

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on January 20, 2015. Mr. Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. He welcomed Dobby Dobson as the new Supervisor Liaison noting that Pete Stainthorpe their former Liaison passed away and had served the Township well for many years. Mr. Fritchey asked for a moment of silence in Mr. Stainthorpe's memory.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman  
David Gordon, Vice Chairman  
Patricia Bunn, Secretary (joined meeting at 7:55 p.m.)  
David Malinowski, Member  
Andrew Newbon, Member  
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Donna Liney, Park & Recreation Director  
Dobby Dobson, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Malinowski seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of November 11, 2014 as written.

REORGANIZE PARK & RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Gordon seconded and it was unanimously carried to keep the current Officers.

APPROVE LOCATION OF EAGLE SCOUT CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED GA GA COURT ADJACENT TO KIDS KINGDOM PLAYGROUND

Ms. Liney stated Mr. Scott Weaner is present on behalf of his son and has brought a model to show the construction of what they are proposing. Mr. Weaner stated it is approximately 20' in diameter and approximately 36" high all around. It will be made of pressure-treated lumber. Mr. Weaner stated the court will be adjacent to

the back parking lot at Kids Kingdom. Mr. Weaner stated eventually he would like to see it built on a concrete pad which would be easier to maintain. He stated while you can get kits, their plan is just to build it out of wood.

Ms. Liney stated they are going to try to stain it so that it matches Kids Kingdom, and Mr. Weaner is working with the Park crew as far as doing a concrete pour. Mr. Weaner is doing fundraising to cover the cost of the materials.

Mr. Weaner stated Ms. Tyler actually suggested this project when he had asked her about Eagle Scout projects.

The Park & Recreation Board was satisfied with the proposal as presented.

Mr. Weaner stated they will write this up, present it to the Troop, and then the Bucks County Boy Scout Council for approval. He does not anticipate any problems. He anticipates they will be building it in the spring.

#### SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Dobson stated they are working on the Quiet Zones, and there will be some delays at the Railroad crossings. He stated the Board of Supervisors does try to address any quality of life issues.

Mr. Dobson stated the Golf Course representatives approached him about putting something in at the Golf Course such as a bench with his name in memory of Pete Stainthorpe. They indicated they would do a fundraiser for the money needed.

Mr. Gordon stated he and Mr. Stainthorpe had discussed the issue of naming rights. Ms. Liney noted Mr. Wysocki had drafted a very good proposal about naming, and she could put this on a future Agenda. Mr. Dobson stated he does believe in naming things after individuals who have made a difference in the Township, and he feels Mr. Stainthorpe falls within that category.

Mr. Dobson stated they had a Special Election in January, and Ron Smith is the new Supervisor and will serve one year for Mr. Stainthorpe. Mr. Dobson stated Mr. Stainthorpe had five years left on his term. Mr. Dobson stated under the Code for Second Class Townships when a Supervisor passes away or resigns their seat, you appoint someone who will serve until the next Municipal Election. He stated the next Election is in November, and petitions are due by March to run in the Primary. Mr. Dobson stated if Mr. Smith wishes to run, he will need to pick Republican or Democrat to run in the Primary. He could also run as an Independent if he wishes to do that again. Mr. Dobson stated whoever wins,

that individual will serve the remainder of Mr. Stainthorpe's term which would be four more years starting in 2016. Mr. Dobson stated Mr. McLaughlin's term is also up this year.

Mr. Newbon asked about the residential question of Ms. DeBlasio serving on the School Board, and Mr. Dobson stated that is strictly a School Board issue.

Mr. Wysocki again discussed the naming issue, and agreed he did prepare the draft Ms. Liney noted which he feels is worth considering. He stated it provides guidelines and could take pressure off the Supervisors when someone comes up with a name. It was agreed to put this on a future Agenda.

Mr. Fritchey noted some recent vandalism, and Ms. Liney stated some drainage work was being done at Macclesfield, and the backhoe was left out and it was vandalized. She stated the Police are involved, and it will be turned over to insurance if it is over \$1,000. Mr. Wysocki asked if there are cameras at Macclesfield, and Ms. Liney stated there are not. Mr. Fritchey stated he had a discussion with Mr. Fedorchak this evening about cameras, and he indicated that they will look into cameras for Memorial Park. Ms. Liney stated one of the priorities was the safety of children at the playground at Memorial Park but added there are also a lot of children at Macclesfield. Mr. Dobson stated because of safety concerns today, he feels it is important to find the money to purchase cameras.

#### RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

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. Every request is considered and reviewed in accordance with the Township guidelines and the Township tries to accommodate as many requests as they can. The Township will process over several hundred facility requests this year, working closely with the volunteer groups to service the needs of the community.

Ms. Liney stated planned Summer Camps are being arranged and information for Registration for the Camps should be available to the community next month.

Ms. Liney stated the Lower Makefield Seniors are hosting the annual AARP free tax return preparation in the Township Building on Monday mornings beginning February 2<sup>nd</sup> through April 13<sup>th</sup>. This service is highly utilized by the community and all slots will book as tax season progresses.

Ms. Liney stated Registration for the Community Pool at the early discount rate of \$395 for resident families is underway. She stated the discount period will end March 6<sup>th</sup> at which time the regular family rate of \$440 for the season will be in effect. Ms. Liney stated new this year, the Township will accept credit card payments. There will be an automatic additional fee of \$25 to the patron using this convenience, which represents the transaction fee and monthly service fee paid by the Township.

Ms. Liney stated all the Park Board members have had their Annual Membership in the Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Society renewed for 2015.

Ms. Liney stated Park & Recreation is working with the Township Citizens Traffic Committee and St. Mary's to host a child car seat checkup in one of the Township parks this spring. She will advise the Park Board when a location and time have been finalized.

Ms. Liney stated the Board of Supervisors adopted the 2015 Operating Budgets for Park & Recreation, Pool, and the Garden of Reflection. Capital construction in the 2015 Park & Recreation Operating Budget includes \$10,000 for partial paving of the Stoddart parking lot for ADA compliance. The purchase of a new truck for the Park crew leader and the installation of a pavilion at Memorial Park are budgeted in the Park and Recreation Fee-In-Lieu Budget for this year. The proposed pergola for the Community Pool has been deferred from 2015 to 2016.

Ms. Liney stated that in the Board's packets there is a status update on the Community center project. The architect plans to go out to bid for this project in March with opening bids in April. Construction is estimated at six to eight months – May through December.

Ms. Liney stated Harris Blacktopping is awaiting a break in the weather to pave the Caiola Baseball Complex, including the section of the Stoddart parking lot entry and area where ADA parking spots will be. It is anticipated this paving will begin mid-March and completed by the end of that month.

Ms. Liney stated PlyMar Construction is scheduled mid-March as well for overseeding and completion of some outstanding punch list items. The Township is waiting for Armour Electric to install electrical service for the well.

Mr. Dobson asked when they feel play will be permitted on the new baseball fields, and Ms. Liney stated she is hoping they will be able to use them by May or possibly earlier.

Mr. Newbon stated he feels they did a great job with the Dedication at Veterans Square. Mr. Dobson stated he also feels the video group did a great job, and everything was first class and handled with dignity. He noted the large number of people which were present. Mr. Gordon stated he was also proud of the Marching Band.

#### LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Liney noted the presence of Sean O'Hara, President of YMS, and Brian Driscoll, the YMS Facilities Director. Mr. O'Hara stated 2014 was a great year for YMS, and their numbers continue to be high. He stated they had two successful Tournaments which he had previously reported on, and they had multiple State and Regional Champs as well as a National Runner Up. He stated the in-house program is very strong. He stated the adult program is also coming on strong. He also noted the Special Stars Program which is the program for autistic children. He stated one of the Board members from the basketball program reached out to him and wants to start a basketball program similar to the YMS Special Stars Program, and they will work with them on how to do this. Mr. O'Hara stated they are also going to do some joint marking with PRBL. Mr. O'Hara stated 2014 was also the year that they became debt free. Mr. Gordon asked when the turf field will need to be re-done, and Mr. O'Hara stated it will need to be done in approximately four years, and they anticipate a complete resurface and are saving for that with the goal to have enough so that they do not have to borrow any money.

Mr. Fritchey asked if there has been any further research about the rubber, and Mr. O'Hara stated they continue to look at it to make sure what they are using is safe. Mr. O'Hara stated each year they add 12,000 pounds of material.

Ms. Bunn asked how long it took them to get rid of the debt for the turf field, and it was noted it was approximately six years. Mr. O'Hara stated there were two loans.

Mr. Gordon asked if they feel they need more bleachers, and Mr. O'Hara stated they feel they are fine with bleachers as there are other things they need which they feel are more important. Mr. Wysocki asked if they have considered a score board on Field C, and Mr. O'Hara stated that was discussed last year but it was decided not to proceed with that.

Mr. O'Hara stated they are concerned about vandalism at Macclesfield Park. He stated there was field damage over the holidays and reminded the Board about other damage done in 2013. He stated they would like some help protecting the fields. Mr. Fritchey asked if there are any suggestions, and Mr. O'Hara stated they did discuss cameras. Mr. Fritchey stated Macclesfield Park is ninety acres. Mr. O'Hara stated YMS would help with the cameras. Mr. O'Hara stated there was also a suggestion about gating Macclesfield recognizing that this is not an easy solution. Ms. Bunn stated it is difficult when emergency vehicles have to respond to the Park. Mr. Fritchey stated people can also get in from adjoining areas and the towpath and do damage; however, it was noted this would cut down on damage done by cars. Mr. Gordon stated he would be in favor of cameras; however, Mr. Fritchey stated they would need a lot of cameras. Mr. Dobson stated they can discuss this with Chief Coluzzi to determine where cameras should be strategically be placed. It was noted that the entrance would be an optimal location. He feels security for the Township citizens and Township assets is a priority.

Mr. O'Hara stated in the summer a lot of kids meet at Macclesfield Park at night starting at 10:00 p.m. so anything that can be done to bring awareness to the Police of this would help. Mr. Gordon asked if Macclesfield Park is on the nightly rounds by the Police, and Mr. Dobson stated they could check on this although he feels it is.

Mr. Fritchey stated he feels they need to make the investment in security cameras because of the number of incidents that have occurred. Ms. Bunn stated vandalism has also occurred at the fields across the street from the Police Station. Mr. O'Hara stated they also had an incident at the Heacock field and the goal was found broken in the back of the woods.

Mr. O'Hara stated whatever the Township can do about this would be appreciated by YMS, and they will help in any way they can. Mr. Dobson agreed to discuss these problems with Mr. Fedorchak.

Ms. Bunn stated if they do something, they will need to get quality cameras that can pick up a license plate.

Mr. O'Hara stated Visit Bucks County reached out to YMS, and they are a tourism group who will help YMS advertise local businesses when people come in for Tournaments. He stated he wants to make sure that the Lower Makefield businesses are at the top of the Webpage. He stated there is a Tournament App that will take people to the Visit Bucks County Website, and it will have restaurants, shopping areas, and things to do in the area. He stated he wants to make sure that Memorial Park is on the top of the list as well. Mr. O'Hara stated the people from Visit Bucks County are going to supply him with an economic impact of what a Tournament does for the area, and he will share this with the Township once it is received. Ms. Bunn asked that Yardley Borough be included as well.

Mr. O'Hara stated there will be a third Tournament catered toward the younger players U07 to U-12. He stated this will be in June, and he has given Ms. Liney the dates.

Mr. O'Hara stated they need more field space. He stated when they opened the playground at Memorial Park YMS utilized a few of the fields for the weekend, and they got a lot of positive feedback. He stated the surface does need work.

Mr. Fritchey stated there is an approved plan for Snipes; and if this were built, it would solve a lot of problems. Ms. Bunn stated when they built Memorial Park, they agreed that it would not be a Permitted Park. Mr. Gordon questioned how often Memorial Park is being used. Ms. Bunn stated once it is opened up for one organization, they would have to open it up for everyone. Mr. Fritchey stated Snipes would be the optimal resolution, and the Park Board members agreed. Mr. Fritchey stated they bought Snipes with the idea that it was going to be a venue for active recreation, and instead it is a venue for mulch. Mr. Fritchey stated there is a Plan for Snipes which was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Dobson stated he understood that Memorial Park was to be used for passive recreation, but times change, and he feels they need full utilization of every piece of recreation space they have.

Mr. Gordon stated it would take money to get the fields ready at Snipes and a parking lot set up. He stated there are decent fields at Memorial Park. Mr. O'Hara stated YMS would be willing to help with the fields at Memorial Park. Mr. Gordon stated at Memorial Park there is already a good sized field as well as parking and bathrooms.

Mr. Dobson stated he feels they should discuss this further and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Bunn stated when they approved the Plan for Memorial Park they discussed it with the neighbors on several occasions and stated that it would not be used for Permitted play; and she feels that if they are going to change this the neighbors should be advised and given a voice.

Mr. Fritchey stated he would prefer using Snipes although he is not sure that they could get Grant money for this.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels Memorial Park could be used by the younger players as there are restrooms, the playground, and it is a safe park. He stated they could limit it to the younger players on Saturday morning as opposed to those players using Edgewood. Ms. Bunn stated there is parking available in the area of Edgewood as

well although the people do not want to walk. Mr. O'Hara stated children aged three to six are using Edgewood. Mr. Newbon stated if they used Memorial Park on a limited basis, he would not have a problem but he would not want it to morph into something bigger. Mr. Fritchey stated this is his concern as well since there were certain covenants made that people expect. Ms. Bunn stated she does not have a problem revisiting this, but she feels they need to be transparent with the neighborhood since promises were made. Mr. Fritchey stated this Park was not to be for organized activities and was not supposed to be an athletic complex. He stated the Township bought Snipes to be an athletic complex since it is flat, it is readily adaptable, and it solves all the problems. She stated the issue is that they need approximately \$2 million to do it. He stated they did get \$2 million in the past, and maybe that can be done again which is ideally what they should do. He stated they did not buy Snipes to be a mulch pile.

Mr. Newbon stated he agrees for the short term they could have Memorial Park opened up for light use by YMS with constraints in place. Ms. Bunn stated if they are going to let YMS use it every Saturday for a certain period of time, she feels they have a duty to let the neighbors know and be given a voice. She stated she is not against using Memorial Park, but she feels they should invite the residents to a meeting and let them know their intentions. Mr. Dobson stated this would happen since the Board of Supervisors would advertise it and listen to public comment.

Mr. O'Hara stated they run eight weeks in the spring and eight weeks in the fall. He stated they would use it on Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Dobson stated this would be a limited use; however, Ms. Bunn stated she still feels they should let the residents know that they are changing the use. Mr. Dobson stated he feels the Memorial Park fields are under utilized.

Mr. O'Hara stated YMS would help with leveling any of the fields not just Memorial Park.

Mr. Dobson suggested that the Park & Recreation Board make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, and it could be advertised for a vote by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Fritchey stated he has reservations about this and feels this is a mistake in the big picture. He stated he feels they should go with the plan they have had for the last twenty years which is that Memorial Park would be a community park that is not supposed to be permitted out although there could be extraordinary circumstance when it might have to be used. He stated Snipes was specifically bought, planned, and approved for active recreation.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels there are two separate issues. He stated no one has \$2 million in the next few years, and he feels something should be done to help the situation in the short term. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels using Memorial Park will take the pressure off doing what is the long-term solution which is building Snipes which was bought for this purpose. Mr. O'Hara stated he understands Mr. Fritchey's concerns, but YMS would be willing to contribute.

Mr. Newbon stated they could advance the use of Memorial Park under the pretense that it would be a limited use with guidelines to be enforced, and that it would only be for a certain period of time; and they could see what the residents feels about this. Mr. Fritchey stated the residents will want to know how they are going to limit it but could indicate that they were told previously that it would not be used for this purpose. Mr. Newbon stated the difference is that it would take a \$2 million investment in Snipes and allowing limited use at Memorial Park could offset this temporarily. Mr. Fritchey stated he still feels that they need to continue to encourage the development of Snipes.

Mr. Wysocki asked how they could explore whether money is available. Mr. Dobson stated the State has a huge deficit so he does not feel Grants are going to be available; however, Mr. Fritchey stated the State Legislators still seem to be able to get funds. Mr. Gordon stated he did speak to Mr. Santarsiero today, and he did indicate that he was going to look for more money to see if he could help.

Mr. O'Hara stated he understands that a well is going to be installed at the baseball fields, and he asked how they are going to get the water onto the fields. Ms. Liney stated she will have to check with Mr. Fedorchak about the water wheel to see who will be purchasing this. Ms. Liney stated she knows that YMS purchased their own water wheel, but she is not sure PAA is thinking about doing this. She asked Mr. O'Hara the price, and he stated it was \$4,000 plus the hoses. Ms. Liney stated YMS has kindly offered to allow the Township to use it. Ms. Bunn asked where it is located, and Ms. Liney stated YMS stores it at Macclesfield. Ms. Bunn asked if it is something that could easily be brought up, and Mr. O'Hara stated it is not easy; and Ms. Liney stated it has to be transported on a trailer. Mr. O'Hara stated they would be willing to help whenever they can with baseball.

Mr. O'Hara stated they would like to be able to utilize Field H which is currently a baseball field, and they would be willing to help out getting the baseball field ready. Ms. Liney stated getting the new baseball fields would help free up Field H for YMS; however, Mr. Malinowski stated there would still be a problem since he new ball fields do not have lights so they can only be used until sunset while Field H has lights and is used at night. Mr. Fritchey stated they do not yet know the spring PAA enrollment. Mr. Malinowski stated Field H is used in the beginning of the

season when they need to get in games and practices, but as the season ages, the older players come in and they use Field H late until the lights go off. He stated as the season progresses, they also practice less so they do not use it as much.

Mr. Fritchey thanked YMS for all of their contributions. Mr. Wysocki stated another YMS player was drafted by the MLS.

Ms. Bunn stated she feels they should have a liaison from all the Leagues attending the Park & Recreation Board meetings to provide an update especially when they are gearing up toward the season so that they know what the membership numbers are and their plans. Mr. Wysocki stated YMS has a representative at almost every meeting. Ms. Liney stated she does invite PAA, and Ms. Bunn stated PAA should be advised that they are expected to attend. Ms. Liney stated previously a Park & Recreation Board member was assigned to each of the Leagues as the liaison, and that Board member would then report on that League at the Board meeting.

Mr. Fritchey stated PAA registrations have continued to drop, and he is concerned about this. Mr. Gordon stated it seems the PAA decrease in registrations goes beyond a demographic drop and has not impacted YMS. Mr. Fritchey stated for some reason PAA is losing market share. There was discussion about the difference between Little League and Babe Ruth baseball.

Mr. Fritchey stated the Township needs to consider PAA numbers when it comes to allocating field resources; and if there are not enough soccer fields and not enough players in PAA to need the use of Field H, the Township needs to consider this. He stated they should not just give PAA fields because historically they have given them fields in the past when they had twice as many players. Mr. Fritchey stated the turf field has relieved some of the pressure with regard to soccer, and Macclesfield would have been destroyed.

There being no further business, Mr. Gordon moved, Mr. Malinowski seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary

