

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

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on September 9, 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  
  Patricia Bunn, Secretary (joined meeting in progress)  
  David Gordon, Member  
  Frank McDonald, Member  
  Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others:                             Donna Liney, Recreation Director  
  Steve Santarsiero, Supervisor Liaison

Absent:                             Andrew Newbon, Park & Rec Member

**PRESENTATION OF COMPLETED EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT AT MEMORIAL PARK**

Mr. Ryan Jones was present and stated for his Eagle Scout Project he worked on the Mathias Weisner farmhouse foundation at Memorial Park. He reviewed the history of the property dating back to the late 1700's to its current use as Memorial Park. He stated his project was to restore the footprint of the original farmhouse. He thanked Ms. Liney for her help with the project. Ms. Liney stated Mr. Jones has done a great job. She stated he has proposed to put a sign at the footprint of the house, a copy of which was provided to the Board this evening. She noted it may need some modifications. She stated in the original plan they did indicate they wanted to have a picnic area in this location along with a rendering of the original farmhouse. Mr. Jones stated he would like the sign to be on a 1/8" Plexiglas pane similar to those which are used in historic Newtown. Mr. Jones reviewed the work done during the restoration and the number of people who helped him with the project.

Ms. Bunn joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Fritchey thanked Mr. Jones on behalf of the Township and the Park & Recreation Board and stated this will add to the Park.

## RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated Park and Recreation was pleased to be part of another very successful Community Pride Day. The Township continues to build on the good will of the community pulling together in support of this fun event. The Township had a record turnout, generous sponsorship, and dedicated volunteer service. Over 6,500 people passed through the Community Pool alone. She thanked the Park & Recreation Board members who supported the event, Drew, Dennis, Frank, Dave, and Trish, and stated she is looking forward to 2009.

Ms. Liney stated Lucas Electric has begun installation of the lights at Community Park softball, tennis, and basketball facilities. The light standards have been installed and wire trenching which was scheduled for today, but interrupted due to the weather, will resume tomorrow. Project completion is targeted for the end of September.

Ms. Liney stated the construction of a softball field at Memorial Park is moving forward following the Board of Supervisors award of the low bid this month. This project has been planned for many years and will be a great addition to the Township park system.

Ms. Liney stated the Community Pool has ended another successful season. The Pool staff placed first and second in the year-ending Delaware Valley lifeguard competition in August. This competition includes 16 teams of lifeguards from Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia pools, who are evaluated by Red Cross staff based on proper execution of Red Cross life saving techniques, factoring in speed, safety, and accuracy. This is the second year in a row the LMT has entered two teams and has come in first place and second place.

Ms. Liney stated overall Pool membership levels are stable and comparable to 2007 with some categories showing a small increase and some a slight decrease. Revenues for membership fees exceeded the 2008 Budgeted amount by approximately \$1,400.00.

Ms. Liney stated Park and Recreation is currently involved in supporting a number of significant community events.

She stated the Garden of Reflection Committee is planning a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at Memorial Park on Thursday, 9/11 beginning at approximately 8:46 a.m. and continuing through the afternoon. Another upcoming event at Memorial Park will be the Annual Garden of Reflection 5K run to raise funds for maintenance of the Garden and will be held on Sunday, September 14.

Ms. Liney stated the ongoing Farmers Market at the Edgewood Village Park coordinated by the LMT EAC will feature a special craft event on Sunday, October 5 with a rain date of the following Sunday, October 12.

Ms. Liney stated Pennsbury Boys Varsity and JV soccer teams will again be playing at Macclesfield on Monday, October 6 and Wednesday, October 15, and the Township is delighted to be able to host these friendly rivalries. She stated the recent game against Council Rock North had over 800 members of the community in attendance. She stated Pennsbury High School supplied security inside the field and everything went well.

Ms. Liney stated the Yardley Makefield Soccer Club will be holding the annual Columbus Soccer tournament on Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 12 at various sites throughout the Township. This is one of the premier tournaments on the East Coast and promises some excellent soccer play.

Ms. Liney stated the Lower Makefield Seniors will be hosting the AARP discount driving course on October 24 in the Township Building. This course is open to all eligible seniors and does fill to capacity quickly.

Ms. Liney thanked all the user groups for the timely payment of the Spring user fees to the Township totaling more than \$58,000. Ms. Liney also extended her appreciation for the assistance of the user groups who have been doing a great job cooperating with field usage preceding the formal issuing of the Township Field Permits for the Fall season.

Mr. Fritchey asked if the user fees came in at the Budgeted amount; and Ms. Liney stated the Budgeted amount for the year was slightly less than \$100,000, and they will still be getting the user fees for the Fall.

Ms. Liney stated in the upcoming weeks Park & Recreation will be working on the initial drafts of the 2009 Operating Budgets for both Park & Recreation and the Community Pool. She stated the Township will be weighing several recommended projects versus costs to determine what direction to proceed in order to address the long and short term recreation needs of the community.

#### SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Santarsiero thanked Ms. Liney for all the work she did on Community Pride Day. He stated this event has grown significantly over the last three years, and Ms. Liney is a big part of this.

Mr. Santarsiero stated the Pool bids came in and were all well over Budget. He stated the Board of Supervisors will have to decide whether they want to accept the low bid or go out to re-bid. He feels this item will be before the Board of Supervisors at their next meeting. He stated his goal is to get the work done as hoped prior to the start of the season next year, but they need to do it in a responsible way. He stated the low bid was slightly more than \$2 million, and the last number they had received from Wallover was

close to \$1.8 million. He stated they need to review this with Mr. Wallover to see what will make the most sense. Mr. Gordon asked how the project would be financed, and Mr. Santarsiero stated it would be proceeds from the Pool and through bonds.

Mr. Santarsiero stated they will begin discussing the Budget and they will have an Open Space Referendum on the Ballot in November which would give the Township the authority to borrow up to \$15 million for open space preservation. If approved, this would be Electoral Debt which does not impact the Township's debt ceiling. Apart from this \$15 million for open space, he would also like the Township to consider moving forward with some of the projects that have been discussed for a long time. He stated he would like as many of the Park & Recreation Board members as possible to come to the Budget workshops when they discuss Park & Rec and provide their points of view. He stated earlier this year they did prioritize the projects to be done, and he is committed to getting these projects done as quickly as possible. He stated there are a lot of sports leagues that need facilities, and they need to provide the facilities for them. He stated he is going to ask Mr. Fedorchak to have the numbers available for the financing of each of the projects including what the annual payments would be for a Bond. He would like input from the Park & Recreation Board members on this at the Budget workshops. He stated the workshops usually take place in October. He added they must have a proposed Budget by the second meeting in November so that it can be advertised for approximately one month before voting on it usually at the last meeting of the year. He stated he will notify the Park & Recreation Board members when they know when the Park Budget will be discussed. Mr. Santarsiero stated the Township residents expect a certain level of service and facilities in the Township, and this requires continuing to invest in the future.

Mr. Wsocki asked about the Golf Course, and Mr. Santarsiero stated the Course is doing well and is on Budget. He stated they are still in litigation with the prior owner of the property, and this matter should go to trial sometime this fall. If the Township prevails, there will not be an issue; but if they do not, this will impact the bottom line. He stated hopefully in the long run, they will still be okay because the Golf Course does continue to perform well and continues to cover its costs and pay down its debt.

Mr. Fritchey asked about the Grant, and Ms. Liney stated Mr. Majewski indicated they feel they will hear by the end of September/early October.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Beth Ann Menard stated she has been a member of the Pool since 1981 and feels it is one of the best facilities in the Tri-State area. She stated she feels the management staff did an excellent job handling the number of people who came into the Pool on Community Pride Day who were unfamiliar with the rules. She stated a full staff was available despite the fact that many of the staff had already left and gone back to college.

She stated she did witness a save. She added that Mr. Stoloski rotated the staff which made them very responsive.

Ms. Liney noted that Ms. Menard was a past Chair of the Pool Board and is very close to the Pool operation. Ms. Menard stated she feels strongly that the Pool staff should be recognized. Ms. Menard stated she does bring up concerns about the Pool at times and particularly noted the condition of the restrooms during the course of the season. She recognizes that there are some problems with the guests who use the restrooms, but also feels there is some other problem as well. Mr. McDonald stated he and Mr. Wysocki have discussed this as well as a Pool member had brought to their attention problems with odors in the restroom near the lap pool. Mr. McDonald stated there may be a ventilation problem, and Ms. Liney agreed to look into this.

Ms. Menard stated there were some negative comments made by the Seniors at the Pool expressing concern with the cold water temperature during the end of the season and they had been told that the heaters were broken. Ms. Liney stated the temperature is usually 78 degrees, and they did increase it the last week.

Mr. Santarsiero asked if Ms. Menard had any recommendations with regard to Community Pride Day as to what they could do better inside the Pool if they are deluged by people who are not familiar with the rules. Ms. Menard stated many of the members would prefer that the Pool not be opened to the public that day. She stated they also feel it is unusual that the members have to sign numerous forms, but on that day anyone can come into the gate. Ms. Menard stated she herself feels Community Pride Day is a good way to showcase the Pool which may result in people joining the following year.

Mr. McDonald if there has been any correlation with an increase in membership at the Pool since they began Community Pride Day, and Ms. Liney stated they have had some people indicate that they could not wait to join after they had seen the Pool on Community Pride Day.

Mr. Wysocki asked if they were not going to reconsider guest fees at the Pool, and Ms. Liney stated they will probably discuss this during the Budget process. Ms. Menard stated she was in favor of the 4:00 guest fee change. Ms. Liney stated they did continue this trial through August.

## LEAGUE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Wysocki stated the Township gives the High School the opportunity to play at Macclesfield Park and in return this year Pennsbury is allowing YMS use their fields for the Columbus Day Tournament this year. Mr. Wysocki asked Ms. Liney where the football group will install the shed, and Ms. Liney stated it will be along the fence line by the cemetery in the back and it will not be visible.

Ms. Liney stated she did hear from the President of YMS, Roger Deininger, that Pennsbury High School is going to donate player benches for the inside of the turf field and noted they were very impressed with the field.

Mr. Santarsiero stated he is going to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they consider installing a turf field at Snipes since he feels there will be economies doing this at the beginning of a project; and since it has worked out so well at Macclesfield Park, he feels it will result in long-term savings.

Mr. Wysocki stated at the end of the turf field nearest the concession stand, the lights do not really light up that area, and Ms. Liney stated they are going to have Lucas Electric look into this.

Mr. Santarsiero stated the Township did receive an e-mail complaint from a Rivergate resident about dogs being off leash at Macclesfield Park and then running into Rivergate. Ms. Liney stated she will discuss this with the Park crew man who is stationed there to advise those with dogs who are off-leash that they need to have their dogs on a leash. It was noted the Park is signed that dogs must be on a leash.

Mr. Gordon asked about the “one-way” painted markings at Macclesfield and asked if they could also install “one-way” signs. Mr. Wysocki asked if they could give further consideration to whether or not this must be maintained as one-way noting the one-way traffic may be adding to the congestion. Ms. Liney stated they could ask Chief Coluzzi to look into this situation.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary