

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2013

The regular meeting of the park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on February 12, 2013. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:35 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
Dennis Wysocki, Member

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

Absent: Andrew Newbon, Park & Rec Board Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McDonald moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to Approve the Minutes of December 11, 2012 as written.

REORGANIZATION OF PARK & RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Gordon moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to re-appoint David Fritchey as Chairman, Fran McDonald as Vice Chairman and Patricia Bunn as Secretary of the Park & Recreation Board for the year 2013.

PRESENTATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL OF PROPOSED INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT MEMORIAL PARK

Ms. Judy Goldstein, engineer, was present with Mr. Dave Rogers and Ms. Lisa Smith from the Disabled Persons Advisory Board. Ms. Goldstein stated there was a meeting on January 18 with the Committee, and they discussed the funding and the Grant. She stated on the prior Friday, there was a meeting with the administrators for the Grant, and it was determined that they have approximately \$180,000 to \$188,000 for the playground.

Ms. Goldstein stated the original estimate for the entire playground was \$350,000. She stated they have scaled back from the original Plan, and Ms. Goldstein showed a Concept Plan of what they are now proposing which is estimated to cost \$187,500. She stated this includes the safety surfacing and lawn in areas she showed on the Plan, a split rail fence surrounding the playground, the trees and shrubs to complete the sense of enclosure, and the playground equipment which is for the inclusive part and are elements which could be utilized by children with various levels of disabilities. She stated the equipment that had been in the overall plan that were not in this Concept Plan were ones that were not as inclusive, and many children with various levels of disabilities would not be able to activity utilize those pieces of equipment; although they would be an asset were entire families or groups would come so that people with varying abilities could use different equipment.

Mr. Gordon asked if the Concept Plan has been set up with appropriate spacing so that if funds were to become available, the additional equipment could be added; and Ms. Goldstein stated it has been, although the Concept Plan can be considered as an entire playground that could be funded as an entire project through the Grant including the lawn area. She stated if at some point in the future they have additional funds, the area that had the lawn could be developed as a full playground with additional elements to complement what is already there including the safety surfacing. If there was not sufficient funding to add all the remaining elements at one time, they could add some of the individual pieces. Ms. Goldstein stated they have provided safety zones around each piece of equipment, and each one if added individually would need mulch or the safety surface underneath. She stated the Unicorn would not need to be added under certain pieces and would not be as imperative for the type of user using those pieces of equipment because they would not be in a wheelchair. She stated it is important to have a grass area which is safe and contained for children of different abilities. She noted on the Plan the paths that are done in the safety surfacing.

Ms. Bunn joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Gordon asked if there is handicap parking near the area near the restrooms; and Ms. Liney stated she is not sure if they have these spaces at the restrooms although there is handicap parking near the Garden of Reflection. Ms. Goldstein stated they would propose re-stripping some of the parking spaces so that there would be some handicap spaces in the vicinity of the pavilion where there are not now. She stated this can be easily done.

Mr. Fritchey asked Ms. Goldstein if she feels they can bring the Concept Plan in for approximately \$187,000; and Ms. Goldstein stated she does, and she added they have included a contingency since she is conservative with numbers. Mr. Fritchey stated approximately \$45,000 is for the safety surfacing, and Ms. Goldstein agreed adding the surface is costly. She stated the sequoia log is expensive because it very heavy and will have to be put in with a crane. She stated the playground equipment that was chosen for the Concept Plan is some of the more expensive equipment, but it is the equipment that provides the inclusive component. Mr. Fritchey stated if this portion was done, they would have completed 50% of the original Plan; and he asked if they foresee the rest coming in as one increment or multiple increments. He also asked if there are economies for having large phases. Ms. Goldstein stated if the Township were interested in continuing with the Unicorn, she feels that should happen all at the same time. She stated if there were not sufficient funds, they could do pieces individually although it is a little more difficult that way.

Mr. Fritchey stated he understands that there is consideration being given to a fundraising effort; and he asked if they were able to raise \$75,000 what would be the best allocation of that money – completion of the Unicorn or purchase of additional equipment. Ms. Goldstein stated completion of the Unicorn without the equipment would not be a good way to proceed because you would need to put in the foundations for the equipment under the Unicorn, and you would not want to install the Unicorn and then have to dig it up. Ms. Tyler stated possibly they could do half of the Unicorn and install the pieces on that half and then leave the mulch surface for other items that could go on that surface.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the cost for the total project that was estimated to be \$350,000 increase if they do the other pieces incrementally over the years, and Ms. Goldstein stated this would depend on how long they waited as costs will increase. She stated there are economies of scale that would be lost. Mr. Wysocki asked if they would be able to add some pieces if the bids came in lower than estimated, and it was noted there could be Alternates in the Bid. Ms. Goldstein reviewed what she would consider could be an Alternate. She stated if they need to deduct something, she would recommend that they take out the landscaping which could be funded in some other way by the Township. Ms. Tyler stated there could be a request for donations for trees and bushes. Ms. Bunn this could also be a Scout service project.

