

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2008

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on December 9, 2008. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman
 Henry Carpenter, Vice Chairman
 Patricia Bunn, Secretary
 David Gordon, Member
 Dennis Wysocki, Member (joined meeting in progress)

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager
 Donna Liney, Recreation Director

Absent: Fran McDonald, Park & Rec Member
 Andrew Newbon, Park & Rec Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Carpenter moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of October 14, 2008 as written.

UPDATE ON PARK & RECREATION 2009 OPERATING BUDGET & CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mr. Fedorchak stated the Budget will be voted on by the Board of Supervisors on December 17. There is a very slight tax increase of ¼ mil that will generate an additional \$125,000 revenue which will be applied to the Fire Fund. He stated the Volunteer Fire Company has not received an increase in seven years, and they need this increase to cover maintenance and operation expenses. Ms. Bunn asked if they are accountable for proving how they are spending this, and Mr. Fedorchak stated they are and have an audit performed each year which is submitted to and reviewed by the Township.

Mr. Fedorchak stated operating funds are essentially the same for 2009 as they were for 2008. He stated no capital funds have been set aside for Park expansions or improvements of any consequence. He stated this was discussed at the Budget meetings when Park & Rec representatives were present. He stated it had been discussed that

\$2.5 million would be needed to develop the Snipes Tract and a similar amount would be needed for completion of Memorial Park. Mr. Fedorchak stated the only way to do this would be to borrow \$5 million if they wanted to proceed on these projects. He stated for this amount the Township would have to pay approximately \$400,000 in debt service on a bond issue for twenty-five years. He stated this would require raising taxes by approximately 1 mill. He stated this was discussed at the Budget work sessions. He stated it is not possible to accomplish this within the Operation Budgets.

Mr. Carpenter asked if there are any other major capital projects being considered outside of Park & Rec. Mr. Fedorchak stated on a related note there is the Open Space Acquisition Referendum which was approved by the voters; and at some point the Township will hopefully be buying land, and will be spending millions and having to float bonds to cover those costs.

Mr. Wysocki joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Fedorchak stated they did receive news that the Grant which they put together approximately three months ago to construct Phase II of Memorial Park which was the tennis courts, some trails, expanding the roadway system and parking lots at a cost of \$800,000, 50% of which would be from the Grant, was not approved by the State. He stated it is becoming more and more difficult at the State level to obtain funds. Ms. Liney stated Mr. Majewski indicated that most of the projects which were funded were acquisitions.

Mr. Gordon asked if the softball field was completed, and it was noted it should be completed shortly and this was funded from the Capital Reserves in the amount of \$80,000.

Mr. Fritchey stated in the packet they received notice from the DCNR that if they had any questions why the Application was not funded or would like assistance for the next Grant round, they should contact the Regional Recreation & Park Advisor. He asked if they should contact that person. Mr. Fedorchak agreed to contact them. He added they typically post on their Website a list of the successful Applicants.

Mr. Gordon asked about the Pool project, and Mr. Fedorchak stated they did bid the project out and it came in too high; and there was a similar result with the re-bid. He stated it was more than a quarter million more than what the architect has projected it would be. He stated a decision was made to table the project at this time.

Mr. Wysocki asked if it would have been possible to complete the project in time for the start of the season, and Mr. Fedorchak stated if the second round of bids had come in a lot lower, he feels they could have completed the project for next year possibly delaying opening the Pool a week to ten days. Mr. Fedorchak stated had they decided to proceed, they would have had to float a bond and the debt service would have come from the Pool.

Mr. Gordon asked if they considered doing a smaller project and he feels the most important component was the tot pool which would have been the less expensive part of the project. Mr. Fritchey stated Wallover had indicated that this would have been too small a project to attract any bidders. Ms. Bunn stated given the economy possibly contractors would be willing to bid that job to get some work. Mr. Fedorchak stated he feels it would be best to get someone else to look into this project, and they would have to reach out to another engineer or architect who is experienced in pool construction.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the Pool Membership is expecting something to be done, and Mr. Gordon stated he and Ms. Liney have discussed this. He stated on Community Pride Day they had a table set up and told those present about this project which they felt was going to proceed. Mr. Gordon stated he feels a letter should be sent out as part of the Pool Membership packet advising about the status of the project. Mr. Fedorchak stated the Board of Supervisors did want this to proceed which is why they put it out to bid again, and he agrees the Membership should be advised of what happened and feels they will be understanding.

Ms. Bunn asked if they were to bid the projects again and make it clear that bidders could bid on either portion or both, would there be enough time for the upcoming season; and Mr. Fedorchak stated there would not be sufficient time. Mr. Gordon stated he feels there would be time to do a September/October project that would be ready for the 2010 season, and Mr. Fedorchak agreed.

Mr. Gordon asked if the restroom project went through, and Ms. Liney stated they are doing that in-house. This project will be ready for the opening of the pool season.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated the Board of Supervisors have scheduled Wednesday, December 17th for adoption of the 2009 Township Operating Budget. She thanked Park Board members Dave Fritchey, Henry Carpenter, and Fran McDonald for taking the time to participate in the Budget process.

Ms. Liney stated Building Restoration, the general contractor for the Garden of Reflection, has requested final payment and project closeout. The Township is working with the Garden of Reflection Committee to insure all punch list items are completed and compliant prior to signing off on this project.

Ms. Liney stated the Township recently attended the Annual Lower Makefield Seniors Holiday Luncheon. With the growing senior population in the Township, this is a key organization in the community. The seniors had a great turnout and the Township was able to recognize the senior volunteer efforts by presenting approximately twenty thank-you gifts for service which the seniors appreciated.

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Ms. Liney thanked the Park Board members for their continued support of the Park and Recreation function in the Township and added she looks forward to a successful year in 2009.

She noted the first Park & Recreation Board meeting for 2009 is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Fedorchak noted the Garden of Reflection project and reminded the Board that this project was four years in the making with the Dedication taking place approximately two years ago; and they have not quite closed out the project yet. He stated discussions are currently taking place with the Garden of Reflection Committee. He stated there is an outstanding problem with the electrical system, and he has brought out DGW which is the same company that took care of the problem at Macclesfield Park. He stated DGW is currently trouble-shooting the entire electrical system. He stated a final report has not yet been completed, but it seems that it will not be a huge problem; and he hopes that the final cost to fix this will be between \$25,000 to \$30,000 which is what he intends to keep as a retainage from the main contractor so there will be something to negotiate with. Mr. Fedorchak stated he anticipates this issue will be resolved over the next three months, well in advance of the opening of the Memorial in April.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary