

Meeting Minutes

Sports Focus Group
JMT Project No. 22-02994-001

A virtual meeting was held with sports groups currently utilizing Macclesfield Park to review the initial recommendations, confirm initial field use analysis, and confirm impacts to each organization and discuss potential solutions. The following were in attendance:

Name	Organization	E-mail Address
Matt Curtain	PAA	matthew.a.curtin@gmail.com
George Schlieben	YMS	president@ymssoccer.net
Gordon Workman	LMFA	gordon028944@yahoo.com
Monica Tierney,	Director of Parks & Rec.	monicat@lmt.org
Andrew Mears	JMT	amears@jmt.com
Ann Toole	Toole Recreation Planning	anntoole@comcast.net
Neil Beach	JMT	nbeach@jmt.com

The following items were discussed:

1. Welcome and Introductions – A. Mears welcomed the Sports Focus Group and attendees introduced themselves.
2. A. Mears reviewed the meeting agenda.
 - a. Listen to your thoughts and concerns.
 - b. Other Sports and Adult Leagues
 - c. Review details of master plan alternatives
 - d. How does alternatives affect your organizations?
 - e. Potential solutions (Long and Short Term)
 - f. Next Steps
3. A. Mears went through the presentation shown previously at the June 28th, 2023, meeting to the Master Plan Study Committee, as well as some of the comments. These include:
 - a. Traffic
 - b. Lights
 - c. Macclesfield Park feels like a sports complex, and not a park.
 - d. General information on field needs and deficits.

4. The following comments, clarifications, and suggestions were made during the open discussion:

- We can't move this problem down the road.
- Groups confirmed that three football fields okay, soccer has a deficit of two fields, and softball is in need of five fields.
- We don't have all the numbers from other sports groups or how the PSD uses the Middle School.
- The alternatives presented create more of a community park and address the problems at Macclesfield Park but in doing so, increase field deficits for soccer and baseball/softball.
- Sports groups want to be part of the solution and be a big part of the community. The design team has done a great job showing the compromises that are required to solve these issues. No one coming out of this process feeling like they won – still many questions. All acknowledged that there is inherent problem associated with Macclesfield Park and in order to address them everyone must give up something. We must all work together YMS, PAA, and LMT to look at the big picture to meet everyone's needs.
- Macclesfield Park can't accommodate three sports or any other expanded or new active or public use. There is a real domino of projects that need to occur. There isn't one button to push to solve the problem. Many things need to be done.
- What can we live with from these scenarios? We need homes for fields that displaced from Macclesfield Park.
- Scenarios make sense – but you can't solve the solve field needs without other property to located displaced fields. Need to look at other solutions. Snipes is a potential property that could address field shortages.
- YMS is currently using baseball outfielders for soccer training. With C, they would give up the field for baseball in the spring and lose a lighted field. they need lights not a perfect field. C would provide them with three full size lighted fields without baseball infields. Then Field F could go to football. Would LMT consider another turf field? YMS could support.
- YMS isn't sure there's a need for another turf field. They are worried about offering a plan with turf that never comes to fruition. They would prefer to see a realistic plan, and not something to hope for.
- Given all the potential scenarios a plan and order of things that need to happened must be provided in the master plan.
- A clear plan of commitments, steps and sequencing of activities need to be outlined so sports groups are not boxed in since they are compromising existing facilities that are currently in play at Macclesfield Park.
- The need to address baseball must be first. We can't do anything without first accommodating the potential loss of fields. We can't get rid of fields just to have open space for the neighbors. We need to move the baseball fields to solve the safety problems.
- Snipes is a logical solution to be considered for development of a baseball complex. Or the Township needs to pursue more land to meet recreation needs for active sports.
- A use diagram for the Snipes property was reviewed depicting a four and five diamond pinwheel style complex. If this happened first, we could then realign the entrance to Macclesfield Park and the sequencing through the list of improvements could happen.
- 70' and 90' lighted fields are what are used most and would need to be replaced if removed from Macclesfield. Snipes concept would need to consider these scenarios.
- PAA needs two 90' baseball fields.
- PSD has six football teams, maybe six soccer teams that practice at the MS. The open field area at the MS is used by MS sports teams for practice and for many purposes other than sports. 70-80% of practices are at MS but they can't line the fields. Once the design team gets a better understanding of how they use the space, that info can be

- folded into the mix and will help further ideas on what can and cannot be accommodated at the MS campus.
- The preliminary recommendations involve removing the fields that PAA needs. Apill over lights from baseball are not a concern since their location is by the river and the railroad.
 - We need more land and need to figure out what to do with Snipes.
 - Technology is so much better with respect to lighting and a recent demonstration by LMT showed that.
 - Steps to consider for meeting PAA needs are:
 - a. Light two fields at Cailoa;
 - b. Find space for another 90 and 70' ball diamonds both lighted to account for displaced fields at Macclesfield to another location.
 - Lighting of the two fields at Cailoa would provide more field use.
 - Edgewood – PAA uses one field there now, the pool field: it is lighted and the most valuable softball field they have. The two to the right are used for practice. PSD doesn't maintain these fields; and they are in a state of disrepair. Redevelopment of Edgewood has a better relationship to Cailoa for PAA. Parking needs would have to be confirmed and addressed so as to not create additional issues, especially on Saturday and other peak use times for the pool.
 - Need to put forth the best vision for Mac/ Then for the sports groups. This really is a domino effect and the overall costs for lights, parking improvements, etc. must be considered in the overall scenario for the ultimate vision we think needs to happen.
 - We could price many different scenarios but need to focus on the most viable solution.
 - This is a comprehensive approach. Is this approach realistic or can we just fix what is there by adding new lighting? The Township has identified safety issues at the park and must have a plan in place now that is working towards addressing those issues. This was identified 20 years ago, and the Township must do something to fix these safety issues.
 - The first course of action is to get a better understanding of how the school properties are used and will be used in the future by the school. This would all change if LMT is able to secure more land.
 - It will be a challenge to explain and graphically convey the domino effect of losing fields. the design team will focus on the master plan and present all the steps needed to make address the safety concerns at Macclesfield Park.
 - Once the information is summarized a public meeting should be scheduled.
 - It was suggested that another committee meeting be held to first to present options about Snipes before holding a public Meeting.
 - The Township is currently completing an environmental assessment of the Snipes tract. Conclusions will be presented by at an upcoming BOS meeting upon the conclusion of the study by Natural Lands

The above represents a true and accurate account of the discussion during this meeting to the best of my knowledge. If there are any conflicts, misrepresentations, or omissions with the above statements, please contact the undersigned within ten (10) days of this date.



Andrew A. Mears

9.26.2023.
Date

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Attendees
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