She stated the resident she was speaking to indicated he plays volleyball all over the Township, and he indicated the other nets are not in as bad condition. Ms. Tierney stated she wants to make sure that this is in the Maintenance Manual and that they are checking these regularly. She stated the infrastructure that is not used by Leagues is not heard about as often, and they need to have more maintenance checks on those so that they can prevent this in the future. Ms. Tierney stated the resident also suggested some other improvements which she feels should be addressed as the sand is all over, and they could clean-cut the lines which could possibly be a Boy Scout project. Ms. Tierney stated he also mentioned “run-away” balls particularly at Macclesfield Park since when you play beach volleyball you are in bare feet, and the balls often go into the woods. He had suggested installing some kind of netting to block the ball from going into the woods.

Ms. Tierney stated her biggest concern at this point is with the standards at the Caiola Complex.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wysocki asked Ms. Tierney with regard to the gardening area at Memorial Park if she or Mr. Nirschl have any insight into what neighboring communities do with regard to Fees and what is provided by the Township to the gardeners. Ms. Tierney stated she will put a call out to the area Directors to get feedback. Mr. Wysocki noted that there is a very nice community garden on 206 in Lawrenceville.

There being no further business, Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Blundi seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary