

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – DECEMBER 15, 2015

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on December 15, 2015.
Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman
David Gordon, Vice Chairman
David Malinowski, Member
Brian McNamara, Member (joined meeting in progress)
Andrew Newbon, Member
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Donna Liney, Park & Recreation director

Absent: Patricia Bunn, Park & Rec Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. Newbon seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2015 meeting as written.

PRESENTATION OF SECURITY CAMERAS IN THE PARK SYSTEM

Chief Coluzzi and Officer Pell were present. They provided a packet of information showing the location of the Macclesfield Park cameras. He stated two of the ten cameras are license plate cameras which can narrow in on a license plate. He stated these are shown in red and are posted at the entrance of Macclesfield Park. He stated photos included in the packet are the angles of each of the cameras and show what each camera views. Chief Coluzzi stated there is a DVR located in the concession stand. He stated it records approximately thirty days of video; and eventually when Comcast gets the line in there, they will be able to have a feed from that concession stand back to Police Headquarters and to any computer that has access with a special log in. Chief Coluzzi stated the Officers will be able to view this from their cars. He stated at the end of the meeting, they could go to the Police Department offices to see the monitors and what they are going to do in the future. He stated the Officers will be able to monitor this on the TV when they are in the Office doing paperwork, etc. He stated there is one monitor for the Golf Course, one at William Penn School, one in the Township Building at the gas pumps, one at the

entrance to the Township Building, one at the Pool, and one at Kids Kingdom. He stated they will eventually have a feed from Macclesfield and the playground at the Garden of Reflection. He stated there are no cameras yet at the Garden itself or at Veterans Square. Chief Coluzzi stated they started this video surveillance program approximately ten years ago with the Pool, Kids Kingdom, and Police headquarters. He stated over the last two years they had some incidents which were captured on video and helped them with the investigations. Chief Coluzzi stated these are very expensive or he would have even more cameras since they are great investigative tools and a great deterrent.

Mr. Gordon stated since it is a thirty-day loop, if they did not know about something until later, it could be erased in thirty days. Chief Coluzzi stated some of the cameras are on a motion sensor so they are not constantly running, and it may be possible to run over the thirty days depending on the activity.

Mr. Fritchey stated he assumes the problem at Macclesfield should be substantially fixed at this point with these two cameras; and Chief Coluzzi stated he is happy with placement of the cameras but it is a very large area so they cannot capture everything. He stated their hope is that if a car comes in there, the license plate cameras will pick it up since there is only one way in and one way out for a vehicle. He also showed the location of other cameras since some cars will by-pass the driveway, and they hope those cameras will pick up at least the make and model of the car if not the license plate. Chief Coluzzi stated the other problem is lighting, and he showed an area where they need lighting. He stated in the past they also had guardrails to prevent access into the Park on the grass, but there was some issue with PennDOT, and they were taken down.

Mr. McNamara joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Newbon asked about the timeline for getting the feed, and Chief Coluzzi stated they met two weeks ago with representatives from Comcast trying to reduce the estimated cost they were giving originally. He stated they do not have the final cost on this yet, but he is hoping they will have this in shortly at Macclesfield and at the Garden. Mr. Wysocki asked if this would open up the possibility of having Wi-fi at those locations, and Chief Coluzzi agreed.

Chief Coluzzi stated because of the size of Macclesfield Park, it is impossible to cover the entire area at a reasonable cost.

Mr. Malinowski asked if the cameras themselves are subject to vandalism, and Chief Coluzzi agreed they are.

Chief Coluzzi showed what areas the different cameras cover in Macclesfield Park. Mr. Fritchey stated they have a much better chance of catching incidents than they did two months ago, and Chief Coluzzi agreed. Chief Coluzzi stated also included in the packet are the specs on the license plate cameras.

Mr. Fritchey asked if there are any cameras at the baseball/softball complexes across the street from the Municipal Building, and Chief Coluzzi stated they do not. Mr. Fritchey stated they could think about this in the future.

There was discussion about the possibility of putting all the storage sheds in a central area at Macclesfield Park which could be covered by a camera, and it was noted that this could be considered in the future.

Mr. Gordon asked about the installation of signage indicating that there are surveillance cameras, and Chief Coluzzi stated they generally recommend that they be put up. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels it would be inexpensive to do so and add an extra layer of insurance to let people know that the properties are under video surveillance.

Chief Coluzzi stated lighting is very important although he recognizes that it is an issue with the neighbors from Rivergate. Areas were noted which should not impact the neighbors. Chief Coluzzi stated even the best camera at nighttime will not pick up everything without some lighting.

The Board went to the Police Department officers to look at the video equipment.

When the meeting reconvened, there was further discussion about the entrance at Macclesfield Park, and Ms. Liney stated they may be able to put railroad ties on the Township property near where the guardrails had been located.

GARDEN OF REFLECTION DISCUSSION

Mr. Fritchey stated he received an e-mail today from Ms. Ellen Saracini about whether she was on the Agenda this evening. Mr. Fritchey stated she had put out a position paper on August 24 which everyone has now received a copy of; and at her request, this will be incorporated with the Minutes as it is her position on various Garden of Reflection issues. Mr. Fritchey stated in this paper there are items which are factual in nature that some may not necessarily subscribe to and this version of the facts could be an honest difference in perception. He stated there are also conclusions drawn from Ms. Saracini's perception of the facts some of which they

share and some of which they do not. Mr. Fritchey asked this this be included in the Minutes of tonight's meeting as what she would say if she were present tonight. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels they will continue to discuss this issue in 2016.

PRESENTATION OF DOG PARK UPDATED PLANS

Ms. Maryellen Saylor stated they are down to three sites, and noted pictures of the sites were included in the Board's packet as well as templates from other Dog Parks in Bucks County and the surrounding area that they have looked at. She stated they considered certain criteria they wanted including one and a half acres for the large dogs, a half acre for the small dogs, if possible plus or minus one acre of rotation area so they can keep the grass sanitary, a covered pavilion, and an electronic entry system so that everyone who joins would have a key fob or some other way to access electronically adding key fobs are what have been successfully used in other Parks. Ms. Saylor stated they are looking at approximately twenty to twenty-two parking spaces as well as if there is available water and electric service in the area. She stated they would also like to start out with some amenities including trash cans, waste bag receptacles, benches, and water fountains which would include water for the people and the dogs.

Ms. Saylor showed the Snipes Tract and stated they updated the aerial photos, and she noted where they would come in off Dolington Road off of the existing entry access. She showed the location of where they would put the parking lot. She stated noted areas suggested for the large dogs, small dogs, and the rotation area. She stated she has also included a spreadsheet of estimated costs.

Mr. Wysocki asked if this becomes the site of choice, is it the objective to maintain the rest of the space for future field use, and Mr. Gordon stated they need to consider the impact on the soccer plans they have already approved. Mr. Wysocki stated he felt they were looking to put that footprint where the fire station was going to be so that it had no impact on the playing fields. Ms. Saylor stated they were asked to move it by the Committee. Mr. Wysocki stated he felt they were asked to use the existing entrance but still keep the Dog Park in the corner. Mr. Fritchey stated there is an approved Plan in place for development of soccer fields at this site. Ms. Saylor stated she had not seen the plans for the soccer fields at this Park. Ms. Saylor stated moving it would result in increased costs because of paving, but she could relocate it.

Ms. Saylor noted the cost estimates sheet and stated the most expensive of the three sites was Oxford Valley because of the paving costs. Ms. Saylor agreed to look at relocating it on the Snipes Tract down toward the corner. Ms. Liney provided the Road Tour booklet to Ms. Saylor and noted the Snipes Tract information.

Ms. Liney stated she believes that there is already some paving in at the Snipes Tract.

Ms. Saylor showed the Heacock Road property, and she stated she feels this works well. She stated showed the existing drive they would pull off of and showed where the parking would go, along with the small dog area, the large dog area, and the rotation area which is just under an acre. She stated there are existing trees, She stated this site would cost the least in the construction estimate and involves the least amount of paving. The large dog area is one and a half acres, half acre for the small dogs, and a .8 acre rotation area. Mr. Wysocki stated if there is a concern about the size of the rotation area, they could probably shave a portion off of an adjacent area. Ms. Saylor stated this site also has some nice trees which are good for shade and buffering. She stated there is electric and water service in a nearby development. Mr. O'Hara stated he feels this area goes well for a Dog Park, although YMS would lose a field. He stated he felt there was a question about the driveway not being Township owned. Ms. Saylor stated they need to look into this as they are not sure that the existing drive belongs to the development or if that is Township property.

Ms. Saylor stated the last site is Oxford Valley Road. Mr. McNamara asked why the site at Memorial Park was taken off the list since there is already parking, bathrooms, and water. Mr. Wysocki stated at the Sub-Committee they reviewed nine sites, and they wanted to get it down to a reasonable number to discuss. He stated they felt that where it would have to go was a little longer distance, and there was a wetlands area which would have had to be bridged. Mr. McNamara asked about the front left-hand corner of the Park, and Mr. Wysocki stated they were looking at the second open field to the right of the Community Garden.

Mr. Fritchey stated he feels the Heacock site would be ready to go. It was noted they should not consider that these cost estimates are really that precise; and once a site is chosen, it could be developed to a finite level. Mr. Fritchey asked if there is another meeting scheduled of the Sub-Committee, and Mr. Wysocki stated there is not; and they could make a recommendation at some point to the Supervisors on a site. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels they should move forward conceptually and show the three sites, although he feels it is pointing toward Heacock. He stated he also feels they should have a concept as to what kind of Park they want, the rules and regulations, whether there will be membership fees, etc. to cover the overhead similar to user fees, although he would not want it to be prohibitively expensive. Ms. Saylor stated the other Parks have rules, and the dogs have to be immunized, and the membership has to be updated every year. She stated the other Parks have systems down which they have been able to maintain it once it is up and running. Mr. Wysocki stated at one of the prior meetings they discussed that the model for the Plan was in Doylestown, and Ms. Saylor visited that site, and

Ms. Liney spoke to the Director involved with that Park. Mr. Wysocki stated there is also the Morrisville model; however, most people felt that was not adequate. Mr. Wysocki stated the Core Creek model is also close to the model they are considering. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels they should have to register and that there should be a reasonable fee. Ms. Saylor stated she feels at Doylestown there are resident and non-resident fees. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels the fee would be in the range of \$30 to \$40 for an annual fee. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels they should have a concrete vision that they can present to the public, and then try to come up with a mechanism for a fund-raising campaign. Ms. Saylor stated Doylestown had a very successful fund-raising effort which gained momentum and a lot of the businesses also participated. Mr. Fritchey stated Mr. Dobson indicated that he knew someone who would make a significant contribution.

Mr. Fritchey stated he would like to come up with a coherent plan by February.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels Heacock is an attractive because of the location, the existing grading, and the existing parking. Ms. Saylor stated she will go back out to see if the existing parking is in good condition.

Mr. Newbon stated he prefers the Snipes Tract, and Mr. Wysocki stated he feels they would make the recommendation in priority order. Mr. McNamara stated he prefers Memorial Park because there is already parking, bathrooms, and water. Mr. Fritchey stated he does not feel they are at the decision-making point yet, and they should keep an open mind. Mr. Fritchey stated at some point he feels they should present options, but that the Committee will indicate which option they prefer and then provide their concept as to what the organization will be like with the rules, hours of operation, etc.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated the Township had the opportunity to thank thirty volunteer coordinators, officers, and Board members of the Lower Makefield Seniors group last week at their annual holiday luncheon.

Ms. Liney stated the Park crew is gearing up for a busy winter season. The crew recently completed renovations on the baseball and softball field baselines. The crew has been working with the Police Department on the installation of security cameras at Macclesfield, the Pool, and Memorial Park. Completing this work in house will result in a cost savings to the Township taxpayers. Next scheduled is replacement of additional Kids Kingdom lumber with Trex materials. The 20 x 28

covered pavilion at Memorial Park has been completed, along with an ADA walk access to the pavilion from the existing restroom area. The Park crew also plans to repaint the lines on the Macclesfield parking lot this winter.

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

Ms. Liney thanked all of 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 2016.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Sean O'Hara, YMS, thanked the Township, Ms. Liney, her crew, and the Board for their support this year. He stated YMS had a great year. He stated currently they are saving for replacing of the turf. He noted they had it looked at last month, and they were given a life estimate of two more years. Mr. O'Hara stated the original life estimate was ten to twelve, but it looks like it will be closer to ten. It was noted they allow a number of other groups to use it as well as YMS. He stated the turf was recently cleaned. He stated their plan is to replace it in two to three years and pay for it completely so that they do not have to borrow money for that. Mr. Wysocki stated the turf technology continues to improve and it now much closer to grass.

Mr. Fritchey thanked YMS for all their work.

Mr. Wysocki asked if all the lights are in working order at Macclesfield; and Ms. Liney stated they are, and they usually wait until there are approximately five to six out since they have to get a bucket truck brought in which costs approximately \$600 an hour.

There being no further business, Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. McNamara seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Fritchey, Chairman

