

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – OCTOBER 14, 2008

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on October 14, 2008. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman
 Henry Carpenter, Vice Chairman
 David Gordon, Member
 Henry Newbon, Member
 Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Donna Liney, Recreation Director

Absent: Patricia Bunn, Park & Rec Secretary
 Fran McDonald, Park & Rec Member
 Steve Santarsiero, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Gordon seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2008 as amended.

APPROVE RECOMMENDATION TO NAME EDGEWOOD VILLAGE PARK
VETERANS SQUARE AND LOCATE PROPOSED MEMORIAL IN VETERANS
SQUARE

Mr. Kevin Treiber of the Veterans Committee was present with Jennifer Dunckley of the Veterans Committee. Mr. Treiber stated the Mission of the Veterans Committee is to honor and serve the Veterans of the community through remembrance, service, and outreach; to act as liaison between the community, Veterans, and Veterans' organizations, and the Township and to work to insure that as a community they never forget the sacrifices made by the Veterans.

Mr. Treiber showed a picture of the Memorial erected following World War II which was previously in the Woodside area but was removed at some point in the 1950s although no one is sure why it was removed. Mr. Treiber stated now that the Township has grown, there are more people who have served living in the Township. Pictures of other Memorials throughout the Country were shown.

Mr. Treiber stated they considered a number of locations for a Veterans Memorial including Memorial Park. He stated while this is a beautiful park, the Garden of Reflection is located there and they did not want to tread on the meaning of that Park. They also considered a location somewhere near the Municipal Building. He stated what is known as “pocket park” is the ending point of the Veterans Day Parade, and is the area where the Farmers’ Market is currently held. It is also in the area where the original Honor Roll was. He stated since Edgewood Village is planned to eventually be a “Town Center,” they felt this would be a good location for the Memorial. An aerial map of this area was shown. He stated this location has great visibility from the street and a lot of traffic goes by this area. He stated they feel it is an ideal location because it has the ability to hold the Veterans Day Parade ceremonies, and is a functional space which could be used for other community functions as well.

Mr. Gordon asked about parking for this area, and Mr. Treiber stated there is the ability to park on the left side of the site, and Ms. Liney stated there are 60 temporary spaces which were lined by the Park crew for the Farmers’ Market. The area is gravel and not paved. Mr. Treiber stated they may be able to try to raise funds to have the area paved. It was noted that Woodside Church has also accepted overflow parking on Farmers’ Market days, and the Township has a good working relationship with them. Mr. Treiber stated they did park in that area during the last Veterans Day Parade. Mr. Newbon stated he feels during special events, parking could be an issue, but day-to-day, he does not feel there would be a problem with parking at this proposed location.

Mr. Treiber stated the Veterans Committee did corroborate with other community committees and organizations, and there was no objection to having a Memorial in “pocket park.” The Supervisors are aware of these considerations and the Committee plans to present this to them at their meeting tomorrow evening.

Mr. Fritchey asked if they have a design concept for the actual Memorial, and Mr. Treiber stated they are still considering the design. He showed on the overhead the location they are considering for locating the Memorial on the site. He stated they have discussed a walkway around the outer edge of the Memorial. The intention would be to keep the inside of the Park open for uses such as the Farmers’ Market. He stated they felt it was important to keep this Park available for community use and would like it to be an area for the community to gather so that those at the Park would then be able to see the Memorial as well. Mr. Treiber stated they are not considering a Memorial the size of the Garden of Reflection. He stated on the Monument they are considering two general sections one to be a memorial area recognizing people who were killed in action, missing in action, prisoners of war, and those who died in the line of duty; and the other to be a commemoration area to commemorate those Veterans who are still living or who died after discharge. They expect the memorial will grow in phases and they will be undertake the financing of the memorial through fundraising and donations. They are working with the Township on starting a 501C(3). They envision no taxpayer burden.

Inaugural names include re-posting of the names which were on the original Honor Roll as well as Sgt. Dunkley, who was a Lower Makefield Township resident when he died in Iraq. Names are to be submitted by citizens and family members as opposed to being sought by the Veterans Committee. Notations in the memorial area will include, name, rank, branch of service, and action in which they were involved. All branches of service will be reorganized. They will also welcome inclusion of Yardley Borough citizens. Township residency requirements were reviewed. Elements they have discussed for the design of the monument include a low wall, seals of the various Forces, a flagpole, columns, and pictures/symbols.

Mr. Treiber stated if approved, they would like to announce the naming of the “pocket park” to Veterans Square during the ceremony at the conclusion of this year’s Veteran’s Day Parade, and he showed a picture of the proposed sign they would like to erect and unveil at that ceremony. Mr. Treiber stated they feel Veterans Square would be a place for the community to gather, a place to remember, and a place to celebrate.

Ms. Liney noted there are no utilities at that site so they would have to bring in utilities if needed.

Mr. Carpenter moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors naming the Township’s Edgewood Village Park, Veterans Square and to approve this location for a memorial in Veterans Square.

Mr. Gordon asked if they have an estimate on the cost, and Mr. Treiber stated they have no prices at this time. He stated they were considering engraved bricks which could be purchased for the walkway which would help with fundraising. Mr. Gordon stated they should consider future maintenance costs, and Mr. Treiber stated they were thinking of reaching out to the Scouts to do simple maintenance.

Mr. Fritchey stated if they are going to have people submit names, they should recognize that this will be a continual process; and if they are going to do bricks, it would probably be easier than carving names in granite. He stated he feels there should be specific criteria that could be researched through military records. Mr. Treiber stated they are establishing specific criteria. He stated the criteria for being engraved on a small wall or on granite would be those who died during their service or who were missing in action. Mr. Carpenter also suggested that they establish a deadline to be included in certain phases.

Mr. Treiber stated they have established a website: LMTMemorial.org. and the criteria could be placed on the Website.

Mr. Christopher Desmond joined the meeting at this time and stated early on they will set a deadline for name submissions for the Memorial section and will also solicit reasonable suggestions for features and accoutrements to both the Memorial and Commemorative Section.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney reported the Township project of replacing the stadium lights at the Community Park softball field, tennis courts, and basketball court is completed. The lights have been tested, inspected and are now fully operational. The control link sunset system is functioning well and we have received positive feedback from a number of users regarding both the improved quality of the lighting at the complex as well as the convenience of having push buttons to activate. Also this has eliminated a potential safety issue with the original poles.

Ms. Liney stated the Yardley Makefield Soccer Club hosted another overwhelmingly successful event this past weekend with the annual YMS Columbus Day soccer tournament featuring over 322 teams, with 5,000 participants and another 5,000 spectators from all areas of the Country in attendance. She stated a tournament of this magnitude requires a high level of coordination from the many volunteers, and she thanked them on behalf of the Township.

Ms. Liney stated Park and Recreation is working with the fall user groups in promoting adherence to the Township Park rules and regulations as it relates to parking on the grass at Macclesfield Park.

Ms. Liney stated Park and Recreation has been monitoring water loss in the Olympic pool. Corrective action has been taken to resolve the problem and repairs should be underway in the next thirty days and will not impact the winterization of that pool. Also planned for the next several months will be the installation of ventilation in the Community Pool rear restroom, as well as some cosmetic upgrades in that building.

Ms. Liney stated the Township had a productive meeting with representatives of the Community Pool Swim and Dive Team on October 2. The meeting will result in some minor changes in the administrative process effective immediately, and allow Swim Team revenues to now pass directly through the Township. She acknowledged the efforts of Park Board member, Dave Gordon, in helping to facilitate these changes which will benefit both the Township and the Swim Team.

Ms. Liney stated the Township is continuing to work with provider, Capturepoint toward e-commerce payment ability for the Community Pool members. This feature should be available for 2009.

Ms. Liney stated initial drafts of the 2009 Operating Budgets for both Park & Recreation and the Community Pool are under review by the Finance Department. The Board of Supervisors will be scheduling their Budget meetings in the next several weeks.

Ms. Liney stated the Park & Recreation proposed 2009 Budget is consistent with the 2008 Budget as far as revenues and expenditures. Funds have been allocated for Phase II at Memorial Park for 2009. The Community Pool Budget is a proprietary Budget with a cash balance and no tax dollars support the Pool. It is funded by membership fees. Facility maintenance issues, personnel, insurance, equipment, sanitation, and chemicals all comprise the Budget picture for the Pool, which does include a proposed 5% increase in membership fees for 2009. Membership fees have not increased for the past 12 years to join the Pool.

Ms. Liney stated a preliminary inspection by DGW Electrical Engineering on October 8, 2008, recommends a temporary disconnect of power to the Garden of Reflection. DGW Electrical Engineering will conduct a more thorough review and report by the end of October.

Mr. Wysocki asked if there is any other Park development proposed for 2009 other than Phase II at Memorial Park, and Ms. Liney stated that is the only project proposed at this time. The softball field at Memorial Park should be completed this year.

There being no further business, Mr. Newbon moved, Mr. Carpenter seconded and it was unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Fritchey, Chairman