

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – MAY 12, 2009

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on May 12, 2009. 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
David Gordon, Member
Andrew Newbon, Member
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Donna Liney, Recreation Director
Pete Stainthorpe, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Fran McDonald, Park & Rec Member

APPROVAL OF MARCH, 2009 MINUTES

Mr. Newbon moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of March, 12, 2009 as written.

DISCUSSION - LMT 2015 PARK & RECREATION PROJECTS

Mr. Fritchey stated he was requested to be present at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Wednesday to discuss the Plans for the next five years. Ms. Liney stated Mr. Maloney, the new Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, proposed a program entitled LMT 2015, in which the various Township Departments will present a five year forecast to the Board and the public to include Departmental wants and needs for both operating and capital improvements. She stated she went through the Road Tour booklet and pulled out the projects which she felt were the projects the Park & Recreation Board would be targeting. She then considered what the payment would be if they were to take out a Bond to cover the projects. She stated she did not include anything in 2010. In 2011 if they were to borrow \$2 million to do Phases 2 and 3 for Memorial Park, the loan payment for that would be \$140,000. If Snipes were a \$3 million project and they financed it, it would be a \$175,000 loan payment. She stated this was just one way to approach this.

Mr. Fritchey stated it appears that they will develop Samost at a cost of \$1 million; but Ms. Liney stated while this is correct, it would not be until there was a final plan and this has been put out to 2013. Mr. Fritchey stated he agrees with this since they have not yet received public input on this and there is not an approved plan for Samost. He noted the other projects have been approved by the Park & Recreation Board and the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Fritchey stated he assumes they would anticipate borrowing between \$5 million and \$6 million, noting there are other expenditures listed which he assumes would be paid for through normal tax revenues. Ms. Liney stated the large capital projects would be above that. She stated the operating budget does have some Fee-In-Lieu and debt service that they are still covering.

Mr. Fritchey asked about bikepaths. Ms. Liney stated there is very little included for bikepaths. She stated the Township Manager has indicated that they would like to move forward as much as they can being realistic about how much they are able to do. Mr. Fritchey stated there are not significant funds budgeted for bikepaths this year, and completion of most of the bikepaths would involve condemnation. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels completion of the Master Plan for bikepaths would require a massive amount of money and be difficult because of the need for condemnation of private property. He stated he does feel they could take care of certain specific areas where everyone is in agreement with it. It was noted that only \$150,000 is budgeted for bikepaths for five years, and Mr. Fritchey stated for this they could do modest projects in finite areas.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated he cannot see the Board moving ahead with this now, although by 2011, the economy may improve and they could move forward with something. Mr. Stainthorpe stated one citizen has been coming to meetings and has indicated he feels there is stimulus money and grants available since promoting bikepaths reduces carbon emissions. Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Township is looking into a number of different grants including energy grants to improve the Municipal Building.

Ms. Bunn stated the energy grants are from different funding sources than the bikepaths and they could go after both. She stated she is seeing other Townships getting money for bikepaths and other park improvements. Ms. Bunn stated she is concerned that she sees people using the streets instead of the bikepaths, and she feels something should be put in the next Township Newsletters that the bikepaths are there for their use for their safety. Mr. Carpenter stated there are portions of the Township where the bikepaths are being used as both a bikepath and a sidewalk.

Ms. Liney stated when the trail system was mapped out by the Sub-Committee following the recommendations of the consultant and the Board of Supervisors, the intent was that the Master Plan would be in place and have developers complete links as development went in at no cost to the Township. She stated if there was a right-of-way required to

continue the link and the property owners were not willing to negotiate, it then stalled the project. Mr. Fritchey stated in some instances there were pre-existing residences that had been there for a significant amount of time with trees right along the road.

Mr. Newbon asked if the money earmarked for bikepaths would be for expansion or maintaining what they have currently; and Ms. Liney stated this would be something for a small link or resurfacing.

Mr. Carpenter stated since there are limited funds, he feels they should identify spots throughout the Township which are high risk areas and use these limited funds to eliminate these high risk areas and provide children and others in the Township safe access from point A to point B. Ms. Liney stated Mr. Fedorchak did indicate he would attend a future meeting to consider this and have the Park Board identify certain segments they feel should be done. Mr. Fritchey stated the problem is if there is one resident in the area they have identified who wants to litigate, it halts the project.

Ms. Bunn asked about money for handicapped crosswalk improvements, and Ms. Liney stated this is budgeted by Public Works or the General Fund.

Mr. Fritchey noted the money proposed for fourteen tennis courts, and Ms. Liney stated there are fourteen courts in the Township currently – four in Community Park, four at Schuyler, four at Revere, and two at Heacock. She stated she would also like to add in the basketball court as a fifth court. She stated the estimate was \$20,000 to \$25,000 to re-do the courts which are in need of repair. Mr. Gordon stated there was discussion about placing tennis courts at Samost, and Ms. Liney this is tied into the estimate for Samost of \$1 million. The overall estimate for Samost was \$2.5 million but this included everything including a skate park, although a Plan for Samost has not been finalized so it is difficult to price this project. She stated the Revere tennis courts are still in use, and the Supervisors would have to approve removal of this facility. Mr. Gordon stated he feels if it is not being used that much, he would not want it to fall into further disrepair; and they would either have to remove it or repair it.

Mr. Newbon stated at one of the Park & Recreation Board meetings a vote was taking with a point system attached as to how projects should be prioritized.

Mr. Gordon asked what was included in Phases 2 and 3 at Memorial Park, and Ms. Liney stated currently they have a Grant in for Phase 2 which would be the playground, four tennis courts, some additional parking, and some pathway with impervious surface. This includes both engineering and construction. She stated they met with a DCNR representative at the Park; and he indicated that while it is not his decision, at the most he felt they could get \$250,000 and this would be matching funds. Ms. Bunn asked if the Township has the money to match this if they do get the Grant, and Ms. Liney stated this

could be a loan. She stated there are a number of Grants being put together; and if any of them are approved that require matching funds, the Township Manager has indicated they could be looking at a loan for that.

Mr. Fritchey noted the \$100,000 for Macclesfield parking lots in 2013, and Ms. Liney stated this is to resurface noting that the Park was constructed in 1989.

Mr. Fritchey stated when they present this to the Board of Supervisors, it should be clearly indicated that this is the debt service.

Mr. Newbon again discussed the prioritization exercise the Park & Recreation Board went through previously, and Ms. Liney agreed to review the Minutes of the meeting when this was done. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels that was an exercise done to consider their priorities at that moment. He stated they are not considering building things completely in a sequential fashion, and are considering trying to move ahead on multiple projects. He stated they had felt that they needed soccer fields at Snipes because of the impact to the existing fields, but since then it has been ameliorated somewhat because of the turf field which has helped. He stated there is an urgency to firmly establish the character of Memorial Park as intended which was that it be a Park that happens to have a Memorial as an important part. He stated there are also projects that must be done from a maintenance standpoint. He stated they also considered developing Samost, but there is not an approved Plan as there has not been any money to do anything for the last three years.

There was discussion about fencing at Macclesfield Park, and it was noted that \$50,000 is proposed for 2014. Ms. Liney stated they are considering replacing the Field A fencing or possibly Field H which if Snipes becomes developed. She stated she did not specifically identify the fields. She stated if Snipes moves forward PAA has asked that H be fenced because it is a 90' field, but she does not want to fence it in now because it currently has multi-use. Macclesfield lighting of \$120,000 was noted, and Ms. Liney stated DGW has been recommending for some time that they address the original lights on Fields A, C, and D. This is one of the Grant for which they are applying. Macclesfield restroom building in the amount of \$25,000 was noted; and Ms. Liney stated she was hoping to be able to do something similar to what was done at the Pool restrooms with in-house labor. She noted the limited number of facilities at Macclesfield which are grossly undersized for the size and use at that Park. Mr. Gordon stated he feels it would be better to construct another closer to the back pavilion, but Ms. Liney stated she feels there were issues with this as the Township has promised the residents that there would be no permanent buildings in that location. Mr. Fritchey stated constructing a new building would probably cost \$150,000.

Mr. Fritchey asked about the notation regarding a 1990 truck, and Ms. Liney stated this is a truck they are using which she would like to replace.

Mr. Fritchey asked if the Township borrows \$6 million, how much of a millage increase would this necessitate. Ms. Liney stated currently 1 mill which is \$40 would generate \$519,000. Ms. Liney stated in 2007, 2008, and 2009 they had the same millage; and if they do not increase for 2010, the increase would not occur until 2011 which may be more palatable. The current rate is 1.53 mills and the expectation is that they would increase this by 1 mill so it would be another \$40. She stated currently the Park & Recreation tax is \$60 on average. Mr. Fritchey stated there is a demand for recreation facilities, and if YMS had not built the turf field, Macclesfield Park fields would have been severely impacted so that has saved the Township. He feels what has been proposed are sound investments.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated he does not feel they will be able to get an extra mill for Park & Recreation in 2010; but if the economy improved one mill in 2011 should be saleable to the public.

Ms. Liney stated the only thing that has not been shown that the Park & Recreation Board is on record of supporting is something for the Seniors.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated there have been comments made by the public that the Township should cut out all non-essential services. He stated the Board has other obligations which are going to be significant including a short-fall in the Pensions due to the stock market and by law these obligations have to be made up. He stated they are going to have an increase in the General Fund, and to put another 1 mill on top of that for Park & Recreation would be difficult for the public to accept. He stated once things stabilize, he feels it will be very saleable to the public to increase one mill and get three new parks.

There was discussion on the Golf Course, and Mr. Stainthorpe stated there has been an outstanding legal issue regarding the price paid for the land; and the Township has been told they owe additional funds to the prior property owners, although the Township is going to appeal this. He stated they have not had any shortfall at the Golf Course as yet. He stated the bond will be paid off in twenty years, and it will then result in a cash flow to the Township. Currently the Golf Course is paying its debt and paying for the operating expenses.

There was discussion on the Community Pool part of the 2015 Plan, and Ms. Liney stated this is not funded through taxpayer dollars and it is totally funded through Memberships. She stated if they were going to move forward with a major renovation, they would have to have a bond. Ms. Bunn asked if they are currently breaking even; and Ms. Liney stated last year they finished slightly below, which is why they did an increase this year in Membership Fees. It has been ten years since there was an increase in Membership Fees.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Board of Supervisors did agree to do a deer sharp shoot. He stated he voted for this because he feels it is the most effective and humane way to get it done. He stated they need to thin the herd. He stated they still need approval from the Game Commission and someone has indicated that they cannot use out-of-State sharp shooters. He stated the company they chose is from Connecticut and they have an impeccable experience and safety record.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Board approved two buildings for the Matrix property which will be a bank and a drug store. This was part of the original plan. He stated the housing portion will not occur until the market improves.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated at the next Board of Supervisors meeting there will be a presentation on a Green Building Code.

Mr. Newbon asked if there has been anything further regarding the Ferry Road traffic now that Black Rock Road is open; and Mr. Stainthorpe stated a Sub-Committee was formed to study this, although he knows that traffic has been reduced since Black Rock Road was opened. Mr. Newbon also asked about the Canal path, and Mr. Stainthorpe stated they have been dredging, and the culvert is done. They will repave Black Rock Road this summer.

Mr. Fritchey asked about Mr. Maloney's 2015 Plan, and Mr. Stainthorpe stated he wants to look at the finances of the Township on a longer-term basis. He stated over the years they have done long-range financial plans from time to time; and Mr. Maloney wants everyone to be considering finances longer term as opposed to just considering finances when working on the Budget.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated Park and Recreation has been scheduled for a presentation to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting next Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. regarding LMT 2015.

Ms. Liney stated they are working on a number of projects including servicing pumps in pits, sealing concrete at the Garden of Reflection, and adding minnows to discourage mosquito larvae in the basin at Macclesfield C. She stated the park crew is actively working on enhancements to the facilities and services to the community.

Ms. Liney stated they continue to work on the issues surrounding the fountains at the Garden of Reflection and believe they are getting close to resolving this issue. The fountains are operational and electrical consultant DGW is planning an inspection next week.

Ms. Liney stated the Township is excited to be upgrading pool safety and comfort with the installation of a Delta ultra violet sanitation system in the tot and intermediate pools this year. Delta is one of the premier companies in terms of this equipment, offering improved water quality and rendering 99.9% of bacteria harmless. There is also the added feature of using less chlorine which will save dollars on the pool's chemical expenditures.

Ms. Liney noted the very successful EPIC girls soccer tournament and the Pennsbury Pony softball tournament this past weekend in Lower Makefield. She stated these tournaments involved 2500 children participating plus an additional 3,000 friends and families enjoying the use of Township facilities. This would not have been possible without the coordination of the Yardley Makefield Soccer Club and the Pennsbury Athletic Association. She stated these tournaments reflected well on the Township.

Ms. Liney stated the Lower Makefield Seniors held their annual elections today for Officers and Board positions. Mr. Irv Hirsch was re-elected as President for the group and will serve a one-year term.

Ms. Liney stated the Township administration is preparing a number of matching Grant Applications for submittal this spring, and she will keep the Park Board informed as to the status of the Applications.

LEAGUE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Gordon stated there were a lot of compliments about the EPIC Tournament and how well it was run.

There being no further business, Ms. Bunn moved, Mr. Carpenter seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary

