

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2009

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on October 13, 2009. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman  
Patricia Bunn, Secretary  
Fran McDonald, Member  
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Donna Liney, Recreation Director  
Pete Stainthorpe, Supervisor Liaison  
Bo Birkhead, PAA Commissioner  
Tom Augustin, Lower Makefield Football President

Absent: Henry Carpenter, Park & Rec Vice Chair  
Dave Gordon, Park & Rec Member  
Andrew Newbon, Park & Rec Member

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Bunn moved, Mr. McDonald seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the September, 2009 Minutes as written.

#### REVIEW OF PROPOSED DRAFT 2010 OPERATING BUDGETS

Ms. Liney welcomed new officers of area user groups and introduced Bo Birkhead, Commissioner for PAA, and Tommy Augustin, President, Lower Makefield Football. She stated she invited them to introduce them to the Park Board since they were discussing the Operating Budgets.

Ms. Liney stated in the packets was a copy of the initial draft of the Park & Recreation Operating Budget for 2010. She stated this Budget proposal is in the process of being reviewed by the Finance Department. She stated the draft reflects the guidelines from the Finance Director that, in light of the challenging economic circumstances we all face, there should be no increases in Budget accounts. As submitted, there are no provisions for capital projects or large-scale maintenance items.

Ms. Liney stated if a strategic decision is made for a Bond Issue in 2010, this would provide the necessary funding to support completion of the Lower Makefield Park system and some larger scale maintenance and capital projects. This would be consistent with the Park Board's LMT 2015 vision presentation to the Supervisors in May of this year.

Ms. Liney stated whatever the outcome of these difficult decisions that face us, Park & Recreation is ready to support the determination and continue to provide outstanding service to the community.

Ms. Liney stated there are no staff increases and everything has been carried over from what it was in 2009. She stated they have included routine maintenance items, but there are no large projects.

Ms. Liney stated she is aware that a particular user group may be interested in a particular piece of machinery; and while this was not included in the Budget, she may be able to get this in. She stated there has been interest in a groomer machine which would cost approximately \$15,000. Ms. Liney stated this would help during times of inclement weather.

Mr. Birkhead stated this machine is an in-field groomer, and it levels the infield and can till the dirt. He stated it maintains the infield so that when it rains, it will not leave large puddles, and the water will drain off into the grass area. Mr. Birkhead stated last year they missed 20% to 25% of their games because of the amount of rain they had which impacted their ability to play. He noted a number of other athletic organizations are using this type of machine. He stated he feels this would help them generate additional income from tournaments because it will result in a better playing field.

Ms. Liney stated Bob Copson has seen this machine and feels it would be beneficial.

Ms. Liney stated PAA is looking to have one at Macclesfield Park and one at the fields near the Township Municipal Building, and they were looking for PAA to purchase one and the Township to purchase one.

Mr. Birkhead stated in the future he would like to come back to a Park & Rec meeting to discuss some short-term and long-range goals and he would like to put together a 10 year plan.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the machine is used only when there is a problem on the fields, and Mr. Birkhead stated it is used on a daily basis as a preventive measure.

Mr. Birkhead stated there is also an issue at Roelofs, and they need to a sprinkler system which could cost approximately \$4,500. Mr. McDonald asked if they are looking into putting together a short-term and long-term plan, and Mr. Birkhead stated they are.

Mr. Fritchey asked about the Interfund Operating Transfer item in the Budget, and Ms. Liney stated this is money for time put in by the Finance Director, Township Manager, general overhead of the office, etc.

Mr. Fritchey asked if they have spent all the money appropriated in the 2009 Operating Budget, and Ms. Liney stated there were two projects which were frozen in June – one being the Mill Street Bikepath and the other was upgrading the internal workings of the lights at Macclesfield Park for Fields A, C, & D. She stated both of these were approximately \$15,000 each. She stated she rolled these over to the 2010 Budget, but this is still under review.

With regard to the Pool Budget, Ms. Liney stated despite a 5% reduction in family memberships this year, the Community Pool Budget for 2009 still reflects a positive revenue flow due to holding the line on expenses while slightly increasing the membership fee. She stated there is no proposed increase in membership fees in the 2010 Pool Budget. She stated no capital projects are shown for the Pool for next year.

Mr. Wysocki asked if they are considering any increases in fees for the coming year, and Ms. Liney stated she may talk to the Finance Director about an increase to the weekly guest fees. She stated there was \$49,000 in guest fees; and when there is a disproportionate amount of guest fees and too liberal of a guest policy, this can impact the Memberships. She stated this is particularly true for the weekly individual and weekly family guest fees which should be looked at to see if they should be increased. She stated they also had allowed guests to come in at 4:00 for a reduced rate.

Ms. Liney asked Mr. Augustin if he had any comments to make about Lower Makefield Football, and Mr. Augustin stated the parents would like to see bleachers and at some point a scoreboard. He stated he is working with some corporations to see if they would be willing to donate a scoreboard and receive advertising in return. Mr. Augustin stated they are also interested in having a fryer in the concession stand. He stated they run the Snack Bar Monday through Saturday. He stated there are 540 kids involved in the program. He stated he did discuss with Ms. Liney the possibility of putting in a fryer so they could sell other foods to families since the practice becomes at 6:00 p.m. He stated the fryer would need to have a hood, electric, etc. He stated they will look at this again in the off season, and were wondering if the Township would be willing to split the cost with them. He stated the total cost would be \$15,000. He stated they would also like to exclude the ice cream vendors on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Ms. Liney stated they issue permits and exclusions to the vendors in January.

Mr. Augustin was asked about their affiliation, and he stated they are no longer with Pop Warner and are affiliated with All American Football. He stated they had been the only Pop Warner program in the Country that did not follow their age/weight rules for travel. He stated they were told last year that they would have to come in line with the

age/weight or no longer be associated with Pop Warner, and they chose not to continue to be associated with Pop Warner. He stated Pop Warner has nine different categories for weights and ages, and Lower Makefield has three. He stated they have been able to get their insurance elsewhere. He stated the Board members, coaches, and parents chipped in and brought a five-man sled, a two-man sled, two tackling dummies, and two sets of agility pads. He stated each team has scheduled sled time once a week for half hour.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated most of the Board of Supervisors has admired the way the Township Football Program has been run giving the players a good experience with football. Mr. Augustin stated they have a six quarters rule so that every player must play six quarters. He stated it is an all in-house program and everything is at Macclesfield Park except for one Saturday during the Soccer Columbus Day Tournament when they play at the Pennsbury High School. He stated he is going to try to off set the times for practices to help alleviate some of the traffic concerns at Macclesfield Park.

Mr. Wysocki stated he feels they should look at how the traffic has to navigate through the Park since the one-way traffic forces every car from Fields A and B and the two soccer fields to go all the way around. Mr. Augustin stated the problem is that there is only one way in and one way out.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Pete Borowsky, Clearview Estates, stated he lives near the Golf Course; and when they were building Golf Course, one of the questions he had asked at the time was would the bikepath be connected to Memorial Park. He stated they indicated that it would; however, this has not been connected. He stated a lot of people in the area go along Woodside Road to get to the rest of the paths, and he feels there is an approximately quarter mile gap.

Mr. McDonald stated he recalls that they did discuss this at one point, and there were some issues with sight lines and where it would be safe to cross over. Ms. Liney stated on the opposite side of the Golf Course, where the bikepath is proposed there is an easement required; and the property owners have indicated they will not grant it. If the bikepath is installed on the Golf Course side there were concerns with safety with the traffic coming in and out of the Golf Course.

Mr. Borowsky stated where he would come out of his development and cross the street, you are on the hill and cars are coming over the hill and you are and there is a good sight distance; and this is where he crosses.

Ms. Bunn stated this is a PennDOT road, and they would have to follow PennDOT criteria for sight triangles and safe distances. She recalls that when the Township engineer reviewed this, they did not feel they could meet PennDOT criteria to put a pedestrian crossing at that location. Mr. Fritchey stated since the resident will not agree to grant an easement, the Township would have to exercise eminent domain. Ms. Bunn stated there was not proper sight distance at the Golf Course drive as PennDOT requires 600 feet in both directions.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated this issue has been discussed a number of times, and he feels the developers put money in escrow or paid fee-in-lieu for the bikepaths. He stated he does not know if that money is still in hand. He stated there were also discussions about a bikepath going toward the Canal/River on the right hand side of the road, but there were issues about the steepness of the road. Ms. Bunn stated if they did not build bikepaths, the developers would have had to pay fee-in-lieu; and Mr. Stainthorpe stated they could look into this further. Ms. Bunn stated she feels fee-in-lieu can be distributed as the Township deems fit so those funds may have been spent elsewhere. Mr. McDonald asked that they check with Mr. Fedorchak about these funds, and Ms. Liney stated she will discuss this with Mr. Fedorchak adding she feels they did try to track this before and were not able to confirm it. Mr. McDonald also asked if Mr. Majewski could look into the distances PennDOT would require. Mr. Stainthorpe he feels they did have discussions about bringing the bikepath all the way down to the Canal. Ms. Liney stated she also feels there is an easement needed from one property on the Golf Course side.

#### SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Zoning Hearing Board voted to grant the Special Exception for the Hospital. He stated the Board of Supervisors has been opposed to this, and they sent their counsel to the Zoning Hearing Board to argue against it which is all the Supervisors can do as the Zoning Hearing Board is totally independent. He stated the Zoning Hearing Board is a quasi-Judicial body, and they deal with the facts, the law, and the Application before it. He stated the only way the Board of Supervisors can counter this decision is to Appeal it in Court, and most likely the Board will do this. He stated the Township has spent approximately \$106,000 already at the Zoning Hearing Board level; and when they look at the Appeal process, they have to consider their chances of success and make a determination how much the Board is willing to spend and how far they are willing to go since this could go all the way to the State Supreme Court which could cost a half million dollars.

Ms. Bunn stated these are taxpayer dollars, and before the Supervisors make this decision she feels they should explain to everyone how much it will cost and the chances of success. She stated this money could be used for other things in the Township.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated they could see if they could negotiate with Frankford Hospital and see if they have to have this Hospital if there a way they could cut down the size, eliminate the heliport, get more traffic improvements, pay fee-in-lieu of taxes, etc.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated they have started the hunt in the Five Mile Woods. He stated the Pennsylvania Game Commission had not indicated that the Township would have to have this extensive of a public hunt before they could do a sharp shoot. He stated they have had two weeks of hunting, and they harvested approximately thirteen deer. He stated there are three more two-week cycles scheduled, and hopefully this will be adequate for the Township to get their Permit for the sharp shoot. He stated in September the number of deer/car collisions was 23% of the accidents which happened in September.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated there is proposal for a cell tower at the Brookside Swim Club, and the neighbors in the area are opposed to this and have organized. He stated this will be before the Zoning Hearing Board; and if it is approved, they would have to go to the Board of Supervisors for a Conditional Use. Mr. Stainthorpe stated he feels most of the Supervisors feel there are enough cell towers already, and they have provided a Cell Tower Overlay District

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Board is now considering who will manage the Golf Course, and the final candidates are Kemper and Applied Golf. He stated the Golf Committee has recommended both of them, and the Board of Supervisors will make the final decision. He stated Applied Golf's strength is that they are a medium sized company with senior management living in the area. He stated Kemper is a big corporation and their strength is that they have successfully run the Course for five years. He stated there are some benefits from being with a big corporate and some benefits with going with a smaller, local company.

#### RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated the Township is still waiting to hear about the Grant Application submitted to DCNR for Phase II of Memorial Park.

Ms. Liney stated there was another very successful Columbus Day soccer tournament this past weekend. She stated this event involved thousands of participants, families, and friends enjoying the use of Township facilities. She stated this would not have been possible without the outstanding coordination of the Yardley Makefield Soccer Club.

Ms. Liney stated PAA has approached the Township with a proposal about the possibility of purchasing two field grooming machines for next season, with the Township paying for one and PAA picking up the cost of the other machine. This equipment would facilitate necessary maintenance on the infields during difficult or inclement weather, as experienced this season. The proposed 2010 Budget draft for Park & Recreation does not include funds for this purchase.

Ms. Liney stated there is potential interest to allow an outside organization pre and post season use of the Community Pool. When the details are available, Ms. Liney stated she will forward it to the Park Board for careful consideration to see if it is a viable option of the Community Pool. There was further discussion on this matter, and Ms. Liney stated they do have a minimum of six weeks they need to open the Pool.

Ms. Liney stated the weekly Farmers Market will hold its final session tomorrow, October 15 at Veterans Square. Although impacted somewhat by the weather this year, the farmers were pleased with the market and appreciated the Township's assistance with this venue.

Ms. Liney stated the Ultimate Frisbee group will host a 30 team tournament this weekend at Memorial Park. Park & Recreation is working with the group to insure a successful event.

There being no further business, Mr. Wysocki moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary