

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2016

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on March 8, 2016. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Gordon, Chair
 Patricia Bunn, Vice Chair
 Doug Krauss, Member
 David Malinowski, Member
 Brian McNamara, Member
 Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Donna Liney, Park & Recreation Director
 David Fritchey, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Andrew Newbon, Park & Rec Board Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. Krauss seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of February 18, 2016 as written.

PRESENTATION OF GIRL SCOUT PROPOSAL FOR GAGA COURT

Four members of Girl Scout Troop #290 were present to discuss what they would like to do for their Silver Award which they feel will help the community. Their deadline for the project is September, and they would like to begin as soon as possible. They would like to construct a Gaga Court in Veterans Park. They plan to make an eight-sided court with walls high enough so that the ball stays in the court. The cost for the court is approximately \$750, and additional money may be needed depending on the materials. They would also like to have a swing-out door so that handicapped people can play. They discussed plans for fundraising.

Mr. Gordon asked if any of the girls had built something like this before, and one Scout indicated that her father is a carpenter and she is familiar with the use of tools. Her father will be supervising. Mr. Gordon asked the level of supervision that is allowed, and it was noted they have to include someone with expertise, but it cannot be a family member so her father will be supervising, and they will need to

have another person who they will have to find. It was noted each Scout also needs to bring in two friends to help with the project, and they can reach out to other Girl Scout Troops for help. There would always be an adult present.

Ms. Bunn asked if they have gone through the Girl Scout Council yet for this project, and it was noted it was approved. Ms. Bunn stated her daughter obtained her Silver Award a few years ago, and part of the Silver Award requires that you “teach” as well; and she asked how they would meet that requirement if they do not know how to build it. Ms. Bunn stated they would need forty teaching hours since each of the four girls working on this would need ten teaching hours each. The girls felt they were going to be able to meet that requirement, as they were going to teach younger girls how to play once the court is constructed as well as hold a tournament. Ms. Bunn asked if they had considered putting up a sign with the rules since that would help toward that requirement, and they noted a sign was included.

Mr. Gordon stated there had been some discussion about the location they were proposing as it was felt it might be better if it were at Memorial Park. The girls indicated they would be open to any location the Township was in favor of.

Mr. Jason Simon stated PAA would also be in favor of this being at Fred Allan or Stoddart. Mr. Gordon noted there is one already at Kids Kingdom.

Ms. Liney asked that they contact her when they are ready to begin fundraising and start the project and which site they have chosen adding Park & Rec would be in favor of Fred Allan or Memorial Park. She questioned where it would go at Stoddart.

Mr. Fritchey stated if they would go with Memorial Park, there would be nothing like this in the north end of the Township. He stated if they do it at the baseball/softball complex, there is already one across the street so he feels it would be good to have this at the north end of the Township.

CONSIDERATION OF PAA REQUEST FOR SPONSOR BANNERS

Mr. Jason Simon, Commissioner, and Mr. Bill Baldwin, Director of Fundraising, were present. Mr. Baldwin stated last year they asked Park & Rec if they could put up larger banners on the back of the backstops. He stated it is a good location for the sponsors, acts as a windscreen, and it also keeps the spectators from getting behind the catcher and possibly distracting a young pitcher. He stated last year they had a banner on the back of Stoddart facing the snack bar and one at Macclesfield.

Mr. Baldwin stated he had a new sponsor with a new design which he sent to Ms. Liney per protocol to get her approval and asked that it be hung on Field H, and Ms. Liney was concerned that H was possibly not within the Agreement. He showed pictures of what they had up last year from April through October 31. He stated it hung there all season with no complaints.

Mr. Baldwin stated what is nice about this size banner is that he can ask \$1,200 for the lighted fields compared to the \$450 which is the normal outfield banner. He stated they would like to continue what they did last year and sell the field sponsorships. He stated he is also working on putting a headline sponsorship on the big Tournament on Father's Day which is a National event. He stated they could then show the Township that they are committed to partnering with the Township on some of the advancements.

Mr. Gordon asked again about the location, and Mr. Baldwin stated it would be on the backstop of Macclesfield H with the sign facing out since you would not want that facing the pitcher as it would be a distraction, so the back would be facing the pitcher. Mr. Baldwin reviewed what is done for the sponsors sign packages.

Ms. Liney stated she did not want to give a blanket approval because this was out of the scope of what was approved by the Park Board when sponsorship signs were originally approved as it was to be for the outfield only with green backgrounds. She stated she did approve the one at Stoddart because it was not really showing, but for this she wanted to make sure everyone was comfortable with it.

Mr. Gordon asked if they are just looking to do H at this point, and he also asked what is planned for A and B. Mr. Baldwin stated Cooper Electric Supply wants to return at Field B, and they are looking at possibly adding a second large banner. He stated Growing Smiles wants to come back at Stoddart 1 which faces the snack bar. He stated Central Pro reached out to him and asked about what fields were available for a large banner. Mr. Baldwin stated A is not ideal because of the gate that is behind so you cannot see anything, and Stoddart 2 is not ideal because of the announcer booth.

Mr. Gordon asked what restrictions were put on YMS for what they are able to do at C, and Ms. Liney stated there are none.

Mr. Simon stated the reason for the outfield signs facing in had a lot to do with Stoddart and the traffic, but Mac H and Mac B are inside the Park facilities, and it is not facing a main road. Mr. Simon stated the sponsorship program is critical to PAA's Budget and their ability to operate. He stated being able to take advantage of this space being discussed would be important to PAA.

Mr. Wysocki stated he feels that anything they can do to help the Clubs raise money to keep the programs is very helpful, and he feels signage at baseball games is really the norm.

Mr. McNamara asked if these are for just one year at a time; and Mr. Baldwin agreed that most of their Contracts are for one year at a time, but some of them do renew.

Mr. Fritchey asked how long the signs are up for, and Mr. Baldwin stated their Agreement with Park & Rec is that it is from April 1 to October 31 when the fall season finishes. He stated he gets out as quickly as possible to get the signs down. He stated April 1 is the day before Opening Day so he will be out the week prior trying to get the signs up at Stoddart where they will have the Opening Day event so that the sponsors get the full impact of all of PAA's membership being at the fields.

Mr. Wysocki asked if there is a way of vetting the content of the signs; and Mr. Gordon stated he feels Ms. Liney could approve it, and she would come to the Park & Rec Board if she had any questions.

Mr. Krauss stated there was an issue with a political sign, but that individual was already in a sitting position. Mr. Baldwin stated they did have a sign for John Lewis/ Mark Moffa when they were running. Mr. Baldwin stated there is also a sign for Steve Santarsiero, State Representative. He stated at other fields you do see signs for the local Representative.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION ON PAA REQUEST TO WAIVE CERTAIN USER FEES FOR T-BALL

Mr. Simon stated they are very happy that PAA is generating a lot of first-year participants in the League as they specifically targeted first-year T-Ballers and first-year instructional softball players. He stated as of this evening there are 128 new T-ball and first-year softball players in the League. He stated there are 95 T-ball players who are four and half years old and older, and 33 softball players who are five to six for the girls. Mr. Simon stated they felt this was important for the longevity to get the younger players in as quickly and as efficiently as they could. He stated they are moving all the T-ball games to Caiola 90 so that they can take advantage of the Park they have now. He stated this will result in sixteen T-ball teams that will play at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings, and the older players will then come in and play the rest of the day on that field.

Mr. Simon stated one of the things they did to incentivize the Registration was to meet what they have been seeing from other Baseball and Softball Leagues in the area and offer the first year of T-ball and instructional softball for free. He stated they wanted to reduce the barrier to entry for parents, and he feels as people started to Register there was a viral marketing component. Mr. Simon stated they want to uniform these players, cover the insurance, and their obligation to LMT for the usage fee; and this will cost PAA approximately \$6,500. He stated they want to have a discussion with the Park & Rec Board to see if they can find some relief on the usage fee for this sector of players just for their first year.

Mr. Simon stated they feel that PAA will benefit by having these players in the League longer, and LMT will benefit by having them become part of the usage fee component for many years to come. Mr. Simon stated they moved the T-ball age to a younger age several years ago so they have actually extended the lifetime that they will be in the League. He stated they are also bringing them into the complex to play T-ball which is designed to make them feel part of the League since they previously sent them to an elementary school on Saturday mornings. He stated now that they have the complex, they have an opportunity to bring them over; and hopefully they will watch some of the older players play, and participate in the snack bar so that they create the idea of PAA having a home field on the baseball side. He stated this already takes place on the Fred Allan side.

Mr. Simon stated any dollars they are able to save allowed PAA to operate more efficiently. He stated on Registration fees alone without the work that Mr. Baldwin does on the signage, they do operate at a deficit every year. He noted the expenses they have in PAA.

Mr. Gordon asked if they are asking for this relief just for this year, and Mr. Simon stated they would like it to continue but just for the first-year players. Mr. Simon stated this year it would be for 128 players, and Ms. Bunn stated that would be approximately \$1,900. Mr. Simon stated they recognize that this a lot, and he added that their two biggest expenses are the uniforms and the Township fees including the lights.

Mr. Gordon expressed concern that if they do this for PAA, they may be requested to do the same for the other organizations. Mr. McNamara stated for YMS the three and four year olds play on School fields for which they pay fees, but they also pay the Township user fee for fields that they never use. Mr. Krauss stated PAA had been doing this for that age child as well for years.

Mr. Wysocki asked what would the Registration have been if PAA charged it for these first-time players, and Mr. Baldwin stated it would have been \$90.

Mr. Simon stated this year for every family unit, regardless of how many children are playing, they added a \$50 volunteer fee. He stated what they are trying to do is get the families more involved in the League; so even though they registered for free, there was a \$50 fee they paid at Registration. He stated the way they can earn that back is by giving PAA three hours of volunteer time, typically at the snack bar. He noted a number of organizations, not just sports, are enacting this type of fee.

Mr. Simon noted that the free registration is only for the first-year youngest players; and if a first-year player came in at age seven, they did pay the rate.

Mr. Simon stated in addition to the Snack Bar they have designated some other components of their organization to be areas where people can volunteer. He stated typically they hired teenagers and other to help run the snack bar since they had a difficult time getting people to volunteer, and a lot of the money generated from the snack bar was lost in paying people to work at the snack bar. He stated the Board had a discussion as to how they could create culture change, and they felt the volunteer fee would be a way to do this; and the intent is that they will staff the majority of the hours at the snack bar with volunteers, and they will therefore take away the cost component to the League and this will contribute more dollars into their ability to operate.

Mr. Simon stated they want to be able to build additional outdoor batting cages, but even the most inexpensive cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000 to properly build. He stated Ms. Liney has offered support to construct them, but there are still the hard costs. Mr. Simon stated PAA is trying to find every revenue opportunity they can to increase the bottom line.

Mr. Baldwin stated the Executive Board recognized that their competitors were offering that free first year. He stated once a child plays that first year, they form a bond with their teammates; and they want to go back. He stated PAA knew they had to change this. He stated last year they had teams, and this year they increased by six teams by offering this first year free. Mr. Baldwin stated they have also finally put a "Band-Aid on the bleeding," and they are over last year's numbers for the first time since he has been involved. Mr. Baldwin stated once the final numbers are in, they feel they will be the same as they were two years ago. He stated last year they were at 724, and this year they are currently at 730. Mr. Fritchey stated he remembers when it was 1,400 to 1,500.

There was discussion about the time spent on the fields by the younger versus the older players. Mr. Simon discussed the fees charged by Pennsbury School District, and he stated PAA made a conscious decision this year to reduce their time on the School fields because of the costs. He noted they get zero field maintenance from the School District other than occasional cutting of the grass when it is used for Field Day by the School. He noted problems they had with getting someone from the School District out to Afton where there was poison ivy in the fencing compared to working with Ms. Liney on issues at Township fields. Mr. Simon stated Pennsbury has a formula where if you make a financial commitment to an improvement on one of the School District fields, they will credit that against your fee; however a number of years ago PAA spent \$4,000 improving the 70' field at Afton, and when he asked for the credit, he was told that it did not exist within the School's curriculum and would not count.

Mr. Wysocki stated it seems that the young players would have field exposure of approximately sixteen hours over the course of the season, and Mr. Simon agreed. Mr. Simon stated a Babe Ruth player would play be on a field approximately seventy-two hours over the course of the season. Mr. Wysocki stated if the user fee is essentially to cover impact on the fields, the four and a half year olds have a very small impact compared to the older players. Mr. Krauss stated for many years the young players paid that user fee, but they never stepped on a Township field. Mr. Wysocki stated he does not feel what they are requesting is an unfair request.

Ms. Bunn stated she personally feels this is a "one" for the Township, but a "ten" for PAA. She stated she feels the Township Budget is big enough so that the Township will not feel the \$1,900, but for PAA this could make a big positive impact; and she feels to be a good partner, the Township should consider this. She stated they could try this for one year to see what it does, and then re-visit it at the end of the year. She stated if YMS was going to have a program where they were not going to charge their four-year-olds, the Township could consider the same thing for them as well.

Mr. Krauss stated he feels if they get a 70% retention rate, the fees that the League will pay next year recoup some of the discount. He stated over an aggregate time period he would hope that whatever the Township gives away in year one, will pay itself back over the lifetime of that player.

Mr. Fritchey stated if they approve this conceptually as a loss leader, that is fine; however, he would urge the Board not to start thinking conceptually user fees in the context of who is going to be on the field for how many hours because this will be a completely unworkable administrative burden for Ms. Liney; and the Board agreed.

Mr. Wysocki stated PAA has a legitimate reason for asking for this since they are trying to compete with Morrisville and surrounding communities that offer this free program. He stated he does agree that they should just agree to this as a pilot program to see how it works and the feedback they get. Ms. Bunn stated she feels this is a good idea because it is difficult for parents to justify paying \$100 for a four-year old who may end up crying and not participating.

Ms. Liney stated this should be a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors as they have the final authority to approve this. Mr. Simon disagreed, and he stated he spoke to the Township solicitor who indicated he did not feel that was necessary since it is not an Ordinance – it is a policy. Mr. Simon stated before they go “running to the Board of Supervisors,” he understands that it does not require Supervisor approval.

There was discussion about the Magic programs, and Mr. Baldwin stated they do not charge them since he got Athletes Helping Athletes to sponsor them; but they do pay the Township user fee for those individuals.

Mr. Simon stated PAA can provide a very detailed registration breakdown for Ms. Liney when they submit their rosters, and they will be able to include the Municipality to which the registrant pays taxes and to extract from that the exact list of who the individuals are who are the first year T-ball players.

Mr. Gordon suggested that the Board make a Motion and a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that are consistent with each other, and Ms. Liney can then speak to the Township solicitor to see if this needs to go to the Supervisors; and if it does not, they then have the Motion.

Ms. Bunn moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the PAA request not to pay user fees for t-ball and young softball players who are not being charged a fee at registration for one year, and they will revisit this to make sure everyone is in agreement with the concept.

Ms. Bunn moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they consider PAA’s request for a waiver of User Fees for T-ball and young softball players who are not being charged a fee to join for a period of one year; and at that point, they will revisit this.

Ms. Liney asked if this is limited to PAA, and Mr. Gordon stated it is. Ms. Bunn stated they could consider a request from them.

LEAGUE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Simon stated they are very excited with the numbers registering. He stated because of the number of T-ball players, they took some of their older players and offered them an opportunity to play at the 7U level; and ten of them took advantage of this. It was noted there will be sixteen T-ball teams. He stated they had six Babe Ruth teams last year, and they have seven this year. He stated they also have a Senior Babe Ruth and a Classic Babe Ruth coming.

Mr. Simon stated they have a meeting on Friday morning with Ms. Liney and the Police Chief to plan the Opening Day activities which will take place on April 2 starting at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Simon stated parking will be a challenge.

Mr. Simon stated on Wednesday, March 16 they will have their first parents meeting at Pennwood Middle School to kick off the season. He invited everyone to attend the meeting that evening as the League intends to honor Artie Peake who passed away and was an important member of PAA.

Mr. Simon stated they have relocated their monthly Board meetings to Makefield Highlands who have been an important partner and are sponsoring three or four of the teams; and the Makefield Highlands logo is on the Website.

Mr. Simon discussed their Tournaments and stated they will host the U10 District Baseball Tournament this year.

Mr. Simon thanked the Board for listening to them adding they really want to be part of the community.

Ms. Bunn asked if there are clinics being run for the younger players, and Mr. Simon they have been scheduling clinics throughout the entire winter; and these were designed not for the Travel players, but for the in-house players. Ms. Bunn stated she feels they are really helpful, and she has seen the children respond very well. Mr. Simon stated they have also been working closely with the High School Head Coach who has been at Clinics and also at their Board meetings, and they have had a great response to that. Mr. Simon stated this past weekend they ran a clinic for their coaches on how to be more effective since they feel if they are better at coaching, it makes the players experience better.

Mr. Krauss stated Mr. Simon indicated T-ball will be at Caiola on the 90' field, and he asked Mr. Simon to explain where they will play. He also asked how this will impact parking. Mr. Simon stated they will discuss parking with Ms. Liney and the Police Chief at their meeting Friday. He stated they will be able to run T-ball between April 2 and finish prior to Memorial Day Weekend, and the Pool will not be operating until Memorial Day Weekend. He stated they will instruct the T-ball parents to park in the Pool parking lot and walk across the street, and they want to talk to the Chief about insuring that there will be a Police presence there. He stated this is also a volunteer opportunity for parents to help out crossing children. Mr. Simon stated they have also talked to Ms. Liney about being able to park on the grass between Caiola and Fred Allan for the overflow. He stated they want their T-ball parents to use those two locations to park, and this will leave their normal parking situation for the inside part of their environment. Mr. Simon stated as far as the field goes, he and Mr. Brian Baker, the T-ball Director, walked the 90' field; and they are going to put four fields in the outfield approximately 40' base paths each – one on the left field foul line, one on the right field four line, and two up the middle. He stated there is a gate that opens up on the left field corner where they take the groomer on, and they will enter the people onto the field in that area. He stated there will be signage directing them that way, and they will prevent them from entering through the dugouts so that no one will touch any of the in fields. He stated they will take a lot of time educating people on how they expect them to conduct themselves on the field. Ms. Bunn asked that this be put on the Township Website indicating that on Saturdays there will be a lot of people crossing the street so that they should slow down on Edgewood Road.

Mr. Krauss added that there are going to be a lot of people on the field with T-ball that you typically would not have. Mr. Simon stated they understand that, and they will see how the first week goes; and if they have to ban Captain's chairs, they will do that. Mr. Simon stated they really want these players to feel a part of the League, they want to save money by not having them on the Elementary School fields on Saturdays, and they want them to visit the snack bar.

DISCUSSION ON THE DOG PARK

Mr. Dave Kelliher, 591 Afton Woods Drive, and Mr. Chad Smith, 6406 Spruce Mill Drive, were present. Mr. Kelliher stated he does not oppose the Dog Park at the proposed location, but he does oppose children being displaced since there are children using these fields organically who get together to play sports. He stated he feels they are being squeezed out for the good of the whole Township which he understands; but he feels there may be an opportunity where there can be an area for them to continue to play on the property. Mr. Kelliher stated he

reviewed the Plans and walked the property, and there is a 75' setback from Spruce Mill; and if they were to add 50' on that setback it would create an area where the children could still play soccer and football. He stated this is the 75' strip from the parking lot to the beginning of the Dog Park. He stated this 75' plus 50' would create a larger buffer between the homes and the beginning of the Dog Park.

Mr. Kelliher stated there is also an area that is grassy as you enter the property down the driveway, and this area belongs to Makefield Glen. He stated this is a little bit of a sloped area, and there is a tree overhang so there is really no area where the children could play; however, Makefield Glen is having a meeting to discuss the possibility of either leasing that to the Township or some other land agreement so that they could extend the parking lot into that area which would free up an area for the children to play. Ms. Bunn asked if this the portion from Covington to where the parking lot is now, and Mr. Kelliher agreed.

Mr. Kelliher stated at a prior Board of Supervisors' meeting it was indicated that there was a buy-in from Makefield Glen; however, there is not at this point although they are discussing it. Mr. Kelliher stated he likes that the children are playing there organically on their own without their parents having to drive them to a field for an organized sport.

Mr. Gordon stated families will be coming to the Dog Park and one member may be playing with the dog while the children could play, so he is not opposed to having a space there outside of the Dog Park fencing for children to play. Mr. Gordon asked Ms. Bunn and Mr. Wysocki if they feel this is something they could look at to see if there could be a slight re-configuration to find more grass and work with the Township engineer on this. Ms. Liney stated Mr. Kelliher contacted her, and she spoke to Mr. Fedorchak about this who stated Mr. Kelliher should outline what they are looking for; and they will get it to Ms. Saylor to see if they could make some adjustments..

Ms. Bunn stated she feels they can make it work for everyone; but she wants to make sure if children are playing there, they need to remember they cannot kick soccer balls against the fence or jumping the fence if balls go over.

Mr. Smith stated he does not feel they need to get the additional land from the rotation area if the access area could be moved over; and they could take a little from the large dog area, a little from the small dog area, and a little from the rotation area. Mr. Smith asked the purpose of the rotation area, and it was noted it provides relief to the other areas so they have a chance to recover.

Mr. Smith stated he is a resident of Spruce Mill, and he is in favor of the dog Park; but he would like to make sure their voice is heard, and it seems that the Park & Rec Board is receptive. Mr. Smith stated with regard to the access road, it seems that it is large enough for two cars; but the current dirt roadway that leads up does narrow. Ms. Liney agreed to have this looked into and to redefine it. Ms. Bunn stated they may need to add something to make it a safer condition. Mr. Wysocki stated the objective is to make it so that two cars can pass since right now it is a bottleneck.

Ms. Bunn stated she feels Ms. Goldstein would be able to redesign the Plan slightly to accommodate what Mr. Kelliher and Mr. Smith are requesting. Mr. Kelliher stated if they had to stay within the Township boundaries, they would have to look into shorten one of the areas to fit an additional fifty feet; however, this is why he brought up that Makefield Glen may allow them to shift the parking lot over which would then allow shifting everyone over in that direction. Mr. Kelliher stated he is not sure that the parking lot can come over any further, and they are going to have a discussion with Mr. Bray and the EAC about whether the area is protected wetlands. Mr. Kelliher stated with 50' additional he feels this would give them the space to play soccer, football, etc.

Mr. Gordon stated he agrees with the concept to see if they can do some re-configuration to allow for free play outside of the Dog Park, and they will have the Township engineer look into this.

Mr. Kelliher asked if this project will go through the Planning process, and Ms. Bunn stated they will have to follow the Land Development Ordinance, and the planning process will happen concurrently with applying for the Grant. Ms. Bunn stated the Township engineer will prepare engineering plans to address any Permitting issues, staying within Township guidelines, etc. She stated they will have to go to the Bucks County Conservation District as well, and she feels it will be six months before they have a set of Plans to go out to bid. Mr. Kelliher asked when there is public input in the process, and Ms. Bunn stated it would be when they go to the Planning Commission. Mr. Benedetto stated he believes those living in the development will be notified when it goes before the Planning Commission.

Ms. Bunn stated it would not go out to the whole development, and Mr. Kelliher stated he believes those living within 500' of the property get notified.

Mr. Smith asked how they could see the Plans, and Ms. Bunn stated they can see them at the meeting.

Mr. Kelliher stated he feels having the buffer will make it more palatable to the residents. Ms. Bunn stated the Township does have buffers that they need to plant. Mr. Smith asked if a buffer would involve planting bushes, etc.; and Ms. Bunn stated the Township has buffer requirements, and sometimes they have to be planted, and sometimes they have to be planted with berms.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Fritchey stated as noted the Supervisors discussed the Dog Park at their last meeting, and it was decided to move forward to have it at the Heacock site, and to submit an Application for a State Grant which is being prepared by the Township engineer and will be submitted in April. Mr. Fritchey thanked Ms. Bunn and Mr. Wysocki for all their work in spearheading the Dog Park Sub-Committee.

Mr. Fritchey stated the Township is hopefully moving toward hiring a Public Works Director within a month or so. He stated once that happens they will look toward doing some clearing and grading at the Snipes Tract since ultimately if they do the Dog Park at Heacock, that will be one less soccer field; and they would hopefully be able to replace that with a flat area for soccer in the interim until there is a further plan as to what will happen at Snipes. Mr. Fritchey stated there is an approved Plan for Snipes, but there have been approaches to the Supervisors from YMS and football and lacrosse about possibly moving football and lacrosse to Snipes and have the football fields at Macclesfield become soccer field which would help YMS. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels there is going to be some reconsideration by the Board of what they want to do at Snipes.

Mr. Gordon stated while they can send people out to grade and clear trees, in terms of getting grass for soccer/football/lacrosse to be playable he did not feel that would be able to be done in-house. Mr. Fritchey stated he has discussed this with Mr. Fedorchak who felt that the Township could rent graders and do a fair amount of work in-house. Mr. Fritchey stated they will consider this further once they have a Public Works Director. Ms. Liney stated YMS has some ability to refine fields, and they have indicated they would be willing to help out with that. Ms. Bunn stated grading a site so that it drains, etc. is not that easy, and she is not sure that they have the expertise to do this. Mr. Gordon stated when they built Macclesfield Park he assumes it was professionally graded, and Ms. Liney stated she believes that it was.

Mr. Fritchey stated they are looking at the possibility of planting trees at the Memorial Park Arboretum as there are trees in the “tree bank” from developers. He stated they feel it would be useful to have a liaison between the Park & Rec Board and the EAC to discuss this. Ms. Bunn stated the purpose of an arboretum

is to have a huge variety of trees including native and non-native trees; and she is concerned that the EAC will only be in favor of native trees and that is not the purpose of an arboretum so she would like to have them be an additional “voice.” Mr. Benedetto suggested Ms. Goldstein who is a landscape architect. Mr. Gordon stated they also need to be able to care for these trees. Ms. Bunn stated she also felt that they took up the space proposed for the arboretum with the oak garden. Mr. Benedetto stated they are doing a site tour tomorrow with Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser tomorrow. He stated they have 170 trees in the “tree bank.”

Mr. Wysocki noted with regard to the Dog Park that there are approximately ten to twelve citizens who are willing to fundraise. Mr. Krauss stated he was present for the fundraising piece of the meeting last evening. Mr. Benedetto noted they elected Officers with the President being Greg Papazian, and they decided to keep it within the Township Community Foundation. Mr. Benedetto stated they are using Doylestown as their model. Mr. Bunn stated the Grant the Township is applying for has a 50% match. Mr. Benedetto stated he does not feel the Dog Park would have happened without Mr. Fritchey pushing for it.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated Park and Recreation is continuing to prepare the Park system for spring use.

Ms. Liney stated water will be turned on in most of the Township complexes by Friday, March 18th.

Ms. Liney stated work continues in the Community Pool complex in preparation for the 2016 Pool season. Pools will be drained the end of the month, and contractors will begin the necessary maintenance projects. She stated the Pool discount period closed Friday, March 4th, and it appears the Pool membership figures are ahead about 100 families over last year’s figures. Ms. Liney stated the Courier requested a date change for the front page stick-on advertisement, so that will run Sunday, March 20th.

Ms. Liney stated the Board of Supervisors approved bidding out the restoration of three tennis courts at Revere, and the Township engineer anticipates advertising for bids in the next two weeks.

Ms. Liney stated the Lower Makefield Seniors have begun their spring bocce season at the Fred Allan complex on Oxford Valley Road. Over 100 seniors enjoy playing Mondays and Fridays, and the Township installed a new scoreboard this week for their use.

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Mr. Wysocki asked if all three courts at Revere will be tennis courts or one will be a pair of pickle ball courts. Ms. Liney stated they will double paint all three courts like they did at Heacock. Mr. Wysocki stated he knows a lot of people who are very much into pickle ball, and it can be pretty noisy because of the plastic ball on the racket; and there are paddles and balls which can be purchased which have a softer sound, and they should recommend these to the organizers so that it does not become an issue for the adjacent residents. He provided the information on this equipment to Ms. Liney.

There being no further business, Ms. Bunn moved, Mr. McNamara seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Gordon, Chair