

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – DECEMBER 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on December 12, 2023. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order. Mr. Krauss stated since we do not have a quorum, the Board will not be able to act on any specific action items.

Those present:

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

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director  
Colin Coyle, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Mike Blundi, Park & Recreation Board Member  
Rob LaBar, Park & Recreation Board Member  
David Malinowski, Park & Recreation Board Member

DEFERRAL OF APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 24, 2023 AND  
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Due to lack of a quorum, the Meeting Minutes for October and November were not acted on this evening.

LIAISON REPORT

Seniors

Mr. David Burkhardt, 316 Walton Drive, stated he is the incoming President of the Lower Makefield Seniors. He stated also present is Ms. Ellie Hammill, who is the outgoing President of the Seniors. He stated they want to speak about the increase in the Fees being proposed to the Lower Makefield Seniors. He stated at the November meeting the Park & Recreation Board voted to recommend an increase in the Fees paid to the Township by the members of the Lower Makefield Seniors from \$15 to \$30 for Township residents and \$30

to \$60 for non-Township residents. He stated they were only informed of the proposed increase last Wednesday and therefore had no opportunity to address the Park & Recreation Board deliberations.

Mr. Burkhardt stated Ms. Tierney suggested that they view the video of the November meeting to observe the discussion which resulted in the recommendation for the increase in the Fees. He stated some of the audio was not completely clear and some of the slides were not available during the meeting as there was an issue with Ms. Tierney's laptop.

Mr. Burkhardt stated during the discussion it was indicated that the Seniors are the most frequent users of the Community Center; and as such should be paying for a larger percentage of the operating costs of the building. He stated it was also stated that the operating expenses of the Community Center are for the most part underwritten by Tax Revenues, and he feels that is how it should be since the Community Center, the Township Building, the Library, and the parks are open to all members of the public without User Fees to those individuals when they frequent the parks or the buildings.

Mr. Burkhardt stated since the Community Center is open throughout the week for public and Township-sponsored meetings and events, and it is used by the Park & Recreation Department for their offices, the heat, air-conditioning, lighting and other operational expenses would be incurred regardless of whether the Seniors meet in the building.

Mr. Burkhardt stated the proposed Fees are going to place an undue financial burden on their members, many of whom are on fixed incomes. He stated the Community Center does not provide any programming resources for their group, and their Membership Dues must also include funds for their programs, activities, and the Liability Insurance that they are required to carry per the Room Rental Agreement in which the Township is named as an additional insured. He stated they anticipate that the Township User Fee increase is going to raise their Membership Fees to approximately \$50 for Township residents and \$80 for non-Township residents. He stated other Senior organizations in the area – Falls, Morrisville, Middletown, and Northampton have annual Membership Fees for their members of between \$15 and \$25 per person. He stated those groups also do not have different Fees for residents and non-residents of the Municipality in which these organizations are located.

Mr. Burkhardt stated an initial polling of the members suggest that the membership of their group will decrease approximately 25% if the User Fee increases are enacted. He stated based on that reduction in the membership, the net revenue increase that the Township will receive will be much less than what was estimated. He stated it will also come at the cost of disenfranchisement of Senior Citizens in our community, which make up approximately 30% of the population of the Township.

Mr. Krauss asked the number of active members, and Mr. Burkhardt stated there are 350. Mr. Krauss asked the split between residents and non-residents, and it was noted that about 60% are residents.

Mr. Burkhardt stated prior to the construction of the Community Center, the Seniors met in the Township Building and paid no Fee for the use of the building. He stated the current situation should be no different; however, they are not asking for a roll-back in Fees. He stated they are requesting that the Fees be maintained at the current level even though the Township Fees result in the Seniors' Membership Dues being much higher than the dues paid by members of other Senior groups in the area.

Mr. Burkhardt stated he understands that since there is not a quorum, the Board will not be able to vote on anything this evening.

Mr. Brody asked what they are currently charging their members, and Ms. Hammill stated currently the Fee is \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents, and all members are charged \$25 yearly. Ms. Hammill stated while it is not her decision since she is the outgoing President, she would like to see the Membership Dues raised to \$30 or \$35 and the User Fees kept at one price for residents and non-residents. She stated they are joining not as residents or non-residents, rather they are joining to be members of the Lower Makefield Seniors. She stated it is a social organization for Seniors. She stated originally they were trying for a Senior Center, and it became a Community Center. She stated even though it is a Community Center, it is still a Senior organization for Seniors in the community.

Mr. Krauss stated the proposed rates are similar to other organizations that reserve space in the Township whether it is a Senior group or a sports organization, and the Fees are the same for the User Groups. He stated the other User Groups, similar to what the Seniors are doing, decide to have one rate for their members; but the Township feels that non-residents should pay a higher User Fee regardless of the type of group.

Ms. Hammill stated the proposed increase is excessive since it is almost 100%. Mr. Krauss stated while that may be correct, the last time User Fees were raised was many years ago.

Mr. Burkhardt stated during the last meeting, there was discussion about raising the fees for the other operations including the Pool and the Dog Park, and most of those increases were in the range of 9% to 15%; but the raise being proposed for the Seniors Group is 100% to 300%. Mr. Krauss stated one of the reasons for that is because some of those other groups have had their Fees raised periodically over the last few years even though the User Fees have not been increased for many years so there were multiple factors taken into consideration.

Mr. Burkhardt stated with regard to the proposed increase for the Seniors Fees, he feels the Board should look at the operating expenses of the Community Center from when they first moved into the building versus what they are now. He stated if the increase in operating expenses is 50%, and the Seniors were paying \$15 and \$20 when it first started, the Fees should be increased by 50% or whatever the increase is in the operating expenses. Mr. Krauss stated Labor expenses have gone up as well as the facility costs.

Mr. Coyle stated they need to consider the broader context of the financial state of the Township currently. He stated the Parks & Recreation Budget has not been funded solely by User Fees, and we have been using the General Fund to supplement and to keep costs low where we can. He stated we use the General Fund to supplement such as the operation of the Community Center and the Pool. He stated the Budget as proposed still shows a \$1.5 million Budget deficit; and we cannot continue to sustain a \$1.5 million Budget deficit as a Township and continue to do the things that the Township has to do like provide Policing, resurface roads, etc. which are the basics of public safety and keeping up with our infrastructure. He stated because we have not gradually increased User Fees over the course of many years, we are forced at this time to make these decisions to close Budget gaps by making sharp increases. He stated the raw percentage increase that is proposed for the Seniors is significant; however, the dollar increase is not. He noted the Summer Camp families with multiple children which results in a burden on families. He stated while we are increasing the burden on Seniors, we are also increasing the burden on families and on those who pay User Fees to use our facilities because the Township has work to do on the Budget.

Mr. Burkhardt stated it was mentioned that Parks & Rec is also operating at a deficit. Mr. Coyle stated that is correct, and that is one of the things that the Township is trying to correct by having the User Fees contribute more to the operations of Parks & Rec. He stated they do not want to run Parks & Recreation like a private enterprise, but even the Fees proposed for the Seniors for the use of the Community Center does not result in recovering 100% of the cost of running that building as that is not what they want them to do as it is good for all taxpayers to have it and to have a place for our Seniors to congregate and have the social interaction which is so important.

Mr. Burkhardt stated he feels it is important to differentiate between the Parks & Recreation Board Budget and programs and the Seniors group as there is “no connect there other than the fact that we are meeting in a Township-owned facility for their meetings.” He stated the Seniors should not be penalized as a group because Parks & Recreation is operating at a deficit. He stated he just became active with the Seniors two years ago, and he did some research and found information in public records about the Community Center. He stated initially it was referred to as a Senior/Community Center. He stated there were two \$1 million Grants that were obtained from the State through the efforts of State Senator Santarsiero. He stated one of the Grants was to be used to help the Community Center that would provide ample space for the Lower Makefield Seniors Group. He stated no commentary was made about charging the Seniors Group for using the building. He stated other articles indicated that in addition to serving the general public, which this building does, the Community Center will also provide the Township Seniors Group with a place to hold meetings and enrichment classes. He stated the meetings and enrichment classes and programs are totally funded by the Seniors Group and not funded by the Township. He stated they just happen to be using a publicly-owned facility for their meetings which was what happened before in the Township Building, and they did not pay any kind of User Fee. He again stated that they are not asking that the User Fee be removed, but the increase is definitely going to impact some of the Seniors in the community who will no longer be part of the group. He stated most likely they will go to other Senior Centers in the area to receive the same type of socialization and activities that we now provide.

Mr. Coyle stated while he understands this, ultimately the Fees that are being proposed here are in line with the Fees that are charged to other groups for access to Township facilities. Mr. Coyle stated we need to

recognize where we are as a Township financially; and if these rates are changed and the Park & Rec Board makes a different recommendation, it will impact a different group.

Ms. Hammill asked when they will know what the Park & Recreation Board is going to propose to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Coyle stated the Park & Rec Board could make any recommendations once they have a quorum if they want to change or adjust any Fees. He stated the Fees themselves are not part of the Budget process but the Budget is based on what is forecasted as to Fees and millage. Ms. Tierney stated on December 20, the Board of Supervisors will vote on the Fees, and this is the last Park & Rec Board meeting before it goes before the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Brody stated the Park & Recreation Board did take a vote with these Fees as suggested, and Ms. Tierney stated there was a vote on the Fees to be \$30 and \$60 for the Seniors. She stated that since there is not a quorum present this evening, the Board could not change their recommendation.

Mr. Brody asked if the Sports Leagues pay User Fees for both seasons if they have a spring season and a fall season, and Ms. Tierney agreed. She stated those Sports Leagues pay twice a year, and the Seniors pay once a year. Mr. Brody asked how much are the User Fees for the Sports Leagues, and Ms. Tierney stated it is proposed to be the same as the Seniors which is \$30 for residents and \$60 for non-residents. Mr. Brody stated he has struggled with trying to find the proper balance between not inundating the Seniors who have fixed incomes but also being realistic of the large numbers of Fees that families pay. He stated he has two children who both play ball two seasons a year so his family is responsible for \$30 for each of his children twice a year since he is a resident. He stated if they play another sport, he also has to pay for that. He stated families with even more children are paying even more in User Fees. He stated if we were to take the approach that PAA or YMS should not have to pay User Fees to use the community fields, that would be difficult. He stated the Seniors are proposed to pay a one-time fee of an extra \$25 or \$30, and 40% of their members are coming from outside of the Township so what is being offered must be good.

Mr. Krauss noted that Mr. Wysocki joined the meeting at 8:10 p.m. It was noted that this means the Board now has a quorum.

Mr. Brody stated the fact that our Township does have such a large number of Seniors is why he feels that they also need to help pick up some of the costs. He stated while we have done our best to keep up with the Township facilities, many are overdue for overhauls and upgrades.

Ms. Hammill stated it should be remembered that a lot of the Seniors are a small percentage of those who are at the Community Center. She stated there are more Seniors who pay taxes who do not use any of the facilities, and their taxes are going for these facilities. She stated the Seniors pay School taxes and Real Estates taxes, and more than half of the Seniors that lives in Lower Makefield do not use the School system or any of the facilities including the Pool, the Library, or the Township buildings. She stated they are getting a good percentage of Seniors that pay taxes that do not use the facilities, but are still willing to pay taxes to live in Lower Makefield Township. She stated the Seniors do contribute to the economics in the Township.

Mr. Krauss stated no one has stated that the Seniors do not contribute. He stated that is regardless of what community you live in since you pay taxes for roads, Police and Fire protection, and other amenities. He stated they are trying to do their best for the broader community so that people will want to come here so that when people choose to sell their homes, this will remain a vibrant community where people want to live. He stated we have a plethora of activities to try to reach a diverse community including Seniors, active Sports groups, walking, the arts, the Pool, the Golf Course etc.

Mr. Krauss stated he feels Ms. Tierney has done a wonderful job at the Community Center to provide a number of activities as well as giving the Seniors a home, and it does cost money to run that. He added that he does not believe it was ever considered that it would be free as there is a cost to run the Community Center. He stated he was present when the Community Center opened, and he remembers that the Seniors Group was grandfathered in at an old User Fee rate, and it has not been raised since that time despite the fact that costs for operation have increased over time. He stated as Mr. Coyle has noted the Township cannot continue to absorb all of the costs associated with running just the Community Center but all of the facilities that we have in the Township; and everyone is chipping in. He stated he understands that there are people who chose not to participate, and everyone picks and chooses where they want to invest their dollars and time.

Mr. Krauss stated the Park & Recreation Board made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, and they will be voting on it at their next meeting.

Ms. Tierney stated she did a lot of research as she had heard a number of comments. She stated she reached out to Bucks County Area on Aging and others. She stated Bucks County Area on Aging has thirteen Senior Centers and only one Senior Center per School District.

Mr. Burkhardt stated that is incorrect. He stated there are two Senior Centers in the Neshaminy School District. Ms. Tierney asked if they are both funded by the County, and Mr. Burkhardt stated they are. Ms. Tierney stated she will look into that. Mr. Burkhardt stated they are listed on the brochure as a Senior Center that is supported by the Bucks County Area on Agency.

Ms. Tierney stated our Center is also listed on there; however, Mr. Burkhardt stated it is not.

Mr. Burkhardt stated after they had their last Meet and Greet Meeting with a representative from the County, in looking at the Senior Center list, Lower Makefield was not listed. He stated he called the Agency and asked why the Lower Makefield Senior Group was not listed on the list, and he was advised by the Agency that Lower Makefield Township had not contracted with the Agency to provide services. He asked what they needed to do to get involved, and he was directed to the State Department on Aging, and he is still trying to find out what the requirements are to get included in the program.

Ms. Tierney stated she spoke to the same person Mr. Burkhardt spoke to as she was told by the individual that she spoke to that a gentleman from Lower Makefield Township had spoken to her already. Ms. Tierney stated there are thirteen Senior Centers and not every School District has one. She stated socio-economic status has something to do with how they do placement and funding and lower socio-economic areas get more funding with higher socio-economic areas getting less funding. She stated you have to be a Certified/Accredited Senior Center in order to receive State and County funding. Ms. Tierney stated Lower Makefield does not have that. She stated when we applied for a Grant in 2010 to get a Senior Center, we were denied because we were not selected as an official site for a Senior Center for those reasons. She stated that is why we are not funded, and we have taxed-based support from Lower Makefield Township. She stated any Senior in the County can use any of the thirteen County Senior Centers. She stated they have meals, programming, different types of trips, and they have ample funding. She stated Lower Makefield elected to go a different route. She stated there is some tax supplementation.



Ms. Tierney stated the Parks & Recreation Department does operate out of the Community Center, and in 2023, including staffing, \$41,329 of millage is going to the Community Center. She stated after Fee increases to everything across the board in 2024, tax millage will go to \$22,783 including staffing.

Ms. Tierney stated she provided a graphic for the Board, and she provided this to the Seniors this evening as well.

Mr. Burkhardt stated as he discussed earlier with Ms. Tierney, they did not have an opportunity to review the spread sheet prior to the meeting; and he would like to have the opportunity to look at it and do their own analysis as to the hours that are used.

Mr. Krauss stated the Board of Supervisors will be voting on this next Wednesday, and he would recommend that Mr. Burkhardt review the numbers and attend the Board of Supervisors meeting. He stated the Park & Recreation Board is an Advisory Board, and they provided their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in November. He stated the Board of Supervisors makes the ultimate decision.

Ms. Hammill asked if the Park & Recreation Board is still recommending the \$60 and \$30 to the Board of Supervisors, and Mr. Krauss stated that is what the Park & Recreation Board voted on for User Fees for all User Groups – \$30 for residents and \$60 for non-residents.

Mr. Burkhardt noted the Summer Camp staff training, free programming, and public meetings; and he asked if those Fees are also being increased the same percentage of the Seniors Fees. Mr. Krauss stated there are different Fee structure changes based on the different activities. He stated Summer Camp had a different rate change because they had different increases over the last few years, and they have only been in existence for three years. Ms. Tierney stated part of that was also covering costs. She stated every User Group covers costs.

Mr. Burkhardt stated he has not had time to review this. He stated in the calculation of the percentage of active time and use, there is nothing shown that includes the Office use and space by the Parks & Recreation Department and their total hours of use of the building. Mr. Krauss stated facility costs are shown, and Ms. Tierney has taken out 25% of those costs. Ms. Tierney stated she also did not calculate in the full-time use that the Seniors have of

the one classroom. She stated that room is dedicated to the Seniors, and we cannot use that in the same way as the other rooms. Mr. Krauss stated the cost to run the facility is \$50,000, and Ms. Tierney has taken out 25% of that cost.

Mr. Burkhardt stated the whole projection is based upon the total operating costs for the Community Center, and Mr. Krauss stated 25% came off the top to cover the overhead for the staff that works there every day. Mr. Burkhardt stated the staff is there 40 hours a week, 52 weeks out of the year which is a lot more hours than what the Seniors are there. Ms. Tierney stated there is a whole room dedicated to the Seniors, and they are not taking a percentage off for that. Mr. Krauss stated the Seniors have a permanent room in the Community Center that is not available to any other User Group; and that is Revenue that could be generated but is not because that room is just for the Seniors.

Mr. Burkhardt stated he could look at that as a percentage of the total space as opposed to saying it is a room that cannot be used, and he asked if that is an appropriate way to look at allocation of costs. Mr. Krauss stated that is not the only room they use, and Ms. Tierney stated they use all of the rooms, but they have that one room that no one else can go in and use. Ms. Tierney stated the only time they go in there is if they are cleaning it for the Seniors or setting it up or taking it down. She stated there are people coming in playing cards all of the time, and that room is open to the Seniors when they wish. Mr. Burkhardt stated he will look into that further as he would not characterize that as “all the time.” Mr. Krauss stated if that room is not being occupied, it is not counted in the hours. Ms. Tierney stated she does not book other users in that room at all. Mr. Krauss stated the 1,722 hours being shown are active hours in the Community Center. Ms. Tierney stated those are hours that are on the calendar.

Mr. Burkhardt stated at 1,722 hours per year, it would indicate that they are using in excess of 30 hours a week in the building. He stated he would like to look into that to see if that was the case. Mr. Krauss stated if they have any questions, they should reach out to Ms. Tierney. Ms. Hammill stated it seems a little excessive, but she has not looked at it either so it is something that they will have to go over.

Ms. Tierney noted Fridays as an example, and she stated they are there three to four hours for bridge so that would be sixteen hours a month just for Fridays.

Mr. Brody stated he does not believe the rate was increased based on it being used 700 hours versus 800 hours. He stated the Township and the Park & Rec Board is faced with a problem of too many resources and not enough funds to cover those resources. He stated we had no choice but to raise costs across the board. He stated looking at the monies collected by the different groups of residents, everyone pays taxes based on their property. He stated we had no choice but to find areas where we felt we were offering a product where we could collect more. He stated he felt that this was the proper increase across the board. He stated there are thousands of families paying User Fees multiple times whereas the Seniors have 300 to 400 people paying the Fee once a year. He stated the Park & Rec Department has a shortfall that we need to tackle, and the Park & Rec Board felt strongly that everyone needs to do their part.

Mr. Burkhardt stated the Seniors group is not part of the Parks & Rec operation. He stated he understands that there are costs associated with the operations of the parks and rec functions, but the Seniors are not one of those. He stated Parks & Rec does not provide any programming to the Seniors. He stated the Township allows the Seniors to use one of the public buildings for their meetings. He stated this is no different from people coming to use the Library or when they walk into a park. He asked if they are looking for users to pay for this, what is their plan to charge people who decide they want to walk in a park.

Mr. Krauss asked if the Baseball Leagues which groom the fields, provide the uniforms, hire the umpires, and have volunteer coaches should not pay the Township a User Fee for use of the fields. He stated while the Township cuts the grass, they do not run the Baseball Leagues, do not provide uniforms or equipment, and do not hire the umpires or coaches. He asked if all of those playing baseball or soccer should not pay a User Fee for use of the fields. Mr. Krauss stated Mr. Burkhardt is stating that the Seniors should not have to pay a User Fee because the Park & Rec Department does not provide them with any programming.

Mr. Burkhardt stated he was not saying that at all, and what he was thinking was if the Township did not have the ballfields, there would not be that expense. He stated it makes sense for the people who are using the fields, the Leagues, to pay the User Fee to have those available. He stated if the Seniors are not in the building, there are still going to be expenses for the operation of the building. Mr. Krauss stated while the Township is not considering this, if they wanted to use the room that is currently dedicated for the Seniors, the Seniors would have to compete with other User Groups for that space, and the Seniors may have to go elsewhere to rent space.

He stated there is give and take in terms of understanding that while it is a Community Center, the Seniors have a dedicated room. He stated looking at the rate for a Senior resident it is \$4.25 a month.

Mr. Krauss stated he feels that we are trying to work with the Seniors as a group, and Ms. Tierney is trying to be transparent so that they have a good understanding of the costs and what the subsidies are. He stated they have also indicated that it is not just one group that was being charged a higher rate, and every User Group saw an increase. Mr. Krauss stated the Board took this very seriously and their meeting lasted over four hours when the Fees were considered.

Mr. Burkhardt asked if the Seniors room was available for other uses when the Seniors were not using it would that alter the approach. Ms. Tierney stated while it potentially could, there are Seniors that go in during gap hours throughout the day and play cards, etc. She stated while Seniors use that room during open time, it was not accounted for in the number. She stated the hours with regard to use which were provided also did not include the time it takes for set up or tear down.

Mr. Burkhardt stated if there was a group who wanted to come in and use part of the Township Building for a meeting would they be charged. He also asked if there was a group that wanted to use a room at the Library would they be charged. Ms. Tierney stated she cannot speak to how the Township does reservations now at the Township Building. She stated she does not believe that there is a Fee for it, but it is used for the Township Board meetings, Police training, and Township staff meetings.

Mr. Krauss stated the Township Building is different from the Community Center which falls under the Park & Recreation Department. Mr. Coyle stated the Library is run by the County and not the Township, and he is not certain what their policies are.

Ms. Rock stated she has held seminars in the Library, and she has paid \$75 for two hours.

Mr. Burkhardt asked if they could take up the request to change the Fee since there is now a quorum. There was no Motion made at this time. Ms. Hammill asked if that means they are sticking with the \$60/\$30, and Mr. Krauss stated their original recommendation stands. He stated as he had indicated earlier, they could go to the Board of Supervisors.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

##### Approval of Fees (continued)

Ms. Tierney stated there were some Fees which were not discussed at the last meeting, and they have been included in the Fee Schedule to go before the Board of Supervisors on December 20. She stated the Board could vote on these as a whole if they wish.

Ms. Tierney stated for bounced checks, the Fee is currently \$15, and they are looking to increase that to \$25 since it results in a lot of staff time when a check bounces. She stated she was not able to find when this was changed last.

Ms. Tierney stated key fob replacement also results in a lot of staff time. Currently the charge is \$5 for a key fob replacement, and she is looking to increase that to \$10.

Ms. Tierney stated with regard to for-profit Vendor Fees, which were \$75 a day, she is looking to turn that into a sliding scale based on the size of the event. She stated they would also charge more for a food truck versus a table vendor.

Ms. Tierney stated she is looking to increase lights to \$20 an hour from \$18 an hour, adding that has not been increased for some time.

Ms. Tierney stated costs have gone up for the benches as have staff salaries, so the fee for the Bench Donation Program is going up but the amount being charged is just to break even.

Mr. Wysocki moved, Ms. Rock seconded and it was unanimously carried to accept the changes to the Fees as proposed.

### Pool Fees

Ms. Tierney stated some of the Pool Fees were not officially voted on at the prior meeting. She stated an increase is proposed for Swim Lessons to be \$55 for the first child and \$50 for each additional child, private swim lessons would be \$30, and semi-private lessons would be \$20. Ms. Tierney stated she believes that all of the Fees went up \$5. Ms. Rock asked what are considered just Swim Lessons, and Ms. Tierney stated those are group lessons over a course of six weeks.

Ms. Tierney stated with regard to the Pool pavilion, she is asking that we match the other pavilion recommendation that was made so that the Pool pavilion Fee is in line with the Park pavilion Fee.

Ms. Tierney stated she is looking to increase the Swim Team Fees a small percentage to cover the increased staff costs. Ms. Tierney stated it was \$6,000, and Mr. Wysocki suggested that the new Fee be \$6,400 so it is a round number.

Mr. Wysocki moved, Ms. Rock seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend the Pool Fees as recommended with the change to \$6,400 for the Swim Team Fees.

### Projects

Ms. Tierney stated they are done with the background and focus groups with regard to the Macclesfield Park project, and she is looking to start having presentations in January to the Park & Recreation Board, public meetings, and eventually a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. She stated she has some Meeting Minutes to put on the Website, and she is waiting on one from the vendor. Ms. Tierney stated some of the recommendations from the Seniors matched some of the recommendations from the teenagers. She stated they both wanted more shade and to feel more connected to the Park as they do not feel there are things for them to do there.

Ms. Tierney stated they recognize that there will have to be a reduction in use as Macclesfield Park is over-utilized. She stated the Committee looked at every parcel and every opportunity to try to amend that; and it looks like we will have to make some strong considerations for amendments in other locations in the Township to prepare in order to make enough room at Macclesfield Park to do any kind of amendments and have traffic control.

Ms. Tierney stated she was waiting for the Board's January schedule to come out before picking a date, and the goal is to provide a thirty-day advertising time; and even though that is not required, she would like to give thirty-days' notice for a public meeting. Ms. Tierney stated they did wait since Mr. Weiss had departed, and they were waiting for the new Supervisor to come on board in January; and they wanted to give the full Board of Supervisors the opportunity to make a decision that would be more long-lasting and more capable of implementation.

### Summer Planning

Ms. Tierney stated our Program Manager got a job in Middletown Township. A big part of her job was Summer Camp, and we will start to do staffing in January and plan out Summer Camp. She stated she hopes to have someone on board soon. She stated that position was budgeted in.

Ms. Tierney stated we will start planning for the Pool, and we have already done a lot of the planning through the Budget process. She stated Registration will be open in January and we will also start hiring staff. She stated we hire about 120 to 130 staff for the summer and then training starts.

Ms. Tierney stated one of the biggest complaints at the Pool last year was that when there were guests and it rains, we did not provide refunds; and we are looking at that process. She stated they are also looking at adjusting our weather policies to make it clearer as to when and why we close so that the staff understands that and is able to communicate that to the public when that happens.

Mr. Krauss asked if the Guest Passes are digital/electronic. Ms. Tierney stated if people buy a packet or a pass at the door, we are not advanced enough right now to do that digitally.

Mr. Brody asked if they will be able to hire a replacement for the individual who left since there were discussions about replacements when the Board of Supervisors was discussing the Budget. Ms. Tierney stated that position is not part of the General Millage, and it is part of the Park & Rec Millage. She stated it also supports itself in that it makes \$250,000 from Summer Camp and \$100,000 in Revenue for the Programming. She stated it was approved in the Preliminary Budget, and hopefully it will be approved in the Final Budget. Ms. Tierney

stated she does not feel we would be able to sustain some of the programming that we have without that person, and it could involve a discussion whether we would have to cancel Summer Camp.

Mr. Brody stated that the Board of Supervisors voted to not have Community Day. Ms. Tierney stated Community Day for 2024 is canceled, and it is not part of the Preliminary Budget. She stated the staff is going to consider finding an event that would be more “cost-friendly” or come up with more sponsorship ideas to try to cover more of the costs. Mr. Brody stated we may want to consider some kind of unique charity event that could bring the community together in a fun way. Mr. Wysocki asked Ms. Tierney if she is saying that if they can find a creative way to get it funded that Community Day could be re-established for 2024. Ms. Tierney stated she does not feel we could do that for 2024 since Community Day takes a year of planning.

Ms. Rock asked if there was any consideration given to having sponsorships to just keep the fireworks. Ms. Tierney stated the fireworks cost about \$15,000. Ms. Rock stated there might be a group of sponsors who would be willing to contribute to this. She stated she knows that people do like the fireworks. Mr. Krauss stated possibly that could be pursued in the interim while they consider what a new Community Day or some other event might look like. Mr. Wysocki stated there are new businesses coming into the community who may want to be involved with this.

Mr. Coyle stated there was discussion about Community Day in that it is really two days in one with some people coming during the day enjoying the vendors, etc., and then they leave, and there is a dead spot in the middle before people come for the fireworks in the evening.

Mr. Coyle thanked the Park & Recreation Board on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for the work that they did on the Fee Structure adding that the detailed process was appreciated and made the Board of Supervisors’ job on the larger Budget much easier. He stated of all of the volunteer Boards and Commissions that serve the Township, the Park & Recreation Board is one of the few that has a strong and direct impact on the financial bottom line; and he thanked the Board for everything they put into this.



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There being no further business, Mr. Brody moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary