

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2012

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on December 11, 2012. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman  
Fran McDonald, Vice Chairman  
Patricia Bunn, Secretary (joined meeting in progress)  
Dave Gordon, Member  
Dave Malinowski, Member  
Drew Newbon, Member  
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Donna Liney, Park & Recreation Director  
Kristin Tyler, Supervisor Liaison

#### DISCUSSION OF GARDEN OF REFLECTION

Mr. McDonald stated he was unable to attend the November meeting but read in the Minutes the discussion regarding the Garden of Reflection. He asked if Mr. Fedorchak is working on the issue of the 501C3, and Ms. Tyler stated she believes that Mr. Fedorchak should be working on this matter. Mr. McDonald stated in past Minutes of the Park & Recreation Board, these same concerns were discussed.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. McDonald seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of October 9, 2012 as amended and the November 13, 2012 Minutes as written.

#### SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Tyler stated the Planning Commission did not vote on the ball field project as they wanted a Master Plan for the Tract; however, the Board of Supervisors has requested, and there will be, a Special Meeting of the Planning Commission on December 17, 2012. Ms. Tyler stated the Board of Supervisors is very concerned about holding up this project. Mr. McDonald asked if the Traffic Commission has looked at this, and

Ms. Tyler stated they have and Ms. Liney printed out the Gilmore & Associates report. Ms. Tyler stated the traffic engineers were asked to look at it, and they gave only a few suggestions. Ms. Tyler stated she will attend the Planning Commission meeting as will Mr. Eisold as they want to push this project forward. Ms. Tyler stated the Historical Commission also raised an issue about a historic hedgerow. Ms. Tyler stated they will address all the issues raised, but they do not want to delay the ball fields or the Community Center because of the concern of getting too close to the end line for the Grants.

Ms. Tyler stated they are trying to satisfy the Planning Commission, and they do want to pinpoint the location for the Community Center. Ms. Tyler showed on the Plan the possible locations for the Community Center. Ms. Tyler stated they want to minimize the impact on the adjacent residents as much as possible. Ms. Tyler stated they are looking to see if there are opportunities for shared parking. She stated they must also consider if the neighboring residents would prefer seeing parking or a building. Mr. Fritchey stated he does not feel that it will be an extremely large building. Ms. Tyler stated they are hoping that it will be 7,500 square feet. She stated they would like to equip it so that it could also be used for a shelter if necessary, and they are discussing this with the Township Manager and the Chief of Police. She stated the Historic Commission would also like to put up some pictures.

Ms. Bunn joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Fritchey stated he feels the Planning Commission should be able to approve the ball fields without taking a position on the location of the Community Center; however, Ms. Tyler stated the Planning Commission wanted to see a Master Plan.

Ms. Tyler stated the Budget should be approved at the next meeting. Ms. Liney stated the Park & Rec Budget was lowered slightly, but until it is finally Approved, there is always the potential that it could be changed. Ms. Tyler stated she has not heard anything of that nature as it relates to the Park & Rec Board. She stated the Board of Supervisors is dealing with an issue with the Ambulance Squad. She stated the Board of Supervisors was advised at the first Budget meeting that they were unable to make their payroll ten days forward or through the end of the year. She stated they needed \$125,000 to cover this and were also asking for another \$175,000 to \$200,000 to cover them through April assuming the Board of Supervisors approved a .6 tax mill increase. She stated the Supervisors had requested additional documentation, and discussed this at the second Budget session. She stated they have considered a potential .35 tax mill increase. She stated the main problem with the Ambulance Squad is their pay backs on calls, and they were averaging 55% pay backs from insurance companies. Ms. Bunn stated a lot of insurance companies have started denying payment for ambulances and are changing their policies without letting people know. Ms. Tyler stated they have made contact

with other insurance companies and although they are having similar experiences, they are not to the point the Township's Ambulance Squad is experiencing. She stated the Ambulance Squad has switched collectors to a new company. She stated the prior collection company was getting a flat fee for each call, and the new company gets 9% of the recovery. Ms. Tyler stated another problem is that when the insurance companies reimburse the ambulance call, they do not pay the provider directly, but pay the patient; and it is then incumbent upon the patient to pay the Ambulance Squad. She stated their fundraising was also down. She stated they usually get approximately \$130,000; and as of November, they were at \$78,000. She stated end-of-year contribution requests are in the mail, but she does not feel they will be able to reach \$130,000 from this one fundraising drive.

Ms. Tyler stated the Supervisors approved a loan of \$125,000 to carry the Ambulance Squad through December. She stated this should be paid back next year out of the tax increase assuming the Board of Supervisors passes the tax increase of .35. She stated this will be considered at the next Board of Supervisors meeting. She stated if they do not pass the tax increase, there will be problems with Budget and the General Fund.

Ms. Bunn questioned the high cost of their payroll. Ms. Tyler stated they have raised this issue with the Ambulance Squad. She stated there are full and part-time employees including paramedics and EMTs. She stated there are no volunteers. Ms. Bunn stated previously it was strictly volunteers. Ms. Tyler stated the Board of Supervisors has put conditions on the loan to get them through the end of 2012 including financial audits. She stated the Board will have to become more involved now that they are loaning taxpayer money. She stated a review and study will be done similar to what was done for Public Works. Ms. Bunn stated she also feels there should be audits of the Fire Department.

Mr. McDonald asked for details of the loan repayment, and Ms. Tyler stated the Ambulance Squad will pay it back when the .35 tax millage increase comes in April. Mr. McDonald stated they will still be in the same financial situation since the increase will be paying back just the loan and there would not be any additional coming in. Ms. Tyler stated the additional coming in should be the changing of the medical billing company, and they are projecting that to be at 70% recovery rate.

Mr. McDonald stated he had heard that one of the solutions to this rather than raising the millage would be to take a little from each existing Department, and he asked if this is still being considered. Ms. Tyler stated it would come from the General Fund savings. Ms. Tyler stated they do not want to disband the Ambulance Squad and rely on adjoining Townships to provide these services to Lower Makefield residents.

Mr. McDonald asked if Chief Coluzzi will be taking over the management of the Squad, and Ms. Tyler stated he already has this position.

Ms. Bunn asked if Yardley Borough contributes to the Ambulance Squad, and Ms. Tyler stated they do. She added that Upper Makefield does as well but they are somewhat low on their proportionate share. She stated the real shortfall is the billing and the fundraising.

Mr. Fritchey asked if some of the collections due are from Medicare, and Ms. Tyler agreed; and stated this would be Federal issue as far as paying the provider versus the patients.

#### RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated that the Township had the opportunity to recognize twenty-six volunteer coordinators, officers and Board members of the Lower Makefield Seniors Group yesterday at their annual holiday event. She stated Supervisors Stainthorpe and Tyler attended the luncheon at the Washington Crossing Inn, and helped hand out the thank you gifts.

Ms. Liney stated the Park crew is gearing up for a busy winter season. She stated the crew is now completing renovations on Field 3 at Stoddart involving dugout layouts and batter-on-deck areas. She stated next on the schedule is concrete work at the Pool complex. This work is being accomplished in house at a cost savings to the Township as they continue to look for creative ways to save tax dollars.

Ms. Liney stated during the winter snow and ice season, the three-man Park crew will shift to emergency snow removal on the roadways.

Ms. Liney thanked all the members of the Park & Recreation Board for their continued support and efforts with the community this past year, and she stated she looks forward to a successful 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary

