

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – AUGUST 11, 2026

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on August 11, 2026. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order. He welcomed new members Abbey Yeatts and Mark Paroly, and he thanked Rob LaBar for his service on the Board over the years.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: Douglas Krauss, Chair
 Michael Brody, Vice Chair
 Kim Rock, Secretary
 Mark Paroly, Member
 Abbey Yeatts, Member

Others: Lynn Todd, Operations Manager
 Rob Vandegrift, Program Manager

Absent: Mike Blundi, Park & Recreation Board Member
 Judi Reiss, Supervisor Liaison

1. Deferral of Minutes

Due to lack of a quorum able to vote on the Minutes of June 9, 2026, they were deferred at this time.

2. Eagle Scout Presentation

a. Shaurya Patel – Five Mile Woods Construction

Shaurya Patel explained his project which includes creating a new ADA-compliant boardwalk at the Five Mile Woods Preserve. The boardwalk will be raised 6” to 10” above the ground to improve longevity and allow small animals to pass through. The second component of the project involves overtopping existing boardwalks with composite materials for slip resistance. The third component involves preparing materials for future boardwalk construction.

Mr. Krauss asked for a map/diagram to show the current and future boardwalk projects.

Mr. Patel and Mr. John Heilferty, Township Naturalist, discussed the design and safety measures of the boardwalk including the use of paver stones and composite materials.

Mr. Paroly asked about potential closures during construction, and Mr. Heilferty explained that there should be limited disruptions and that a short detour will allow the public to still utilize the ground on workdays.

Mr. Heilferty clarified the overtopping process and its benefits for existing boardwalks.

The Board discussed the importance of a map to keep the community informed about ongoing and future projects.

Mr. Paroly asked about the experience of the volunteers, and Mr. Patel explained his background in working with his family on various projects.

Mr. Paroly moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the project.

3. Liaison Reports

There was no one present to provide a Liaison Report.

4. Future Capital Project Discussion

Mr. Krauss discussed the need for feedback on prioritizing Capital Projects for the upcoming Budget season. Mr. Vandegrift provided updates on various Capital Projects. The Board discussed the need for a clear plan to prioritize projects based on their importance and feasibility.

Mr. Brody asked about the possibility of getting guidance on Budget expectations from the Township Manager and Director of Public Works.

Parks & Recreation agreed to send out another e-mail requesting feedback on prioritizing the Capital Projects.

5. Park & Recreation Report

a. Capital Project Updates

Mr. Vandegrift provided updates on various Capital Projects including Revere tennis courts, Memorial Park, and Community Park tennis courts.

b. Pool Updates

Ms. Todd provided updates on the Pool's operations including the end of season, membership numbers, and revenue.

The Board discussed the impact of discounts on revenue, and the need for a clear plan to balance affordability and sustainability.

Ms. Todd mentioned the decline in swim lesson registrations and the possibility of opening morning lessons to non-members.

The Board discussed the importance of special events like Tween nights and the need for better communication with other organizations using the Pool.

c. Special Event Updates

Ms. Todd provided an update on the 9/22 special event progress

Mr. Vandegrift provided updates on special events including the Halloween Monster Mash, holiday party, color run, and Veterans' Parade.

6. Public Comment

Ms. Rebecca Kelly, Randolph Drive, stated she has been a Pool member for twenty-four years. She expressed concern about the long-term plan for the

Pool and the need for the Township to commit to its future. She suggested exploring partnerships and new revenue streams to support the Pool.

Ms. Beth Ann Menard, Township resident and Pool member since 1981 and Ms. Madeline Gilmore, Township resident, Pool member, and Pool staff member, shared their personal experiences and the importance of the Pool for the community.

Ms. Carolyn Forsina, Washington Crossing resident and twenty-six year Pool member, emphasized the Pool's role in advancing population health and promoting connections within the community.

Mr. Bob Heinz asked about and was provided information about the Garden of Reflection Run.

Ms. Carolyn Joniak stated she has been a Pool member since 1999, and she discussed her experiences at the Pool and the positive impact it has on her mental health.

Board members expressed their support for the Pool and the need for a comprehensive plan to ensure its sustainability. They discussed the need for a Committee to work on a plan to support the Pool and address community concerns. A three-year plan was suggested to prioritize projects. It was noted that the current membership of 6,000 is less than 20% of the Township's population. Mr. Krauss questioned what success looks like and if there would be a target of 10,000 members. He noted the need to understand the capacity of the Pool which is limited by the Fire Department's regulations. He stated they could go back to the Board of Supervisor to clarify a Plan and what success looks like.

With regard to forming a Committee, Ms. Todd suggested checking with the Board of Supervisors as they are the ones making the decisions; and she could check about the possibility of forming a Committee.

Ms. Kelly expressed a desire to be proactive and form a Committee to address the issues. She also highlighted the need for better communication about issues like the broken heater, which was not communicated to members. She stressed the importance of communication and transparency suggesting that emails could inform members about issues. She also suggested bringing the community together to figure out solutions and mentioned her willingness to offer her services and connections including Capital Health in the discussions

to support the Pool emphasizing its importance to the community's health. Ms. Kelly proposed cost-effective ideas to bring in partners and resources to help close the gap from discounts.

Mr. Krauss acknowledged the need for better communication and understanding the demographics of the Township. Mr. Krauss and Ms. Kelly discussed the importance of special events and community activities to attract and retain members. Ms. Kelly shared memories of past events and their significance in making the Pool a community hub.

Mr. Krauss emphasized the need to understand why people are not joining or returning to the Pool.

Ms. Anke Stiglitz stated she has been here thirty-six years. She asked how to get the Pool issue before the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Krauss explained the process of submitting a proposal to the Board of Supervisors. He suggesting going to open Public Comment sessions.

Mr. Krauss addressed rumors about closing the Pool and clarified that no such decision has been made.

Mr. Paroly emphasized the importance of listening to residents and soliciting their input.

Mr. Vandegrift emphasized the need to move forward and not rehash past issues.

Ms. Menard stated they recognize that there is a capacity at the Pool; and in the past there was a wait list, which is why the lap pool was built in 1995.

Ms. Gilmore shared observations about other pools which have better relationships with their Swim Teams, and she suggested improving communication and community involvement at the Pool. She noted the importance of the snack stand being open more often and suggested reaching out to the vendor in charge. Ms. Todd explained that the snack stand vendor lets them know if they are not going to be open, and they are not open in bad weather. She added that the Swim Team is a League and pays to be at the Pool.

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Ms. Gilmore stated she feels that there should be more interaction between the Swim Team, lifeguards, and the community to create a more cohesive and engaging environment.

There being no further business, Mr. Krauss moved, Mr. Paroly seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary