

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on January 11, 2022. 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  
Mike Blundi, Member  
David Malinowski, Member (joined meeting in progress)  
Dennis Wysocki, Member

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

Absent: Kim Rock, Park & Recreation Board Secretary  
Robert LaBar, Park & Recreation Board Member

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Brody moved, Mr. Blundi seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2021 as written.

Due to lack of a quorum of members who were present on November 9, 2021 to vote on the Minutes, the Minutes were tabled.

#### REORGANIZATION OF LMT PARK BOARD, 2022

Ms. Tierney asked for nominations of Chair of the Park & Recreation Board for 2022. Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect Douglas Krauss as Chair of the Park & Recreation Board for 2022.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Krauss.

Mr. Krauss moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect Michael Brody as Vice Chair of the Park & Recreation Board for 2022.

Mr. Blundi moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect Kim Rock as Secretary of the Park & Recreation Board for 2022.

#### PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION BY ANN TOOLE CONSULTING REGARDING NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND PROGRESS

Ms. Tierney stated they have received a lot of responses on the survey, and there is an upcoming meeting on February 3 which will be the community forum that will be a hybrid meeting. She stated they are also having a meeting with all of the League heads, and Ms. Toole will be having individual conversations with some community leaders.

Ms. Ann Toole was present and stated in 1995 she worked on the Township's Park & Recreation Plan, and she has seen most of the Township's facilities first hand. She stated they are looking for a quick turn-around on the Plan, the purpose of which is to create a Ten-Year Strategic Action Plan so that they know what they want to do over the next ten years based on a combination that is visionary yet practical and achievable. She stated she prides herself on having plans implemented. She stated the earlier Plan for the Township included the preservation of Patterson Farm, the upgrading of the Pool, and securing land for a potential golf course that became Makefield Highlands. She stated they also recommended the professionalization of the Park & Recreation Department, and it can be seen all that Ms. Tierney has brought with her that as there is a lot going on in the Township.

Ms. Toole stated they would like to go to the Board of Supervisors in March to present their recommendations. She stated they will be looking at all of the work that Ms. Tierney has been doing to prepare for the CAPRA Certification. She stated Lower Makefield will be the first in Pennsylvania to achieve that recognition.

Ms. Toole stated they will be going over the Park & Recreation Board's assessments of what they felt worked, what could work better, and what they want to focus on over the next few months.

Mr. Wysocki asked for further clarification about the comment Ms. Toole made about Lower Makefield being the first in Pennsylvania to obtain CAPRA Certification. Ms. Toole stated out of 2,562 Municipalities, Lower Makefield will be the only one to achieve that status so far, and that will set in motion others to follow. She added that if it were not for Ms. Tierney, this would not be happening. She stated CAPRA has been around for decades, and no Municipality in Pennsylvania has achieved the Certification. Mr. Wysocki stated it seems that could be a marketing tool for the Township in general if it is that prestigious.

Ms. Toole asked the Board members to discuss why they want to participate in this Plan. Mr. Blundi stated he wants to make Lower Makefield an even better place to live, work, and play. Mr. Brody stated he knows CAPRA Certification is something that Ms. Tierney has wanted for a long time. He stated his interests in the Township are aligned with Park & Recreation and he uses a lot of the Township facilities. Mr. Krauss stated he and his family have benefitted from the Township facilities over the last twenty-five years. He stated Ms. Tierney has done a great job, and they have seen further growth in terms of the programming that she has put in place. He stated we now have an opportunity to expand and continue to provide more diverse activities and increase and improve the parks that are in place. He stated he is excited to be part of a new plan for the next ten to twenty years. Mr. McCartney stated Ms. Tierney has put years of work into getting the Accreditation done, and it seems that it will be an attribute for the Township which is again on the forefront.

Mr. Wysocki asked if Ms. Toole is talking about a ten year Park & Rec Plan or the CAPRA program. Ms. Toole stated she is talking about the Park & Recreation Plan. She stated the purpose of that is how to improve the quality of life in Lower Makefield through Parks & Recreation over the next ten years and beyond. Mr. Wysocki stated he wants to make sure that the area under their domain is serving the community as best as it can to make Lower Makefield a better place to live, play, and recreate.

Ms. Tierney stated another positive of CAPRA is accountability, and the accrediting body will hold us accountable for being “top notch and the best.” She stated we will continue to be the best and we will have to go through this process every five years. She stated we are expected to get better and hit more marks each time. She stated we have to make sure that our parks are worthy and that we improve housing values so that people want to be here because of our park system. Ms. Toole stated she knows that people do move to Lower Makefield because of the park system.

Ms. Toole stated she does park and recreation planning for a living. She stated she was the Park & Recreation Director for Warminster Township and went on to the National Park Service where she managed their planning program for the fourteen northeastern States and the District of Columbia. She stated she left there thirty years ago and was asked to do projects like this, and Lower Makefield's original Plan was one of her first projects. She stated she is interested in implementation. She noted she did the Bucks County Bicycle Plan and did the Master Plan for Washington Crossing State Park that won a National award. She stated they also did the park and recreation planning for Warrington Township which they may want to look at, and they designed Lion's Pride Park. She stated the American Planning Association just named it as one of Pennsylvania's five great outdoor spaces. She stated they were able to get funding through local fundraising; and they taught local people how to do fundraising, and so far they have raised over \$2 million.

Ms. Toole stated they write a lot of Grants, and they recently got a \$1.5 million Land and Water Conservation Grant for a Township and a \$250,000 DCED Grant to do a Park renovation that she did the Master Plan for. She stated they are also coming off a year of managing Delaware County's Open Space Parks & Trail Program where she set up the organization for Delaware County with a Bond Issue, and by the time they finished, forty-six of the forty-nine Municipalities were all participating and three-quarters of them were doing Plans like the one being done by Lower Makefield.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the CAPRA accreditation will impact the ability to get Grants. Ms. Toole stated it will benefit the Township in State funding especially with DCNR. She added that DCNR and the Pennsylvania Park & Rec Society will be holding the Township up as an example of what they want others to be. She stated she did the planning for East Goshen Township which is the only Municipality so far that has been a finalist in the NRPA Gold Medal Award. She stated when you have CAPRA status or are a Gold Medal Award winning finalist, people want to invest in you. She stated businesses want to invest in winners. She stated this will help the Township in fundraising. She stated one of the trends in parks and recreation is alliances with health care, and they will be looking at that in the planning process. She stated hospitals have to do a community-needs assessment, and she would like to explore that partnership because it is a good source of money and volunteers. She stated hospitals and health care providers want to invest in highly-professional places.

Mr. Wysocki stated he assumes that all the examples of CAPRA documents that Ms. Tierney provided were not from Pennsylvania; and Ms. Tierney stated they were examples from all over the Country, and Lower Makefield will be the first in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Tierney asked Ms. Toole to discuss where we are in the process. Ms. Toole stated this process is based on community engagement, and it will be tailored to the Township. She noted a plan she completed for Media Borough which can be seen on their Website. She stated they are depending on the Park & Recreation Board for their ideas to develop the vision that they want for Lower Makefield.

Ms. Toole stated there is a public opinion survey now on the street, and they have almost 1,500 who have responded. She stated if they get to 2,000 that would be a very good return. She stated they will do the analysis and there will be pages of comments that can be used as a reference. She stated she would be confident using those for the next three years barring some National event like COVID that would change everything. She stated sometimes in those comments they get excellent ideas that they had never thought of and they place a high value on the comments received.

Ms. Toole stated they will also be doing some cross tabulations so that it will not just be the community as a whole, and they will look at how certain age groups answer questions and how those who have just moved into the Township versus life-long residents answered questions. She stated in this way the Park & Recreation Board can make informed decisions

Ms. Toole stated they will also be conducting interviews. She stated yesterday she met with the Township Planning Department. She stated the ultimate goal is to make sure that parks and recreation is an essential service. She stated she knows that there will be a section included on the benefits of parks and recreation. Ms. Toole noted a County Park & Recreation Department that she recently worked with which had a very good concert series, and they made use of QR Codes during the concerts that had questions about how much they had spent on food before, after, or during the concert; and they found that for every concert that this County offered, there was a local economic impact of \$50,250. She stated over the series of the concerts for this summer, there was a benefit to the community of over \$2 million.

Ms. Toole stated there will be two public meetings, with the first being on February 3, and they want to make sure that the Board of Supervisors is fully informed throughout the process since they will make the decision on implementation.

Ms. Toole stated there will also be a sports focus group. She stated today they also discussed having an open space/environmental group, and they will also probably do something with kids.

Mr. Krauss asked the date of the second public meeting. Ms. Tierney stated the second one is only for League heads, and they have been invited. Mr. Krauss stated Ms. Toole indicated that there were two public comment meetings with the first being February 3. Ms. Toole stated they will have a second public meeting. She asked if they should pick that date now. Mr. Krauss stated it would be good for people to know that if they cannot make the first meeting, they would know what the second date would be. Ms. Tierney stated the February 3 date has been approved and was put out, but a second date has not yet been approved. Ms. Tierney stated she will work on getting the second date set.

Mr. Krauss stated Ms. Toole indicated that she wanted to get before the Board of Supervisors in March, and he asked if the Park & Recreation Board is going to see a preliminary report prior to it going to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Tierney stated the second public meeting would therefore have to be at the end of February in order to meet the timeline. Mr. Krauss stated the Park & Recreation Board would need to see the Plan at their meeting in March which is the second Tuesday in March. It would then go to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting which would be the third Wednesday in March.

Ms. Toole stated there is an Advisory Committee for the Plan as well as the Park & Recreation Board. She stated DCNR wants an Advisory Committee that is not the Park & Rec Board but includes Park & Rec Board members. She stated the Advisory Committee should include a high school student, a Senior adult, special needs, conservation, fitness, and financing/marketing. She stated given the two Boards and this fast track, they will need to think about what the process will be going forward.

She stated in other circumstances they have asked the Advisory Committee to come to a meeting of the Park & Recreation Board so that they can all meet. Ms. Toole stated she cannot overstate how important it is that those two groups collaborate.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the public survey is different from the one that Ms. Tierney asked the Park & Recreation Board members to fill out prior to this evening's meeting, and Ms. Toole stated it is much different. She stated the public survey has five screens that ask a variety of questions. She stated the link is on the Website, and Ms. Tierney stated she also sent the Board members the link.

Mr. Wysocki asked Ms. Tierney who is on the Advisory Committee, and Ms. Tierney provided the names who have all been included in the e-mails although not all of them have been to the one meeting which was held. Mr. Wysocki asked if they represent the level of diversity that Ms. Toole was suggesting that we have on that Board. Ms. Tierney stated they have someone from the community that is not involved in sports, an individual from the Indian community who is involved with cricket, and football, soccer, and baseball are represented as well as Girl Scouts. Ms. Tierney stated while she asked others to be involved, their schedules would not allow it.

Mr. Wysocki asked if any projections are done about the demographics in the future since those completing the survey at this time may not represent the make-up of the community ten years from now. Ms. Toole stated they do look at trends, and she is anxious to see when the U. S. Census results will be out. She stated they also work closely with the County Planning Commission on demographics. She stated they not only do the traditional demographics, and they do a tapestry which is a lifestyle analysis since age is sometimes less important compared to what the lifestyle is. She stated there are sixty-four different lifestyle categories and it comes from spending, memberships, publications and subscriptions which come out to a lifestyle. She stated they can show how the community actually behaves, what they are interested in, and what they spend their money on for leisure, etc. She stated they will be producing that soon.

Mr. Brody stated with regard to the other group that Ms. Toole is meeting with in a private setting, he would suggest that they have a meeting with the Environmental Advisory Council so it is not just those who view Park & Rec as sports fields. He stated he feels that will result in an even and fair assessment.

Mr. Brody stated he would like to see a much wider attempt at distributing the community survey. He stated there are multiple e-mail lists as a result of all of the different programming that we offer. He stated when they were discussing the Snipes issue, Change.org, which was a grass roots operation

to get people to sign up in support of the fields, had 1,000 people who signed that Petition. He stated he feels that with the huge lists we have, he would like to know that we are making a bigger push to get a broader distribution so they can reach more of our constituents than what he personally has seen.

Ms. Tierney stated she sent it out to everyone that was on any Township list which was 7,000 people. Mr. Brody stated he just wanted to make sure that was being done. Ms. Tierney stated that there were two e-mails, and she posts it twice a week on all of our social media accounts. She added it is up to groups to share it with outside groups. Ms. Tierney stated a couple more follow-up e-mails will go out to the groups, and when people register for the Pool they will send more out. Ms. Tierney stated at each park that is currently active, they have signs up with QR codes so people can take the survey that way. She stated she also made an announcement to the Seniors during their Holiday Luncheon and showed them how to participate and how they can help them participate. She stated she has also been in contact individually with every community leader that she could think of including the League heads.

Mr. Krauss asked when is the deadline for completion of the survey; and Ms. Toole stated they did not post a deadline since survey research shows that if you post a deadline, people put it off. She stated what they ask is that people fill it out right away. She added she knows that it only takes six minutes to fill it out as she tracks it. Mr. Krauss stated at some point they will have to tell people that it is their last chance to submit the survey, which might motivate people, and he asked what that end date might be. Ms. Tierney stated they had discussed having a cut-off of the 31st to be included in the Plan, but they still wanted to see what people were saying after that. Mr. Krauss stated the survey is one way people can provide input, but they should also indicate that for those who did not fill out the survey there will be public forums on the dates that they can provide so that people understand that they have various methods of getting their input heard.

Mr. Krauss added that knowing that it is not specific to LMT residents, while they have 1,500 who filled out the survey, 1,000 of them could be those who do not live in the Township. Ms. Toole stated they do ask for residency, and she believes that they are at over 95% residents.

Mr. Brody stated the Leagues should promote this to their group.



Ms. Toole stated with regard to the EAC, environmental, and conservation she and Ms. Tierney have discussed this, and she spent the day yesterday in the Township addressing this. She stated while we are technically doing a Park & Recreation Plan, open space and conservation is “tied at the hip with this.” She stated the last Plan she did in the Township was heavily oriented toward open space conservation because in the 1990s they were concerned about land disappearing. Ms. Toole stated there is still a significant amount of land left, and they want to protect that. She stated while they are not doing a full-blown Open Space Plan, she believes that they will be making a recommendation that the Township update the Open Space Plan. She stated they would be remiss in a Park & Recreation Plan not to include the discussion of that.

Mr. Brody stated the general view from a conservationist in our area is that conservation requires trees and natural habitat. He stated he wants this to be the last time that they have the discussion as to what fields need to be built, what trees need to be planted, etc. and that they should include everyone. He stated he wants to make sure that no one can say that they were not given the opportunity to participate.

Ms. Tierney stated if there are those who do not know how to fill out the survey they can come to the Community Center, and they will assist anyone who needs assistance filling it out during open hours which are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Ms. Toole stated she is aware that an 88 year-old and 90 year-old filled it out and had no problem.

Mr. Mike Hansen, 13 Houston Road, YMS Soccer, stated they have talked about digging into the different analytics; and he asked if those will be available in the final report just for the Government or for public review as well. Ms. Toole stated everything they do is totally transparent. She stated they will try to make the Plan very succinct, but there will be a series of Appendices which would include everything. She stated they did a sports survey as well, and before the forum they would like to have the numbers so that they can document what the demand is and showing the participation level in the community. She stated she has looked at YMS, and they have added 1,000 players in two years which is huge.

Mr. Hansen stated it seems that they are looking at a soft deadline for the end of the survey being January 31 even though people could still provide input, and Ms. Toole agreed. Mr. Hansen stated a community meeting is listed on the Website as a community workshop on February 3 which will be a hybrid

meeting, and Ms. Toole agreed. Mr. Hansen stated he understands that the recommendations will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in March, and Ms. Toole agreed. Mr. Hansen stated he questions how they could take all the results of the survey and the meeting and put them into the recommendations by that time. He asked if that is the normal schedule, and Ms. Toole stated it is not. She stated the reason they are able to do that is because of the work that Ms. Tierney has done as she has done an extensive amount of work that she would normally do in a planning process for a project like this. She stated the cost of the project and the scope of work is very much compressed to what it normally is because of the work that the Township already has done. She stated what she is depending on is public input and the use of documentation that has already been developed. She stated she will also interview key stakeholders. She stated yesterday she met with the Township Planning Department, and she will be meeting with the Township Manager as well as interviewing each of the Supervisors. She stated there are a number of other interviews to do as well. She stated because of the work that has been done, their orientation with largely public involvement, and their experience in doing these Plans, they can compress this.

Mr. Hansen asked if they are doing a ten-year strategic plan why would they need to compress it. He added he finds it “disturbing” that they are going to compress the part where all the public information is being solicited, and they are basically just using the information that was already garnered by Ms. Tierney and her staff to build the bulk of the report which he does not feel is logical. Ms. Tierney stated they did do the Sports Needs Assessment before, and that will be part of this; and they know that they need fields, and they already have that information. She stated there were also a few other assessments that were done in the community that they will be using including the field assessment, the light assessment, and some other plans that were done before; and they are able to use all of that background information and consolidate all of the things that they have done into one strategic plan. She stated the big missing piece they had was a real opportunity for a community needs assessment, and for two months they have been working to get those survey results and have the open forum. She stated they already did the Pool open forum and the Pool assessment to get feedback. She stated this has not been rushed, and they have been working on this since 2018. She stated this is the culmination of pulling all of the information to create this plan.

Mr. Hansen stated his advice as a resident is that if this is a Ten-Year Strategic Plan waiting to present to the Board of Supervisors in April would probably not impact the schedule. Ms. Tierney stated it does because her information is due to CAPRA for the Accreditation by April 11. She stated if there is something in the initial discussion with the Board that needs to be re-written, she will need to have time to do that. Mr. Hansen asked if the Ten-Year Strategic Plan for Park & Recreation is being drive by the Accreditation schedule. Ms. Tierney stated the Accreditation is driving the whole Needs Assessment, and she would not have done this if they were not going through the Accreditation process adding a lot of the plans would probably not have been done if they were not going through the CAPRA process. She stated it is a huge driver of getting this done and making sure that we are doing things well as a Township.

Ms. Toole stated with regard to the compression issue, the reason they are able to do this timeline is because she does not have to do the amount of work that she would do in a normal plan; and they are fortunate in being able to take this information that has been worked on by Ms. Tierney. She stated if that had not been done, they would have needed at least a year to do that. She stated in a typical planning process the last four months is spent doing exactly what they are doing here which is the public involvement and finalizing where we go from here. Ms. Toole stated the Township “was genius” in doing it this way because it made the best use of the resources and funding that they have.

Mr. Hansen stated he will have to consider this further as he feels if they want to have as many people fill out the survey, it seems that they are rushing into the presentation.

Mr. Wysocki noted the first question that the Park & Recreation Board was asked was to name five things that they liked or worked well, and he stated those could be two different things since he may like something like the Pool but he may not feel it is working well so he did not know how to respond. Ms. Toole stated she sees the point. She stated they like to build on success so that is why they asked that question. Mr. Wysocki stated the answer could be two different things. Ms. Toole stated it will give her a sense of the positive features and the things they need to address.

Mr. Krauss stated they look forward to everything coming together, and he thanked Ms. Toole for her presentation.

## PICKLEBALL/TENNIS DISCUSSION

### Opening and Usage of Memorial Park Courts

Ms. Tierney stated they are looking at a spring opening for the courts since the project is not quite done. Mr. Krauss asked what is outstanding, and Ms. Tierney stated she believes that there is another coat of paint needed, having the benches delivered, and finalizing some things on the courts.

### Meetup Conversion to Community Pass

Ms. Tierney stated the Meetup group uses the courts through the Park & Rec Department, and they need to discuss how they are planning to use that and at what capacity with our current courts. She stated they have experienced a lot of trouble with Meetup. She stated it is an app where people can sign up individually and create a group. She stated there are a few leaders for the group who schedule different opportunities to meet up together.

Mr. Malinowski joined the meeting at this time.

Ms. Tierney stated it has not worked well since Park & Rec cannot help users on the back end if there is a problem with payment or a scheduling mistake. She stated they cannot really charge appropriately, and they have been doing a blended charge because they cannot do a non-resident/resident split. She stated they are planning on bringing Meetup into Community Pass. She stated Community Pass has a new feature that runs a lot like Meetup, and you will register to be a member, pay the resident or non-resident rate, and then you will have access to be able to sign up for groups. She stated they are still working through some of the logistics, and she is not yet ready to present what it will look like. She stated there will be waiting lists, and you will know if you are on the waiting list. She stated it will run a lot easier and it is on the system that all of the other membership organizations are including the Dog Park, the Pool, and every program that we run which are all on Community Pass. She stated this will now be in Community Pass as well, and there will be one account. Ms. Tierney stated she will give the Park & Recreation Board more information about this when they are ready to launch it.

Ms. Tierney stated she would like to know from the Board if they want to move the scheduling and Meetup more prominently at Memorial Park or split it in some way. She stated there is a huge contingency of pickleball members, and they are close to 180 at this point so that using both would be a relief as far as scheduling although they do like to leave some open times as well.

Mr. Wysocki stated if they are going to use both, they may want to stagger the times so that if they are using one Park for Meetup, the other one could be free at that time; and they could then schedule the other one for Meetup an hour or two later and leave the other Park free so that there is always a free pickleball court. Ms. Tierney stated the times are difficult since there are no lights at either park so that in the winter the high demand times are all at the same time. Ms. Tierney stated they would need about 80 pickleball courts in order to be sufficient for the number of pickleball players. She stated Middletown is going to install 12 pickleball courts which will help although that is not immediate.

Mr. Krauss stated he is part of the Meetup group, and the challenge is that the new courts will have permanent nets which will be ready for the community whether it is the Meetup group or public play; but at the Cardinal Courts if it was public play, someone would have to bring their own net or have the code to access the equipment to get the nets out. Mr. Krauss stated the sport is social in nature, and sometimes they do not want to be split up. He stated there is a beginner group, an intermediate group, and an advanced group; and people might straddle both groups which could be difficult if someone was playing on one court and would then have to drive to the other court if they were playing later. He stated pickleball tends to be congregated on the same courts regardless of ability. He stated currently they all play at the same place so separating them out is not what typically happens, and they just schedule different times. He stated if they are going to schedule Memorial Park, open play and free public time could be done at Cardinal or if there needs to be additional event scheduled if there is overflow, maybe just beginners with instructors could be at Cardinal which is what he would recommend. Mr. Krauss stated he knows that people who want to have public play will probably want open time on the new courts as well.

Ms. Tierney stated she agrees that beginner play would be good at Cardinal since she feels the more advanced players would appreciate the new set up at Memorial Park. Mr. Krauss stated most pickleball players will go anywhere they can play.

Ms. Tierney stated what is happening now is that there are “sub-Meetup groups,” and every time she does not have a court scheduled for Meetup other sub-Meetup groups have been created. Mr. Krauss stated he would not call them sub-Meetup groups. He stated he could text other people and say they should meet at Cardinal at a certain time because they know that it is open play.

Ms. Tierney stated that is not what she is referring to, and there is another Meetup called Lower Makefield Township Beginners Meetup Group and another Meetup group as well. She stated the Beginners group has about 180 people signed up for it that she just discovered, and those people are not paying fees. Mr. Krauss stated if he was on the courts and they showed up at the courts, they would not have any rights to use them; and they would have to wait just like anyone else who would come up as a public group. Ms. Tierney stated they do not have privileges; but if someone from the public comes to play and there is a big group of people already there, it makes it much more difficult for them to play because it seems as though that big group has been scheduled.

Mr. Wysocki stated they were unable to make a second dedicated section of pickleball at Memorial Park because of the way the Grant was submitted; but he asked now that it has been installed, could they make the court adjacent to the pickleball a multi-purpose court. Ms. Tierney stated re-painting the lines does not really make sense right now since they were just painted; however, they may be able to set up another net where there could be beginners.

Ms. Tierney stated other Townships have put up a net on a basketball court and people play there. Ms. Tierney stated she feels it would be nice to have some nets there in the event someone from the public would want to play.

Mr. Krauss stated he does not feel there is a benefit to playing on a court without appropriate lines.

Ms. Tierney stated if all of the other courts are full, someone could play a game; and she knows that other Townships have pop-up nets on courts that are not painted. She stated that may be a solution for now, but there is eventually going to be a problem. She stated until Middletown puts up their 12 courts to provide some relief, we will continue to be inundated.

Mr. Krauss stated Pennsbury Racquet has added some indoor courts, and there is a new facility which will be opening in Ewing so those will work out in the winter; but once it is nice out, everyone wants to be outside.

Mr. Brody stated he has been a big proponent of allowing some degree of Permitting at Memorial Park, but largely that has not been done apart from a little bit of football. He stated he feels it is odd that they are now contemplating Permitting for pickleball at Memorial Pak even though he feels it is a good idea to have it there for a lot of reasons. Ms. Tierney stated if we do not put our pickleball group out there, other groups are going to form on their own. She stated she feels we need to organize it and structure it right. Mr. Brody asked why they would not schedule this like they do at the Golf Course; and Ms. Tierney stated we do not have the manpower to man it all the time, which is why the Meetups are run by volunteers.

Mr. Krauss stated people usually play pickleball in groups so that if there are four courts, up to twenty people will sign up for a session with sixteen playing at a time and four sitting. He stated they then keep rotating through.

Mr. Brody asked how long that session would last, and Mr. Krauss stated sessions are typically two hours.

Mr. Wysocki stated he felt that for the tennis courts that there was a rule that if someone is waiting, you can play for an hour, and then you have to relinquish the court. Ms. Tierney stated we do not have a rule like that in place for open play, although we could create a set of rules and put up signage about that. Mr. Krauss stated he believes that was an unwritten, historical rule with regard to tennis. Ms. Tierney stated she will go back to the Code Book as she believes there were rules since tennis was one of our first activities in the Code Book. Ms. Tierney stated at some point we may want to re-evaluate the Codes and make some recommendations to the Board to update some of the Codes.

Mr. Krauss stated when the Community Pass site is at a state which they can review it, Ms. Tierney should bring it to the Park & Rec Board as well as some of the pickleball leaders so they feel comfortable with the sign-up and the wait list. He stated he agrees that this makes sense from a payment perspective and giving Ms. Tierney the ability to manage the back-end piece. He stated he wants to make sure that if someone is on the wait list and someone cancels, the players will know; but he wants to make sure there is not more work for the Park & Rec Department. Ms. Tierney stated she is hoping that it will be a lot less work than it is now for the Park & Rec as they are struggling now to help people on the back end, and she is hoping this will make it more user-friendly. She stated there will be a period of transition, and she would like to run a training for any of the volunteers who are participating so that they

feel comfortable, and everyone can work through this together. Ms. Tierney stated they will most likely start with just the Cardinal Courts until she knows a date for Memorial Park, and the Board will have to decide how they want to use the Memorial Park courts for the pickleball program.

#### LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Noelle Codispoti, 1908 S. Crescent Boulevard, PAA, stated they opened Registration for the spring season just before Christmas; and there will be a soft close of February 15. She stated to date there are more than 300 players registered across all three of their programs. This week the travel programs have started their in-house workouts at various locations around the area. She stated the nets are still down so they do not have to worry about the impact of snow. She stated that they received word that they will be hosting the 8-U Baseball State Tournament and the 8-U and 10-U Regional Softball Tournament for Babe Ruth. Mr. Krauss stated that is good for the Township.

Mr. Wysocki asked how the current rate of enrollment is tracking compared to last year; and Ms. Codispoti stated for the little amount of advertising they have done, it is an extraordinary number. Ms. Codispoti stated they lost their Social Media Director a few weeks into November, and that person had done a phenomenal job. She stated that is one of the hardest jobs to get someone to do. She stated she did take some time tonight to add some posts to their social media.

Ms. Codispoti stated there are two Field Maintenance Directors now and a lot of volunteers. She stated there will be some requests that they will be bringing to Ms. Tierney once they have a list for the spring season to see what is possible from a Township perspective or things that PAA could do on their own or pay a contractor to do. She stated the project that was approved last year that was completed in August which was the digging up of the Fred Allen fields has really helped in getting them ready quicker without the use of dry dirt; and it is better than anything she has seen in the eight years that she has been on the Executive Board so it was money well spent. She stated they appreciate the Township's contribution to that project. Mr. Krauss stated this kept them from having to re-schedule or cancel games, and Ms. Codispoti agreed.



Mr. Mike Hansen, YMS Soccer Vice President, stated they started their winter indoor training at their indoor facility in Falls Township which would be available for overflow pickleball as needed. He stated they have been working on the turf field. He stated travel games will start in early March. Mr. Hansen stated that they had a team play in the U.S. Youth Soccer National League PRO which is a feeder to the National Championship. He stated they won that so they will be going to the National Championships in July.

## RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

### CAPRA Update

Ms. Tierney stated they have been diligently working over the last year and a half, and they are working on finalizing the submittal. She stated the Self-Assessment Report is due on April 11, and then we will have our visit which will be virtual due to COVID from June 20<sup>th</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be four different people she will be reporting to about the process, and she will learn how the Board may have to be involved in that. She stated she will then present the whole CAPRA project and find out whether we are officially CAPRA-Certified.

### Budget

Ms. Tierney stated the Budget was approved as put forward, and there were no changes. Ms. Tierney stated the Pool Budget was approved as well, and they will be hiring the full-time, year-round Pool Manager and the full-time Admin position. Mr. Krauss asked how responses have been for the positions. Ms. Tierney stated they have not yet posted the Pool Manager position, but they have had a good response for regular Pool staff particularly with new people. She stated typically they get a lot of new people to apply early, and then a lot of the return staff comes in. Ms. Tierney stated the raise in pay is helpful. She stated they will do interviews at the end of the month. They will also do a presentation in February for people who are considering applying to work at the Pool or Summer Camp as to what that would look like for the parents, the kids, expectations for interviews for a first job, and to give some guidance on what it is like to have a job and what they look for from employees. She stated they started this workshop last year, and they are going to continue it this year. She stated she will provide the dates to the Park & Recreation Board members as a timeline.

Pool Update

Mr. Brody asked if they are trying to get rid of the hour gap this year at the Pool, and Ms. Tierney stated that is a high priority this year; and she would prefer not to have that hour gap. Mr. Brody asked about bathroom renovations. Ms. Tierney stated in 2019 they had proposed to do some repairs, but the Bids came in too high. She stated they did do the ventilation repair, which while non-visible, is an exciting repair because they did not have mildew and humidity in the bathrooms. She stated they also did some minor upgrades to the bathrooms.

Ms. Tierney stated as part of the Needs Assessment, they are hearing a lot about bathrooms in general across all of the parks.

Projects

Ms. Tierney stated the Community Center doors are here, and they should be installed within the next two weeks and be functional.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Krauss, Chair