

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – MAY 14, 2013

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held at the Community Pool on May 14, 2013. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman
Patricia Bunn, Secretary (joined meeting in progress)
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Donna Liney, Park & Recreation Director
Janet Smith, Community Pool Manager
Wes Sheffer, Community Pool Assistant Manager
Kristin Tyler, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Fran McDonald, Park & Rec Board Vice Chair
Dave Gordon, Park & Rec Board Member
Dave Malinowski, Park & Rec Board Member
Andrew Newbon, Park & Rec Board Member

TABLING MINUTES

Due to lack of a quorum, Minutes of April 9, 2013 were unable to be approved at this time.

APPROVAL OF 2013 CONCESSION STAND MENU

Ms. Marsha Masi, MLE Enterprises, was present to review the Concession Stand Menu. She stated while food prices have gone up, she has tried to keep the price increases low and many items are the same price as last year. She stated no new items have been added to the menu; and in fact, she has removed some items that were not selling including some breakfast sandwiches. She stated this year she decided to do a separate candy/soda/ice cream line to try to relieve some of the congestion from the lines. She stated she did try this in the past; and while it did not work then, she is willing to try it again. She stated she does not feel that the lines move that slowly.

Ms. Liney stated they did get feedback from the members regarding the hours for the operation of the Snack Bar, and this year they are going to post the hours of operation. Ms. Liney stated Ms. Masi will coincide with the operation of the Pool so they will be expanding hours and open at 10:00 a.m. on the weekends. Ms. Liney stated the Snack

Bar will close one hour before the Pool closes. She stated they will also post a notice that the Snack Bar will not be open during inclement weather. Ms. Masi stated in the past if it was raining and everyone left the Pool, they would close; however, if the sun comes out two hours later, they came back. Ms. Masi stated this is her twenty-third year at the Pool.

Ms. Liney stated they are going to make a concentrated effort to keep the Snack Bar area cleaner which was another comment they received from Members. Ms. Liney stated while it is Ms. Masi's responsibility to keep the area clean according to the Contract, the Pool maintenance crew will be helping out as well. Ms. Liney stated they also hope that the Members pick up their own trash.

Ms. Masi stated they will also run occasional specials at the Snack Bar such as meatball sandwiches.

The menu was acceptable to the Park & Recreation Board.

Ms. Bunn joined the meeting at this time.

Ms. Masi stated they will stay open during the Swim Team Meets. Ms. Liney stated the Snack Bar will still need to close one hour before the Pool is closing so that the Pool Management does not have to stay waiting for the Snack Bar to get done. Ms. Masi stated this was her reasoning for closing one hour earlier.

Ms. Tyler asked what time the Snack Bar closed last year, and Ms. Masi stated it depends on the weather and they also closed when the Pool closed. She stated they do need to clean up, but if someone came to the window they would wait on them. Ms. Smith stated the problem was that people were getting food at 8:50 p.m. and were not leaving until 9:20 p.m. even though the Pool was closing at 9:00 p.m. Ms. Smith stated some of the Members would then go get a shower, and the staff was forced to wait. Ms. Tyler stated she is concerned about the Snack Bar closing an hour before the Pool closes, and Ms. Smith stated having the Snack Bar close even a half hour before the Pool closes would be fine. Ms. Smith stated if the hours are posted and people know when they will be closing, hopefully they would know that they need to get their food by 8:00 p.m. if the Pool is going to close at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Wysocki suggested that they make an announcement that the Concession Stand will be closing, and Ms. Masi stated they do this. Ms. Tyler stated she did not have a problem with them posting a closing time of 8:00 but agreeing to serve them if they are coming to the window as they are cleaning up. Mr. Fritchey stated they would not want them to have to start making someone a hamburger at ten minutes before 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Tyler stated now that they have extended the weekend hours in the morning she feels they should consider breakfast items; and Ms. Masi stated while they did take certain breakfast sandwiches off the menu, they do have other breakfast items. Ms. Tyler stated there may be more of a demand for more breakfast items than there was in the past now that they are open earlier.

SWIM TEAM UPDATE

Ms. Sandy Borowsky and Ms. Beth White representing the Swim Team Parents were present. Ms. Borowsky stated their registration to sign up for the Swim Team ends tomorrow, and they are at 284 members which is down significantly from last year when they were at 350. She stated she assumes that they are down for the same reason that the Pool Membership is down. She stated there is also two weeks less on the front end of the summer and one week less on the back end of the summer so some people are not willing to make the commitment to the Swim Team this year. She stated there are two more extra weeks of afternoon practices which is a hardship especially if they play other sports. She stated this year they have four weeks of afternoon practices because of the School calendar. Ms. Borowsky stated there is also a coaching change; and whenever you have a coach change there are people who drop out.

Mr. Wysocki asked Ms. Borowsky if she is concerned about the decrease, and she stated she is not. She stated their Meets run very long which is a concern to the Pool, a concern to the opposing Teams, and to the League itself. She stated with less swimmers, the Meets should not be as long. She stated they have also offered a Competitive Swim Team Membership and a Recreational Swim Team Membership which does not include participation in the Meets, and they had thirty children take the Recreational Swim Team Membership. She stated this also brings the size of the Meets down which helps as well. Ms. Borowsky stated last year they let the swimmers participate in a minimum of three events, and the end of last year they changed that to two events to try to keep the Meets a little shorter. She stated she is not sure they will do that this year because they now have a smaller Team. Ms. Borowsky stated the smaller Team does not present Budgetary concerns as they adjusted the coaching fees.

Mr. Wysocki asked if they anticipate more children signing up, and Ms. Borowsky stated Registration is closed for new members since they already had evaluations. She stated new members had to attend a mandatory evaluation session. She stated existing members have until tomorrow to sign up. Ms. White stated they were pre-filled in the eight and under age group with fifty swimmers, and they do not really need any more in that age group because of safety concerns. Ms. Borowsky stated they have a great coaching staff with most of the staff returning.

Ms. Borowsky stated they did not get a lot of new Swim Team members from the non-resident program. She stated she feels they only got three. Ms. Liney stated she has received a number of calls from people who were interested but they were unable to find a sponsor. She stated she did advise them to call Bobby DiSandre to call his Swim Team people for sponsorship. She stated she is concerned to hear that Swim Team registration is closed now. Ms. Borowsky stated if they were on another Swim Team, she feels it could be assumed that they can swim. She did note that she had a woman indicate that her child was on the Oxford Valley Swim Team last year, and when he came to evaluations, he could not swim across the Pool, and they could not let him on the Team. Ms. Borowsky stated she is concerned that if they let in one person after the registration has been closed, it could create a problem. Ms. Borowsky stated with the new coach this year, they “ramped” up their minimum requirements. Ms. Borowsky stated they have someone thirteen and over who wants to Swim for the Team it should not be a problem adding them; however, if they are twelve or under, they will have to look at it on a case-by-case basis. She stated she has already turned two people away. She stated they do get a lot of interest in the Dive Team after the Pool opens, and it is not a problem to add new divers.

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POOL MANAGEMENT

Ms. Liney introduced Mr. Wes Sheffer, Assistant Manger. She stated Ms. Smith, the Pool Manager, had back surgery, and Mr. Sheffer has been very helpful. Ms. Liney stated Mr. Sheffer is one of the long-time Assistant Managers and works in the Pennsbury School system and coaches Pennsbury Freshman Baseball. Mr. Sheffer stated the past few weekends they have had the staff in and show them exactly what they want them to do in each area. He reviewed the maintenance needed to be done in each area.

MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

Ms. Liney stated they are getting a positive response from the non-resident Associate Program. She stated that thirty-one families have registered as non-residents sponsored by a Member family. She stated they have not yet had the warm weather which usually drives the Membership. She stated they have added twenty-five LMT resident families from April to the present time.

Ms. Bunn asked if there is any feedback as to why people have not joined the Pool; and Ms. Liney stated she feels it is a combination of the changing Township demographics, the NAC, and the sagging economy. Ms. Liney stated they are still hopeful and are

trying new things. She stated Ms. Tyler has a lot of good ideas and they will implement some of them. Ms. Tyler stated she still feels they should consider having Teen Nights – a Fifth Grade Night, Sixth Grade Night etc. Ms. Liney stated this may not be helpful to the Members; however, Ms. Tyler stated she feels it will help get people to think of the Pool as a place for their children and this may help in the future. Ms. Liney stated they have plans set for July 4, Family Fun Day in July, and a Movie Night in August.

Ms. Smith stated two years ago they had an excellent program presented by Mr. DiNola from the Fire Department who is quite knowledgeable about water safety and also had water ice and pretzels, and only four people attended which was very discouraging. She stated she feels families today are extremely busy. Ms. Bunn stated if they have a program like this again in the future, they should contact the Scout Troops as they need this for their Merit Badges. She stated there are four very active Boy Scout Troops in Lower Makefield. Ms. Smith stated they did put out a blast e-mail to the Pool Members about the event. Ms. Bunn stated possibly they could open something like this to non-Members who could pay a small fee to attend. Ms. Tyler asked if they could open the Pool up to non-Members for something like this. Ms. Liney stated she is concerned that they would get feedback from the Member who have paid \$400 to be here; and they have indicated in the past that if the community wants to use the Pool, they should join the Pool.

Ms. Borowsky stated they should understand that the Pool is struggling, and the Pool needs to do things to increase their Membership base. Ms. Liney stated she is also not sure how the insurance would work if there was an incident since Members are insured. Ms. Tyler stated on Community Pride Day, they did open it up to non-Members.

Mr. Wysocki asked how they advertise Pool Memberships and asked if they could put up signs in the Township like they do for the baseball registration. Ms. Liney stated they do advertise on the Internet and Cable TV Channel; however, Mr. Wysocki stated people may not check the Internet, but they would see a sign at an intersection. Ms. Liney stated she could get signs made up and put them up.

Ms. Tyler stated re-Districting is going on at the Schools and possibly they could have a “Mixer Night” which could be publicized through the PTOs. She stated it might introduce people to the Pool who do not currently come to the Pool. Ms. Borowsky stated she would be in favor of this. Ms. Tyler stated the Board of Supervisors have discussed the Pool Membership, and they would be willing to do some advertising.

There was discussion about having a Dip N Dine. Ms. Liney stated they no longer do this because of the concerns of exposure with alcohol. She stated they have Family Fun Day and a fun Fourth of July instead.

Ms. Tyler stated some time between this year and next year the Newtown Swim Club will be closing and she feels there should be some contact made with their Members. Ms. Tyler stated the NAC is planning to build an Olympic pool in Phase II of their construction, but that might be at a price point for some people. Ms. Borowsky stated Newtown Swim Club does have a large Swim Team and if they were all to come over to Lower Makefield, it would be a hardship although they would be happy to have a portion of them.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Tyler stated they awarded the Bid for the ball fields with some revisions. She stated the height difference in the outfield from end to end will be 6' and PAA was happy with this. The total bid was \$689,673. Ms. Tyler stated there have been some issues getting reimbursed by the State, and they have not yet received the \$190,000 for the court resurfacing. Ms. Tyler stated they will now engage an architect for the Community Center. She stated they want to get that started in conjunction with the Inclusive Playground since those projects can run together. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels they should be able to move more quickly with the playground. Ms. Liney stated there was also discussion about fund raising for the playground. Ms. Tyler stated they may be able to do the entire playground, and they are looking for money for the Community Center and the playground. Ms. Bunn asked if the Seniors will do fundraising for the Community Center, and Ms. Tyler stated they already have \$50,000. Ms. Tyler stated they are still trying to get additional money without hurting capital improvement projects.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated May is one of the busiest times in the Township Park system. She stated the Park crew continues to maintain and fine tune all ten Park sites as well as preparing the Pool for opening day in two and a half weeks.

Ms. Liney stated this past weekend the annual YMS EPIC Girls Soccer Tournament was held at Macclesfield showcasing 165 of the best teams in the mid-Atlantic region. She stated Tournaments of this scale are not possible without great facilities and volunteers to coordinate the program. She congratulated YMS for another successful event.

Ms. Liney stated the Lower Makefield Seniors Group held Elections today for Officers and two Directors. Newly-elected Officers are Ada Derr - President, Glen Mangold – Vice President, Margaret McLaughlin - Secretary and Joan St. Cyr - Treasurer. The two Board members are Irv Hirsch and Sally Garafano. Ms. Liney stated the Seniors group continues to offer a wide range of activities to the members and are looking forward to breaking ground for the planned Community Center.

Ms. Liney stated the low bidder, Ply Mar, has been given the notice to proceed and work should commence mid June on the Samost tract ball field portion of the Grant award. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 31.

Ms. Liney stated residents are looking forward to the annual Lower Makefield Farmers Market which is scheduled to open Thursday, June 6 in Veterans Square. This is the sixth year of operation for the Market which typically draws several hundred people each week to purchase local produce and wares in support of the area farmers. Ms. Liney stated also planned for Veterans Square beginning next week is the Yoga in the Park program on Tuesday evenings. The annual Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, June 8 at that site as well.

Ms. Bunn asked about the paving for the Stoddard III path, and Ms. Liney stated it was awarded; but because of the award date, it will be done in the fall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Tyler asked about political advertising on the Township fields. Ms. Liney stated this was paid for and is not a courtesy banner. She stated she spoke to Mr. Caiola and the thought was that Supervisor candidates could purchase that advertising. She stated the banner that is currently up will come down at the end of the season when the rest of the banners come down. Ms. Tyler stated the Ordinance states that there are to be no political signs on Township property except for thirty days preceding the Election.

Ms. Tyler asked how the Park & Recreation Board feels about political signs on the Township fields. Ms. Bunn stated she does not feel that there should be any political signs on Township fields. She stated she does not feel that this was the intention of having signs on the fields. Mr. Fritchey stated he did not have a problem with it as they told the organizations they could sell advertising and raise money.

Ms. Tyler stated her concern is that there is an Ordinance regarding signs that indicates that no political signs can be placed on Township property except for the thirty days preceding the Election. Ms. Bunn stated she feels they should enforce their own Ordinances. Ms. Liney stated she told Mr. Caiola that they would discuss this post-Season as Mr. Caiola had indicated that they had already paid for the banner and it had been installed. Mr. Wysocki asked if there would be any objection if they had the sign up provided they followed the thirty day rule, and Ms. Tyler stated they would have to comply with the political sign size, etc. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels they should have more Park & Recreation Board members present before making a recommendation on this. Ms. Liney agreed to add this matter to a future Agenda.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary