

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2015

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on February 10, 2015. Mr. Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman
David Gordon, Vice Chairman
David Malinowski, Member
Andrew Newbon, Member
Dennis Wysocki, Member

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

Absent: Patricia Bunn, Park & Rec Board Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Newbon moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2015 as written.

PRESENTATION OF CONCEPT SITE PLAN FOR VETERANS SQUARE AND RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ms. Kathy Kraeck, Veterans Square Foundation, was present with Mr. Michael Sullivan, landscape architect. Ms. Kraeck stated in 2008 they put together a design team for the Veterans Square monument. She stated they wanted an uplifting, hopeful, timeless design to honor Veterans of the past, the present, and the future; and they wanted it built in a peaceful, park setting. She stated they also wanted it done in such a way that residents could come to the Park and enjoy other events as well such as the Farmers' Market and the Labor Day Concert they have each year. She stated they wanted to examine how residents could spend more time at the Park when they visit the monument.

Ms. Kraeck stated early on they knew they wanted to block out the white wall of the CVS and the bright lights; and they have been working with Mr. Fedorchak for the past few years on this, and he has arranged with developers in the area to have an evergreen border planted.

Ms. Kraeck stated following the monument dedication she and Mr. Sullivan met with Mr. Dobson and Ms. Tyler to discuss how to make the park even more special. She stated Mr. Sullivan has developed a Concept Plan which will be presented to the Park & Recreation Board this evening. She stated it would be up to the Township to institute this in stages if they desire with a recommendation from the Park & Recreation Board.

Ms. Kraeck stated they have been working with a number of Eagle Scouts at Veterans Square with two projects having already been completed, and a third project being discussed at this time.

Mr. Sullivan stated he is a Township resident and got involved in this project seven years ago. He showed the Concept Plan which evolved because the monument became the centerpiece of the Park. He stated they know that there are certain things that take place at the Park including the Farmers' Market, the play structure, parking, and the presence on Edgewood Road. He stated at the Dedication he watched how the Park was used including the procession coming into the Park. He stated he also looked at Edgewood Road where there is no fencing or trees, but there are utility poles. He stated he also had to consider the loss of the very large tree which the monument had been centered on and had provided a degree of screening from the CVS. He stated when this tree was brought down by Hurricane Sandy, the monument's composition lost that major element.

Mr. Sullivan showed on the Plan an area to be left open to accommodate the Farmers' Market and other activities. He stated they also felt they should have a formal back drop for the monument, and they are suggested the creation of a formal grove of shade trees. He stated the Farmers' Market activities could also take place in this shaded area if it was needed since it would be open underneath. Mr. Sullivan noted Edgewood Road where he feels there should be some sort of delineation such as a fence with plantings. He stated the sidewalk should also be extended to tie into Edgewood Village. He stated they would also suggest a formal walkway to enter the Monument. Mr. Sullivan stated even though there are utility poles, they feel shade trees could be set back far enough so that they could create a conventional street tree alignment.

Mr. Sullivan stated with regard to the processions, he has proposed an access from the parking lot which could also be used by vehicles for the Farmers' Market. He stated this could be a stabilized turf. He also noted a walkway from the monument and a paved area where there could be a permanent pavilion or a plaza where they could park the "Showmobile." He stated a permanent pavilion would be nice to anchor this space, and it could be used at other times as well to have a gathering or picnic. He stated in the open area crowds could gather or people could bring chairs.

Mr. Sullivan showed how they could formalize the parking which would allow for a single row of parking at a location he showed on the plan as well as a larger parking area which would be back by the CVS.

Mr. Sullivan stated there is an existing play structure which is fairly old, and he noted an area to the right which could be used for a newer play structure.

Mr. Sullivan stated this project could be phased. He stated they anticipate there will be contributions from developers for the trees in the back, and they feel those will be planted in the spring; and he will help Mr. Fedorchak with the lay out of this.

Mr. Wysocki asked what events require the most parking, and Ms. Kraeck stated the Farmers' Market has needs on a regular basis. She stated when they have the Veterans Parade and Ceremony, they have a reciprocal arrangement with the Masonic Lodge and the Woodside Church. She stated they also use the spaces across the street for the Labor Day Concert.

Mr. Newbon stated there is an outbuilding on the site, and Ms. Liney stated this is a shed which is used for storage.

Mr. Dobson stated with regard to the parking, they have had discussions with Mr. Troilo who has an interest in doing the parking lot here for the Township as he is going to need additional parking for a project he has in Edgewood Village.

Mr. Fritchey congratulated the group on what they have succeeded doing already. He stated he likes the Plan that has been presented, but he is concerned about how much this will cost and where the money will come from. He stated he is also concerned that this is constricting the Farmers' Market, and he felt the Supervisors were committed to continuing with that project.

Ms. Kraeck stated they did take the Farmers' Market into account from the beginning since the Farmers' Market had been there for several years. She noted the open space on the right which is where the Farmers' Market could set up their tents. She stated she feels there is also enough space for them to drive their trucks in. Mr. Sullivan stated the Farmers' Market could also extend under the trees.

Mr. Fritchey stated it is possible that the Farmers' Market could grow, and there would not be lot of room for them to expand. He stated were the Farmers' Market to move to a different location, this would not be an issue.

Mr. Newbon stated the access to the monument seems limited on this plan with the installation of the boxwoods all the way around. Mr. Sullivan stated the walkway in front is completely open. He stated they need to have something on the edges to protect the structure from the mowers.

Mr. Gordon asked about benches since some of the Veterans are elderly, and Ms. Kraeck stated there are two benches currently along the top part of the walkway that leads from the parking lot. She stated they have also recommended an area for picnics and there could be tables there. Mr. Sullivan stated once they solidify the paths and the other elements, you can then decide where benches would be appropriate.

Mr. Newbon stated he feels the split rail fence would look nice along Edgewood Road. Mr. Sullivan stated the challenge on Edgewood Road is to find the right elements since there are some stone walls in the area, but this is a rustic area which has an agricultural village character so there could be a combination of materials such as a split rail fence with stone pillars at the entrances. He stated he has also located areas where signs should be.

Mr. Fritchey asked about construction costs; however, Mr. Sullivan stated he did not have an estimate.

Ms. Liney stated the Board could make a recommendation to the Supervisors whether they should adopt the Concept Plan as a guideline.

Mr. Fritchey stated he would like to forward it to the Board of Supervisors for their information and consideration and include that there are some concerns about the successful co-existence between this Plan and whatever expectations they have with the Farmers' Market.

Ms. Liney stated this Plan is in line with the plan of action that was recommended previously for this site.

Mr. Gordon asked Ms. Liney if she has any concerns with the co-existence of this Plan with the Farmers' Market, and Ms. Liney stated last year the Farmer's Market did feel challenged because of the space during construction of the monument. Mr. Newbon asked if the Farmers' Market would have more space this year than they did last year, and Ms. Liney stated they would.

Mr. Gordon moved and Mr. Newbon seconded to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they consider this Plan.

Mr. Wysocki asked if they feel fifty parking spaces is sufficient, and Ms. Liney stated this is what they line out for the Farmers' Market. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels they could go deeper into the tree area if they needed more spaces; however, Mr. Gordon

stated they should not expand the parking for the one or two days they need additional parking noting that they can use the parking across the street on those occasions.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF SIGNAGE AT MEMORIAL PARK PLAYGROUND

Ms. Lisa Huchler-Smith and Ms. Patricia O'Donnell from the Disabled Persons Advisory Board were present. Ms. Smith stated they had a wonderful opening ceremony at the playground. She stated they would like to put up a sign identifying the playground as "The Secret Garden." She stated they also feel it is important to identify it as an inclusive playground for children of all abilities. She provided samples of signs other inclusive playgrounds have installed.

Mr. Gordon asked if there is money in the Budget to pay for this. Ms. Liney stated there are all levels of signage. She stated she feels they could do something in the \$500 range. Mr. Gordon asked Ms. Smith if she could provide them with a design, and Ms. Smith stated she could. She stated she would like it located in front of the transformer.

Mr. Ron Smith asked if they have thought about working with the Artists of Yardley who may be interested in working with them on this project. Ms. Liney agreed to discuss this with Mr. Fedorchak.

Ms. Huchler-Smith noted an area on Woodside Road near Memorial Park where she would like to see an extension of the bike path so that people do not have to go across the grass or cross over grates in the street which she feels is dangerous. She also asked that there be crosswalk lines to get across the road. She stated with the installation of the playground, more people with children are in this area.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ron Smith stated a number of years ago when he was on the Park & Recreation Board there was discussion about the possibility of a dog park in the Township. He stated a number of people have recently discussed this possibility with him. He stated a number of other Townships in the area have these parks, and he asked that the Park & Recreation Board start thinking about this.

Mr. Dobson stated he has also been contacted by residents about this, and someone has even indicated that they would be willing to chair a fundraising effort.

Mr. Smith stated this is another kind of recreation which would he feels would be good for the community.

DISCUSSION OF GUIDELINES TO ASSIST WITH THE PROCESS OF NAMING PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN LOWER MAKEFIELD AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Wysocki noted the information packet he prepared on a process for naming public parks and recreational facilities. He stated this would not take away any authority from the Board of Supervisors, but would provide structure for the Board. He stated the information includes ideas from other Naming Policies around the Country which he found when he researched this, and he chose those that he felt fit in with Lower Makefield.

Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. Gordon seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend this to the Board of Supervisors as presented.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Dobson stated the Township has been discussing the problems with invasive bamboo including the impact it is having on properties adjacent to where it has been planted. He stated one of the solutions is that those wishing to plant bamboo on their property would have to install an appropriate barrier so that it cannot go onto other properties.

Mr. Dobson stated he did discuss the issue of security cameras with Mr. Fedorchak and Chief Coluzzi. He stated he feels they will have to install these at all the Parks and not just at Macclesfield Park. He hopes that they will put this out to bid in thirty to sixty days. He stated he also feels they need to impose stricter consequences for offenders.

Mr. Dobson stated the kitchen renovations at the Golf Course should be done by March so they will be ready for the season.

Mr. Dobson stated they anticipate that the Quiet Zones will be in place by fall.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated the Park complexes are currently under snow which is helpful for the newly-over seeded areas of the fields. Pre-season field preparations will begin when the frozen ground thaws and hardens.

Ms. Liney stated the Park crew is now repairing the vandalized backhoe, and working off site constructing a Trex step replacement to the tire climb which they will install at the Kids Kingdom playground in the next month.

Ms. Liney stated the Township is planning to publish a Township newsletter in spring, 2015. Park information she will submit for consideration to include will be camp and seasonal discount ticket information, contact information for the community user groups, and service and Pool Membership information. Ms. Liney asked if the Park Board has any additional suggestions that they forward them to her. Draft submittals are due to the Township Manager by February 15th.

Ms. Liney stated in the Board's packet were two special requests for consideration of granting exceptions to the Pool fee structure for this season; and the Township would welcome input from the Park Board. Ms. Liney noted the letter from Ms. Brown whose son is nine years old who wishes to be on the Swim Team but not eligible for an individual membership. Ms. Brown is not able to make use of the Pool and someone else would bring him to the Pool. After discussion it was agreed that the child could join as an individual with the stipulation that he would have to have a guardian present when he is not there for Swim Practice.

Ms. Liney noted the letter from Ms. Shaw requesting a reduced rate for herself and her child; and after discussion it was agreed that Ms. Shaw should be advised that the reduced rate last season was for that year only, and they hope that she will still join the Pool.

LEAGUE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Sean O'Hara, YMS, was present and stated if the Township needs help with marketing the Pool, YMS would be willing to do this. Ms. Liney stated they would like to take advantage of that offer. Mr. O'Hara stated they are doing this for the basketball program.

Mr. O'Hara stated they have twenty-two Seniors from YMS going on to play College soccer. Mr. Wysocki noted that sports often allow students to get into Schools that they would not ordinarily get into. Mr. Gordon stated even playing inter-murals is an important part of the college experience.

Mr. O'Hara stated with regard to financial integrity, they attended a presentation in Middletown which Ms. Liney advised them of.

Mr. O'Hara stated in 2014 YMS gave out \$5,400 in sponsorships. He stated they pay in-house referees \$21,000. He stated field expenses were approximately \$19,000. He stated trainer fees and payroll totaled \$300,000. He stated they are also paying the Township \$85,000 in fees.

Mr. O'Hara stated the EPIC Tournament will take place in May, and they are ahead of last year. He stated they feel they will cap the number of teams at 325. He stated Visit Bucks County is still working on an impact economic study of the Tournaments for them.

Mr. O'Hara stated he is pleased to hear about the installation of security cameras at the Parks, and he stated YMS is willing to help.

Mr. Wysocki stated previously Mr. O'Hara discussed installation of another turf field, and he asked which field they feel they would do; and Mr. O'Hara noted it would be Field D. He stated previously he had discussed replacing the existing turf field and then having a second turf field; however, now they are considering installing a second turf field first.

There being no further business, Mr. Gordon moved, Mr. Newbon seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Fritchey, Chairman