Ms. Smith asked if they should know how much they are able to raise from the fundraising before they go out to Bid; and Ms. Tyler stated for the purpose of the Grant the Bid would be Phase I only, and Phase II would have to be considered a completely separately project or they will violate the Grant. Mr. McDonald asked if the funds from fundraising could be used to pay for the add-ons, and Ms. Goldstein stated the add-ons cannot equal more than the total of \$188,000. Ms. Tyler stated the only way the

Alternate concept helps the Township is if the Bids come in under the \$188,000; and if so, then some of the Alternates could be part of the main Bid. She stated the fundraising part would be Phase II which is to complete the grass area. She stated this would be a separate project. Ms. Smith stated she felt it would be better to do everything at once because of economies of scale; however, Ms. Goldstein stated in this case because the funding is through the Grant, they cannot commingle the fundraising money with the Grant dollars. She stated Phase I would have to be closed out before they began construction of Phase II as they need to honor the integrity of the Grant.

Mr. McDonald asked about engineering costs, and Ms. Tyler stated the Township cannot recoup those soft costs from the Grant; and the Township had to pay for this. Ms. Tyler stated for the \$2 million Grant, the Township had to put up \$2 million in matching real estate.

Ms. Smith stated they had planned to do the other part first, but they realized that that area would not have the inclusive pieces. She stated the Concept Plan includes the larger pieces and these were the main pieces that they wanted to get in now.

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Gordon seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend Approval of the Concept Plan for the Inclusive Playground.

Ms. Tyler stated they propose to get blow up pictures of some of the other pieces and put them on a stake in the ground which could encourage people to fund them. It was noted that there could be corporate sponsorships. Ms. Goldstein stated it is important to indicate that these pieces are to be considered as add-ons, supplements, etc.

UPDATE ON SAMOST

Ms. Goldstein stated she has a Revised timeline for Samost which was provided in the Board's packet. She stated the Board of Supervisors authorized going out to Bid on January 16. She stated it is anticipated they will award the Bid at the April 17 Board of Supervisors meeting. She stated project completion is still anticipated to be October/November. She stated she would like to have the seeding in at the beginning of the seeding window and over seeding the bear spots at the end of the seeding window.

Mr. McDonald asked if they are still looking at an estimated cost of \$650,000 to \$700,000, and Ms. Goldstein stated she has not heard that this has changed.

Mr. McDonald stated he feels there is only \$585,000 left for the project.

Ms. Goldstein stated that they did structure this so that they could add and deduct.

Ms. Tyler stated she feels the \$650,000 figure was before they deducted the \$90,000 for the paving of the parking lot.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Tyler stated the Seniors are anxious for the Community Center project to begin. Ms. Tyler stated she explained to them that the Township needs to get the ball fields project bid out first, and they will then move the engineers over to the Community Center project. Ms. Tyler stated the Seniors are seeking funding. She stated they do have almost \$50,000 in the bank to help furnish the Community Center.

There was further discussion about the Inclusive Playground. Ms. Tyler stated she does feel they can get additional pieces through corporate sponsorships. She stated this playground will enhance Memorial Park and draw people to the Park. Ms. Tyler stated Mr. McDonald may be very helpful to the Township with regard to contacts for fundraising. Ms. Tyler stated the Disabled Persons Advisory Board is a focused, professional Committee. Ms. Bunn stated she is concerned that the bids will come in higher than the estimate even without the landscaping, and she feels the Concept Plan could cost \$225,000. She stated a contingency should always be 20%. She stated this is only a conceptual plan; and when they go to hard engineering, the numbers always change. Ms. Tyler stated they may be able to add additional funds at the end of the projects, and they should discuss this with the Grant representatives.

Mr. McDonald asked about the Matrix money which he understands is close to \$1 million coming to the Township. Ms. Tyler stated it is \$400,000 this year, \$400,000 next year, skips a year and then another \$400,000. It was noted the \$400,000 coming in this year was already included in this year's Township Budget.

Ms. Tyler stated in looking for additional money, transfer taxes are the Township's only near-term hope. Mr. Fritchey stated these seem to be picking up. Ms. Tyler stated they were down to \$800,000; and if they could get back up to \$1.2 million on the transfer taxes, this would be an additional \$400,000.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated that the contractor has finished repairing the four tennis courts damaged by Hurricane Sandy. She stated the Township took this opportunity to make improvements in support poles and cement footings. The fence fabric was tightened, and necessary repairs to the court surface completed. The paid invoice was submitted to insurance.

Ms. Liney stated this January the Park crew has been working at the Pool repairing concrete slabs identified by the Township engineer. The crew has also installed new drains in the tot pool area and behind the diving boards that should help to keep that section drier and help eliminate damp odors.

Ms. Liney stated the Township has begun the paperwork process to issue spring field permits and scheduling space for the picnic grove at Kids Kingdom this year. Planned summer camps are being arranged and information for registration for the camps should be available to the community next month.

Ms. Liney stated registration for the Community Pool at the early discount rate of \$395 is underway. The discount period will end March 1 at which time the regular family rate of \$440 for the season will be in effect.

Ms. Liney stated the Seniors are hosting their annual AARP free tax return preparation in the Township Building on Monday mornings through April 8. This service is highly utilized by the community.

Ms. Liney stated all Park Board volunteers have had their annual membership in the Pennsylvania Park & Recreation Society renewed for 2013.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary