

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – MAY 9, 2023

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on May 9, 2023. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

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

Others:                             Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director  
   Fredric K. Weiss, Supervisor Liaison

Absent:                             Ron LaBar, Park & Recreation Board Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2023.

RECOGNITION OF MS. TIERNEY

Mr. Krauss stated Ms. Tierney, Director of Park & Rec, just received the Presidential Citation from the Pennsylvania Recreation & Parks Society at their Conference. He stated Lower Makefield was the first in Pennsylvania to be CAPRA accredited, and is one of only 193 accredited-agencies in the United States and one of only five in the northeast region. Mr. Kraus stated Ms. Tierney is going to be a mentor for the Williston Park & Recreation District in North Dakota. He stated the Lower Makefield Township Parks & Recreation Department is going to be highlighted in the July National Recreation & Parks Association magazine and Lower Makefield is also going to be the highlighted community for the Pennsylvania Recreation & Parks Society. Mr. Krauss thanked Ms. Tierney for all her hard work and for all she does for the Township.

#### APPROVAL OF EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Mr. Keith Brown, seventeen year-old student from Pennsbury and member of Troop 10, was present to discuss his Eagle Scout project which is to replace the existing garden at the Five Mile Woods entrance. A picture was shown of the existing garden. He stated he discussed the project with Ms. Tierney and Mr. Heilferty at the Five Mile Woods. He stated he intends to remove the old garden structure and replace it with a similarly-shaped structure that will properly hold the garden inside and be made to last the elements.

Mr. Brown stated the project will benefit the Township by creating a new centerpiece to the entrance of the Five Mile Woods making it more welcoming to visitors and attract more attention to the trails.

Mr. Brown reviewed the tools, materials, and supplies to be used and those who will be working on the project with him. He stated he will need help from the Township with removal and disposal of the materials from the original garden. He stated he is also looking to get gravel from the Township as that was provided by the Township for his brother's project. Mr. Brown reviewed the safety considerations. Mr. Brown stated the heavier materials will be delivered to the Five Mile Woods by the materials supplier and he and volunteers will deliver other supplies and materials.

Mr. Brown reviewed the phasing of the project and stated he plans to do the project the second half of July.

Mr. Brody asked if he will be planting in the garden as well or just doing the structure around the garden. Mr. Brown stated he is doing the structure as he was told to just do the structure and not change the materials inside. He stated if they want him to do anything else later on, he would do so. Ms. Tierney stated he was told this by the Friends of the Five Mile Woods. Ms. Tierney stated this is something that they wanted done for a long time.

Mr. Krauss asked how long the project will take, and Mr. Brown stated he is planning on two days to execute the project itself.

Ms. Rock asked Mr. Brown how many people he feels will be involved helping with the project, and Mr. Brown stated he hopes to get 5 friends, 10 Scouts, and 5 parents as well as himself and his Dad. Mr. Blundi stated he feels this is a worthwhile project as it is definitely in need of replacement as are a number of other things at the Five Mile Woods.

Mr. Brody moved, Mr. Malinowski seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve Keith Brown's Eagle Scout project.

#### POOL REQUEST

Ms. Livia Maxian, 24 Lower Hilltop Road was present. She stated they have lived in the Township for forty-eight years and have been members of the LMT Pool for forty-two years. She stated she sent an e-mail, and it was noted that the Board was provided the e-mail. Ms. Maxian stated she had a discussion with Ms. Tierney about the possibility of a fee reduction for multiple children guests. She stated she and her husband are 82 and 80 years old and are retired. She stated they love to take some or all of their minor grandchildren to the Pool. She stated her grandchildren are aged from 5 to 12; and while they do not live in Lower Makefield Township, they live close and they babysit them. She stated the \$20 entrance fee per child would amount to \$160 for a single entrance, and that is too much for them; and they would not be able to take their grandchildren with them. Ms. Maxian stated this is a double hardship because they would have to tell their grandchildren that they could not go to the Pool because it is too much money, and the other hardship would be to have to pay \$160. She stated they do not always take all eight grandchildren at the same time as there are two families – one with five children and one with three children. Ms. Maxian stated the family with five children lives the closest as they are in Doylestown. Ms. Maxian stated they would suggest that Senior Citizens would pay \$20 for one or multiple minor child guests. She asked that the policy be amended and could result in a small increase in Pool revenue since people like she and her husband may choose not to take any minor grandchildren with them. She thanked the Board for trying to help them and other retired Township citizens.

Mr. Krauss asked if there is a discounted booklet, and Ms. Tierney stated she believes that if you buy a booklet of ten passes, two of them are free. Mr. Krauss asked the membership fee for a family, and Ms. Tierney stated it is now a la carte and depends on who from a family is signing up. Ms. Tierney stated if they were coming often enough a membership would be more beneficial. She added that they went through all of the different scenarios.

Mr. Wysocki asked if \$20 per guest is the best one available to her at this point. Ms. Tierney stated it depends on how often the children come; and if they are coming all the time it would be more beneficial for them to buy a membership. She stated if they are only coming one or two times, it would be more beneficial

to buy a booklet. Ms. Maxian stated they are coming in the summer twice a week, although that would not be all eight of them. She stated all eight of them would come possibly four times a summer. Ms. Maxian stated the grandchildren that live in Doylestown usually come twice a week, and if only four of them came twice a week, because one of them is not that interested, that would be \$160 a week which is still a lot of money for people on Social Security. She stated that is why she is asking that there be one fee of \$20 total whether it is for one child or eight children.

Ms. Tierney stated she feels that they would have to review this at the next Board meeting or consider it when the Fee structure is discussed for next year. Ms. Maxian stated this summer is very important to them because they are still able to take care of their grandchildren, and she would love to bring them to the Pool; but to pay so much money is a problem.

Mr. Krauss stated the responsibility of the Board is to look at the total fees for all of the different scenarios considering all of the different membership options. Mr. Krauss stated he does not feel they can change the fee structure tonight. Ms. Maxian stated she feels that if they would make a decision tonight, all Senior Citizens would appreciate any amendment for this year. Mr. Krauss stated he is not discounting the proposal, but he does not feel they would undertake this for the current season; and they could look at this for the 2024 season.

Mr. Krauss stated if there were to be any exceptions, he feels Ms. Tierney would have to consider that. Ms. Tierney stated she feels anything done would have to be done across the board for the season. She stated she knows that Ms. Maxian is not the only one in this situation who has asked for a reduced rate. Ms. Maxian stated she does not feel that there are too many of them.

Ms. Maxian asked about the booklet, and Ms. Tierney stated it would be \$180 for ten passes.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the parents of the children could offset any of the cost of their children going to the Pool so that it is not a burden to Ms. Maxian. Ms. Maxian stated it “does not work in her family like that.” She stated when the children come to them for babysitting, wherever they take them, they pay for it. She stated she does not know how she would tell them that if they want them to go to the Pool, they would have to pay for it. She stated they are members of the pool in Doylestown, but they like to come to her house, and

they like the LMT Pool because they like the slides. Ms. Maxian stated it would be very difficult to tell them that they do not have the money for that, and it would be difficult to ask her children for money.

Ms. Rock asked if a grandparent buys a child's membership, is that assigned to a specific child or could it be interchangeable and be for a child in general. Ms. Tierney stated the child would have to be associated with an adult in their household. She stated the membership would be in a specific child's name. Ms. Rock stated possibly there could be some kind of grandchild membership that could be interchangeable for a grandchild coming with a grandparent.

Mr. Brody stated he feels they could consider this next year. He stated the Pool is opening in three weeks, and we have been selling memberships since January. Ms. Tierney stated there are also many grandparents who bought booklets. Mr. Brody stated considering his own family situation, he would have gladly paid an extra \$100 to buy a babysitter spot which could be different individuals; and we could consider a "super guest pass" which could identify three or four people who could be identified and allowed to use this pass.

Mr. Krauss stated there is also a discounted August-only membership which Ms. Maxian could consider. Ms. Maxian stated she knows it is also less after 4 o'clock; but when their grandchildren come, they like to go to the Pool in the morning because it is so hot.

Ms. Maxian stated she appreciates the membership that is available to Senior Citizens.

#### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL PERMANENT ART DONATION

A picture of the sculpture proposed to be donated was provided to the Board in their packet and was also shown this evening. Ms. Tierney stated the Director from Artists of Yardley, Bette Sovinee, had advised that an artist, John Costanza, had reached out to her about donating a piece of sculpture permanently to the Township. Ms. Tierney stated she is not sure where we could put this piece of art. She stated with Art in the Parks, we may have other people who will reach out to us about donating art; and we should consider setting some parameters and guidelines.

Ms. Tierney stated what we are doing at this time is a temporary art installation, and after three months it will go back, and Seward Johnson would rehab the art. She stated with this permanent donation, she questions who would be taking care of the sculpture as it is not necessarily within our scope to do that.

Mr. Krauss asked if we were to proceed with accepting this sculpture was it to be immediately or was there any discussion as to when we would have to take possession. Ms. Tierney stated there was not a strict timeline.

Mr. Krauss asked if there was an expectation that there would be a special event around accepting the sculpture or would we just put it up. Ms. Tierney stated there was no discussion around that, and she shared with the Board all of the information that she was provided. Mr. Krauss stated we are doing this temporary exhibit with sculptures around the Township, and he was wondering whether this would be included with that and it would just remain or is this something that would be done after the other sculptures are removed if we get good responses. Mr. Krauss stated he also feels that we need a better picture of the sculpture. He stated he is in favor of building on Art in the Parks if it is successful, but we do not have a policy for this.

Mr. Wysocki asked if we could consider an extension of the Signage Policy since there are a lot of similarities to those who wish to commemorate something or name something for someone. He stated we would have to consider guidelines where this would be allowed. He stated in this case, he understands there is a preference to have this near the AOY; and if it passes reasonable standards, it could be installed there.

Mr. Krauss stated he also feels we need to know that the artist has been vetted.

Ms. Tierney stated Patterson Farm was looked at for this this sculpture, but we are in the process of preparing a Master Plan so it has been determined that now is not the time to put something permanent there. She also stated Artists of Yardley lease the land, and ten to twenty years from now, they may grow out of the space and move somewhere else, but the sculpture would still be on site.

Mr. Krauss asked if it truly permanent as he feels it could probably be moved. Ms. Tierney stated she believes that it is 15' to 16' tall. She showed an image and stated it is similar to what is shown in the image although it is clay colored.

Mr. Brody stated he agrees in general with the idea of having art around the Township, and he likes what Yardley is doing in the Borough. He stated he could see this sculpture in a corner of Veterans Square potentially, but he is concerned about a 16' tall sculpture which could be climbable in some of our Parks. He stated he would like to see what happens with the art installations we are going to have and how they are treated. He stated he does have safety concerns with this particular sculpture being discussed including how it will be kept upright.

Ms. Tierney stated we could consider amending the Naming Policy and set some standards for the kind of art that we would accept.

Mr. Krauss stated the Community Center and the Township Building property are Township-owned facilities where there are more adults and fewer children.

Dr. Weiss stated he does not feel anyone will object to art in the Township, but we need to consider how it will be displayed, security, and the costs to maintain it over time. He stated we could consider an art policy going forward particularly if temporary exhibits become permanent exhibits in the Township. He stated they have sponsors for the art in Yardley, but in Lower Makefield it is usually the residents who bear the expenses; and we need to consider this further if there is a contribution.

Mr. Wysocki stated he does not believe most people would object to art installations being displayed throughout the Township, but there are some cases where art may offend some people. He stated we might need an Art Review Sub-Committee before we move forward with an installation.

Mr. Blundi stated to have something forever "seems like a really long time." He stated with Art in the Parks that is being done now, it is brought in, set up, displayed for a period of time, and then it is taken away, and they leave the area as it was. He stated what is being considered now is something different, and this would be permanent. He stated if it were to break or be damaged, the Township would be responsible for maintaining it forever.

Ms. Rock stated she likes the idea of a panel adding that there are a number of great artists in the Township including her neighbor who installs sculptures for a living. She stated she feels we need a professional to weigh in on this. She stated there may also be other Townships which have had art donations like this that are permanent, and they could provide us with some information.

Mr. Krauss stated he agrees. He stated the temporary exhibit is an opportunity to “walk before we run,” and see what kind of response we get. He stated he feels that the public will embrace the temporary sculptures; and since they are temporary, we do not have to worry about the costs associated with a permanent sculpture. Mr. Krauss stated it might be a different situation hanging pictures inside a building versus installing sculptures although he still feels that there needs to be something drafted to address donation of sculptures or paintings.

Mr. Krauss stated we need to get back to the artist, although there was no timeline given. Mr. Malinowski stated we would not want to miss an opportunity. Mr. Krauss stated there is follow-up that needs to be done. Mr. Malinowski stated it may be that not a lot of maintenance will be required, and Dr. Weiss stated the staff could be asked to research that. Mr. Brody stated Chief Coluzzi could probably address the risk concerns.

Mr. Brody stated we also need to address the appropriateness of any art that is donated. Mr. Malinowski stated it is possible that some people will be offended.

Mr. Wysocki stated he feels there should be a discussion with the artist or some other group to find out if there could be a certain term for this piece of art to be in the Township, and then it could go to a final resting place such as a museum if it is too much for the Township to maintain.

Mr. Krauss stated there are items that need to be addressed before the Park & Recreation Board can make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Tierney stated she will look at the Policy and do some outreach to other Municipalities for their policies and experiences with receiving art. Mr. Brody stated he would also like to have more information about the installation and what the artist wants to do. Mr. Krauss asked if there is a reason why he chose Lower Makefield, and it was noted it was not known why the area by the Janney House was suggested.

#### LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Maureen McGroarty, 314 Yardley-Langhorne Road, stated she is present on behalf of YMS. She thanked PAA for allowing them to use Field H at Macclesfield for their two weeks of try-outs. She stated if YMS can return the favor they would like to do that as community partnership means a lot. She stated their EPIC Tournament will be held this weekend, and there are 300 teams coming in.



She stated they are using six different sites, three in Lower Makefield, and three in New Jersey. She stated they have volunteers lined up to help with parking, and signs will be posted along River Road. Volunteers will be in the surrounding neighborhood around Macclesfield to make sure that people are not parking there. She stated they are not using shuttles since parking is not the issue that it has been in the past since they are using so many sites.

Ms. McGroarty stated the recreation program is growing, and this spring they have 960 children signed up for recreation soccer. She stated they are seeing a lot of growth in the older age groups. There has been a lot of creativity about timing with some playing Friday night and older players playing on Saturday morning; and this has offered players the opportunity to do more than just play soccer.

Ms. McGroarty stated they have been doing a lot of service projects this year, and she noted from October until now, they have run seven different initiatives including teams helping with the Lake Afton clean-up, holding an equipment drive to benefit the Park & Rec Youth in West Philadelphia, players helping with the Race the Course 5K, running a Toys for Tots collection, collecting snacks which were delivered to the community partners such as the Lower Makefield Fire Police, the Ambulance, Park & Rec, Public Works, and the Yardley Police Fire, and also helping with the rain barrel distribution. She stated they also have the Special Stars program. She stated over the last six months, they have had 250 community service hours, and this is an initiative that they would like to continue.

Ms. McGroarty stated two Travel Teams have already qualified for Nationals, and there are six Teams that are in the Semi-Final stage of State Cup.

Mr. Krauss thanked Ms. McGroarty for the update particularly with regard to the service update. He stated he would encourage YMS to partner with some of the other organizations which could help make the projects bigger.

Ms. McGroarty stated she would like YMS to be able to support the 5K for Accessibility in August which would be meaningful for the children and the community. Mr. Krauss stated between YMS and PAA, they could get a sizable volunteer group. Ms. McGroarty stated there are children that play in both Leagues.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Art in the Parks

Ms. Tierney stated the sculptures will be installed by the end of the month. She stated there has been a lot of coordination with Artists of Yardley on programming and special events around each site. She stated there will be an Art Fair, and everything is on the Art in the Parks Website. She stated there is an interactive map that explains each sculpture and where it will be. She stated a lot of the events are listed but dates have not been assigned to everything yet. She stated the Website is updated regularly. She stated there will be a multi-cultural dance program, so it is not just art and sculptures. She stated when they consider programs, they look at what is already offered and what we can supplement with in our parks. She stated we are trying to hit every target audience in the Municipality.

Mr. Krauss asked if the sculptures will be lit. Ms. Tierney stated while they were not proposing that, they could be temporarily lit. She added the Parks are closed at night. She stated we also do not have a lot of street lights in the Township so we did not feel that there was a strong need to light them, although if the Board feels differently, that could be considered.

### Five Mile Woods Grant Update

Ms. Tierney stated we got the PECO Green Region Grant which was a Grant in partnership with Natural Lands. She stated we have a \$10,000 match from the Fee-In-Lieu of Fund, and the Board of Supervisors voted to add another \$10,000 to that to expand the width of the path. She stated she has discussed the width with Mr. Heilferty, and we think we might be able to add an extra foot for accessibility. She stated there were also discussions about the materials, and Mr. Heilferty had done some research about the slip factor. She stated we also have turtles that need to get from point A to point B; and if a structure is put in their way for the complete 600', they would not be able to get where they need to go so they are considering this as well.

Ms. Tierney stated this will be a volunteer project done in-house. She stated the Friends of the Five Mile Woods are going to help, and we are also looking for additional volunteers. Ms. Tierney stated she will be meeting with the Friends of Five Mile Woods and discussing how we can better partner and be better stewards together.

Ms. Tierney stated the Boy Scout project discussed earlier this evening will help clean up the entrance way. She stated we are looking to do some additional cleaning and patching at Five Mile Woods that has been needed to be done for some time.

There was discussion about trash, and Ms. Tierney stated she did an initial clean-up because there was trash when the trash cans were first taken out. She stated the trash cans were just removed at Memorial Park, and they will monitor that. She stated there were some initial concerns, but the program is going well.

#### Veterans Square Update

Ms. Tierney stated we did not get the DCNR Grant for Veterans Square, and there has been discussion about this project with the Board of Supervisors. She stated we are in the process of working with Remington Vernick to do a formal plan and a more-extensive quote as to how much it would cost in excess of what we already have budgeted in order to complete the whole project including the paving and the pavilion. She stated she hopes to come back to the Board soon as to what can be done about potential future funding for this project.

#### Macclesfield Park Study Update

Ms. Tierney stated we are moving forward with the Study, but there is a lot of back end work that needs to be done before we can get into the public process. She stated there is a lot of research needed, focus groups, and individual meetings. She stated there have been two Steering Committee meetings, a Youth focus group meeting, a Senior focus group meeting, and a neighbor focus group meeting although she does not have the Minutes for that yet. She stated she is publishing all Meeting Minutes as well as everything that is happening along the way on the Township Website. Ms. Tierney stated there is a meeting with the School District scheduled for next week as well as some key person interviews. She stated there will then be another meeting with the Steering Committee before an open house with the community is held. She stated that will be a formal presentation but also interactive so that people can get feedback on certain things and discuss potential ideas. Ms. Tierney stated there has been a lot of consistency with what the focus groups are saying and some things that people brought up which she was surprised by.

### Memorial Park ADA Project

Ms. Tierney stated there is money budgeted for shade structures and the rubberized surface. She is reviewing different quotes and options, and hopes to have more information soon.

Mr. Krauss asked about the timing. Ms. Tierney stated she hopes to have it done prior to the fall. She stated there will be two different vendors, but the shade structures will have to be done prior to the installation of the rubberized surface. She stated she does not feel that there will be additional funding needed for this.

Ms. Tierney stated we received the \$900,000 DCED Grant for Memorial Park East. She stated the project will include an additional playground for older children, a shade structure, bathrooms, yard games, a pergola, some exercise equipment, bocce, and horseshoes. Ms. Tierney stated we have a budgeted amount of \$250,000, and the Township match requirement is \$139,000 so that leaves room for engineering and other things that will be needed.

Ms. Rock asked about the timeline, and Ms. Tierney stated this project is just in the very beginning and it could take a couple years to complete. She stated a lot of engineering needs to be done.

### Schuyler Tennis Courts Update

Ms. Tierney showed a picture of the courts today compared to what they looked like a few months ago. She stated the black undercoat has gone down, and tomorrow the color will go down. By Saturday people could be on the court.

### Pool Update

Ms. Tierney stated the Board of Supervisors approved leak detection being done in the lap pool where we were losing quite a bit of water last year. She stated this was done with the pool empty and then with the pool full. She stated they did a dye test the other day. Ms. Tierney stated we were quick to fill the pools this year, and they are already full. She stated the Olympic pool was sandblasted and painted. She stated all of the other pools were touched up. She stated we also had to have a new fire alarm system installed

in all indoor spaces. She stated the slides are done, and the diving boards are getting installed this week. She stated training starts this week, and we have a full staff.

Ms. Tierney stated we started launching some of our advertising for the programs, and we are moving forward with Registration. Ms. Tierney stated we are up almost \$100,000 ahead this year in Revenue from Pool memberships from where we were this time last year. She stated we have been marketing very heavily, and we are looking at marketing on Next Door as a lot of neighborhoods in the Township use Next Door.

#### Community Day

Ms. Tierney was asked the date for Community Day, and she stated it is August 26. She stated next year for Community Day, we are looking at doing a “face lift” as we have been doing it the same for a number of years. She stated we will be exploring some new options, and she asked that those with any ideas how to make Community Day even better to let her know. She stated there will be some new things this year.

There being no further business, Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary