

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2010

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on February 9, 2010. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman  
Henry Carpenter, Vice Chairman  
Dave Gordon, Member  
Fran McDonald, Member

Others: Donna Liney, Park & Recreation Director  
Matt Maloney, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Patricia Bunn, Park & Rec Board Secretary  
Andrew Newbon, Member  
Dennis Wysocki, Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McDonald moved, Mr. Carpenter seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of February 9, 2010.

UPDATE ON THE STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Mr. Maloney stated the Board of Supervisors passed a Budget and there is no millage increase for Park & Recreation or General Fund increase other than a net transfer of ¼ mil. Mr. Maloney stated as a result of this a number of cuts have been made in originally-budgeted line items. Ms. Liney stated no additional items have been cut from the Park & Rec Budgets. She stated Community Pride Day had already been cut from the original Budget passed.

Mr. Gordon asked the cost for Community Pride Day, and Mr. Maloney stated it was \$42,000 for the Township without personnel costs. Ms. Liney stated she generates donations but they added in the personnel costs which she was not aware were to be in her Budget. Mr. Maloney stated this was at the direction of some of the Supervisors who wanted to see this more properly accounted for.

Mr. Maloney stated he feels that if the groups behind Community Pride Day and the Veterans Parade want to fund something on the basis of donations, they may be able to do something; but he feels it will be considerably scaled down from what was done in the past. He stated based on the Chief's Budget, he does not feel the Chief will be willing to contribute much Police overtime so there would have to be minimal impact to the roads so events such as the 5K will probably not be able to happen.

Mr. Gordon asked if the plan at this point is to hold Community Pride Day at a scaled down version, and Ms. Liney stated the Township Manager told her that it is gone. Mr. Maloney stated from the Township's perspective it is not in the Budget, and it is not Ms. Liney's job to go out and create a project that has no funding; however, the Special Events Committee and Veterans Committee may want to fundraise for these events and take care of it on their own, something may take place but it would be funded entirely separate from Township accounts. Mr. McDonald asked if there is an expectation that this will happen; and Mr. Maloney stated Mr. Caiola is the liaison to both of those groups, and he will probably discuss with them what can feasibly be done. He does not feel they will know until April or May if there is a plan to go forward.

Mr. Maloney stated a lot of the cuts were out of maintenance and overtime budgets so it probably does not impact Park & Rec directly, although it does impact Public Works available generally. He stated there will be a harder line drawn on what does and does not get done. He stated when Budgets begin to be exceeded, he feels they will have to decide whether to go over Budget or not provide services. He stated the projected surplus for 2010 is approximately \$350,000 cash out of a \$30 million Budget. Mr. McDonald asked what they should be at to be at safe harbor, and Mr. Maloney stated they should be at \$500,000 to \$800,000 so they will be considerably below this. He stated if there is something that has to be done, they will have to go into this \$350,000 surplus.

Mr. McDonald stated one of the issues brought up during the field discussion was to repair the drainage issues at Stoddart, and he asked if this is still possible. Ms. Liney stated she discussed this with the Township engineer today, and he was considering installing piping underneath the road where the trucks are, and she feels this is an expense that should be deferred. She stated the swale seems to be working pretty well. She stated the Township engineer wants to do something with piping at Stoddart III, and they may be able to put in a swale there as well.

Mr. Maloney stated the message to the user groups is that if it not fixed at the moment, it will probably not be fixed barring the sense that irreparable harm will come to the field if they do not act at that time. Mr. McDonald asked if this were to occur, is the Plan that the Board of Supervisors would take this out of cash reserves, and Mr. Maloney stated while this \$350,000 is liquid cash that could be spent on emergency projects, he feels that they would probably borrow money as there are short-term debt options with banks they could exercise if they had to; and he feels they would do this rather than to spend the

\$350,000. Mr. Maloney stated there is a cyclical nature to the Township's cash flow since they do not start collecting tax revenue until April, and then in the fall through the winter, funds dry up again.

Mr. Maloney stated with regard to the projects Park & Rec had been discussing, he does not believe that there is a lack of interest in seeing the plans go forward; and he feels he, Mr. Caiola, and Mr. Stainthorpe are interested in proceeding. He does not feel that the Park & Rec Board should devote any more time on this topic until an agreement is reached. He stated it is possible an agreement could be reached during the year to fund the programs at some date in the future; and if they get to that point, the Park & Rec could then begin to consider the plans further. He stated they would have to agree to set a millage rate at a certain level in 2011; but until they reach an agreement, he does not feel the Park & Rec Board should work further on the plans. He stated the scope may vary as to how much they do at either Snipes or Samost. He stated he does not feel that Memorial Park will be part of a Plan for the next year or two.

Mr. Fritchey stated Mr. Stainthorpe and Mr. Caiola have both assured him that they are in favor of doing necessary engineering during this calendar year on these projects. He stated part of the deal is that the user groups are supposed to do fundraising and to accept user fee increases. Mr. Fritchey stated if they recommend user fee increases, he feels there will be a strong negative reaction if the Township does not move forward. He feels that before the Park & Recreation Board makes any recommendation concerning user fees, he feels there needs to be an understanding as to when and how they will go forward. Mr. Maloney stated he feels first a majority of the Board of Supervisors needs to reach an agreement and pass a Resolution that will indicate what, when, and how projects will be developed in terms of funding. At that point, it would be appropriate for the Park & Rec Board to consider something with regard to user fees.

Mr. McDonald stated he is the Park & Rec liaison to the Citizens Budget Commission, and he asked what the Park & Rec Board wants him to do. He stated the user fee issue did come up at his first meeting with them and there was discussion about charging cost per participant for non-residents. Mr. Maloney stated until he feels there is a sense that there are three Supervisors asking him to commit his time to certain things, he does not feel he should feel compelled to spend any extra time on this. Mr. Maloney stated he feels it is a myopic view that those from outside the Township are going to pay a full amount when Lower Makefield residents who play in their towns do not.

Mr. McDonald stated he received a phone call from some people involved with the football program concerned about what might be happening to their program as they heard there was a movement to "call them on the carpet" for the number of residents versus non-residents in their program; and he directed them to discuss this with the Supervisors. Mr. Maloney stated he has heard something similar and their options are to wait and see if anything happens and if it does they can deal with it at that time, or they

could contact the Supervisors and discuss it with them. Mr. Maloney stated he has heard that there is a written or unwritten belief that the programs are expected to have at least 80% residents, and a lack of that would constitute failure to perform as a Township-sponsored sports program. Mr. Gordon asked if the Park & Rec Board has ever discussed this; and Mr. Maloney stated he has not heard this before. Mr. Gordon stated it is a great program that has received support from the Park & Rec Board, and he does not see this changing. Mr. Maloney stated surrounding Townships have done things for Lower Makefield Township residents' children in their programs. Mr. Gordon stated they do charge non-residents a higher user fee. Mr. Fritchey stated Lower Makefield has by far the highest user fees of any Township.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Lisa Huchler-Smith stated she is on the Disabled Persons Advisory Board and one of their goals this year was to attend other Disabled Persons Advisory Boards in surrounding Townships as well as the Township Park & Rec Board. She stated she would like to start discussing the Budget for next year well in advance and asked that if they are planning fields, they would like them to consider how disabled people can access the fields, access restrooms, etc. recognizing that this could increase costs. She stated they also need to consider bikepath/pedestrians paths that would be wheelchair accessible. She stated they were working on a grant for a handicap accessible playground at Memorial Park; and while they did not get the Grant, they would still like the space provided for this in the future. She stated when they are able to make upgrades at the Pool, they should also consider ramps into the pool for the disabled.

Ms. Huchler-Smith stated she was the girls' lacrosse coach for six years, and she had over 200 girls in their program who paid user fees totally \$9,000 to \$10,000 and only played on Macclesfield Park five times. She stated the reason they left the Township was because there were no fields. She stated they would like to split this League into Lower Bucks Lacrosse Pennsbury and Lower Bucks Lacrosse Neshaminy. Mr. McDonald stated he would like to get lacrosse back into the Township. Ms. Huchler-Smith stated they do need lights.

Mr. Fritchey stated he feels there will be continuing public debates on fields, and he asked that she attend some of these meetings to discuss lacrosse. Mr. Maloney stated she could also send something in writing to the Supervisors if she prefers not to attend the meetings.

Mr. Maloney stated he was advised from those involved in both football and lacrosse that the reason lacrosse left was because of a lack of facilities.

Mr. Maloney stated with regard to facilities being available to the disabled, there is no reason why they could not go through the draft Plans that have been approved and do something akin to what the EAC does and offer a list of comments and suggestions. He stated what has been discussed at this point is that they might do parts of what is currently planned rather than revising what has been done, and he does not feel there is an interest on the part of the Board of Supervisors who have continued to pursue this project to redo the work that has been done since the mid-90's by the Park & Rec Board. He stated he feels it would also be productive to consider if there is funding for ADA compliant restrooms for parks, etc.

#### RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated they have rescheduled a prebid meeting for the Garden of Reflection landscape services from tomorrow until next Wednesday, February 17 at Memorial Park. Ms. Liney stated they are currently reviewing options related to the electrical issues at the Garden of Reflection.

Ms. Liney stated they had a productive meeting with representatives of the Community Pool Swim and Dive Team in late January. She stated the Township looks forward to continuing to assist the Swim Team in providing a top-notch swim experience for the members of the Community Pool.

Ms. Liney stated they will be installing a new sign for Veterans Square by the end of the month. The sign illustrates the proposed monument and advertises the web page for more information.

Ms. Liney stated they are working with an Eagle Scout on his project of reconstructing the boxes holding the infield mix at the Lower Makefield baseball complex. She stated the project has a targeted completion of June this year.

There being no further business, Mr. Carpenter moved, Mr. Gordon seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Fritchey, Chairman