

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – MAY 10, 2016

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on May 10, 2016. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Gordon, Chair
 Andrew Newbon, Secretary
 Doug Krauss, Member
 Bryan McNamara, Member
 Dennis Wysocki, Member

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

Absent: Patricia Bunn, Park & Rec Vice Chair
 David Malinowski, Park & Rec Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Newbon moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2016 as amended.

UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATION TO PROCEED WITH LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SNIPES TRACT

Ms. Judy Stein Goldstein was present and stated provided in the Board's packet were the Plans which show the changes made to the Plan as a result of discussions held previously. She stated they spread the fields out a little more, added a potential future skate park, re-configured the smaller field somewhat, added in the concession stand and restrooms, and a pavilion. She stated she oriented the concession stand so that it opens out toward the full Park. She stated they added four parking spaces near the concession stand which could serve as a drop off area for the snack bar. She stated they also added a little more parking around the site including handicap parking as well as ADA access to the fields and the spectator areas to meet the requirements. She stated they also showed some future trail connections. She provided this evening a Plan showing potential connections

focusing on walkability. She stated there is also a proposal to provide a protected crosswalk so that you can cross over to the Park. Mr. Gordon stated that would be a pedestrian entrance as they are only going to have one drive-in entrance, and Ms. Goldstein agreed. Ms. Goldstein added that the driving entrance would be at the existing entrance on Dolington Road.

Mr. McNamara asked if there are any plans to level the steep slope on Quarry Road, and Ms. Goldstein stated it would be very difficult to level that; however, she stated what they are proposing on the Plan is to come in through the driveway. She stated the beige line on the Plan is outside of the right-of-way so it would be above slope and would be inside the site and not in the right-of-way along the road. She stated coming up Dolington would be the same thing; and it would not be in the right-of-way, but within the Park property. Mr. McNamara asked if there could be a way from walking up toward the Elementary Schools on the right-hand side and cross over Dolington Road so that there would be a way to walk on the sidewalk on that side with the steep slope. Ms. Goldstein stated they are proposing down near the intersection to really come back out at grade at the intersection. She stated they would come down the slope on an angle, and they would cut into the slope on an angle coming down to the intersection.

Ms. Goldstein stated they have also shown on the Plan where there are some sidewalks and some trails already, and they are proposing to eventually fill in the missing links. She stated there are some constraints including landscaping and trees, but they are looking at long-term connections. She stated they are also suggesting that there be crosswalks at both existing intersections. Mr. Wysocki asked if any of the constraints are unmanageable, and Ms. Goldstein stated they are constraints that need to be dealt with; and she feels that there is an engineering solution for everything even though it may be very expensive. Ms. Goldstein stated in this instance the constraints are existing trees and slopes and lack of right-of-way. She stated the other two big constraints are the bridges over I-95. She stated she plans to meet with a representative from PennDOT to see what they can do about the bridges to make them less pedestrian threatening.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels most people will be driving here; and Ms. Goldstein stated while this is true, if there is access from the neighborhood, it would be good to be able to walk to the Park.

Mr. Fritchey asked if there is an estimated cost to build the Park, and Ms. Goldstein stated she did not have Mr. Eisold price it out yet.

Mr. McNamara asked what the small field is for, and it was noted that Pee-Wees could use it for practice. Mr. O'Hara stated the younger ages could use it for flag football. Mr. Krauss stated it would also be used as a rest field.

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Newbon seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to proceed to Land Development with the Plan for Snipes.

FIVE MILE WOOD PRESERVE ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. John Heilferty, Naturalist, was present with Mr. John Lloyd, Friends of the Woods. Mr. Heilferty stated they appreciate Ms. Liney's and the Township staff's help. He noted there was some recent storm damage, and he thanked the Township for their help. He stated they are also getting new windows at the Office and roof repairs are being taken care of

Mr. Lloyd stated the Friends of the Five Mile Woods with Mr. Heilferty's help put on a number of events. He stated they had to cancel the maple syrup demonstration because of the unusual weather. Mr. Lloyd stated this was unfortunate because this is always a popular event. Mr. Lloyd stated the Friends themselves have monthly workdays, and they involve Scout groups and other groups including the Pennsbury High School National Honor Society to work along with the Friends. Mr. Lloyd stated they have two Open House events one of which was their Earth Day event which was held on April 24 and was well attended this year. He stated the fall Open House will be on September 25. They stated at these Open Houses they do guided walks, refreshments, and displays.

Mr. Heilferty stated they also did a Frog and Salamander walk in March. He stated this year they will also have a bat talk on Saturday, July 9 which will include bringing in a bat detector. He stated he hopes to secure either the Township meeting room or the Library for the talk, and after the talk they will go outside and hopefully locate some bats. Mr. Heilferty noted this was the earliest season for emergence of frogs. He also noted this spring he was able to identify a number of breeding areas in the Township for a new species of Leopard frogs that have been identified. Mr. Heilferty stated he has also had the privilege of working with a number of Scouts, and he is currently finishing out a project with a local Girl Scout working on her Gold Award and built kestrel boxes which have been installed in the area, and she will be monitoring them even though it is not part of her project.

Mr. Heilferty stated with regard to deer hunt, his concern is to maintain the eco system as well as to make the Park available to the public. He stated for the last few years they have limited the hunt to three, three day periods in October so as not to conflict with activities at the Five Mile Woods. He stated they also had thirteen more days in December and January. He stated this has proven to be a good balance. He stated this past season they took nine deer off the property and four deer off the adjoining Banko property which is able to be hunted the whole season.

Mr. Krauss asked if this count is comparable to years past, and Mr. Heilferty stated the numbers vary over the years. Mr. Heilferty added BOWMA does a great job, they are very accommodating, and there were no incidents this year.

Mr. Newbon asked about the growth in the control area, and Mr. Heilferty stated it is very dramatic seeing the difference between inside and outside of the exclosures. Mr. Heilferty stated what is growing in the exclosures is with no deer, and that is not what he is looking for; and they need a balance for the overall forest health. Mr. Newbon stated he has been vocal in saying that he enjoys going to the Woods to see deer more than the vegetation although he recognizes that the Woods was acquired because of the unique foliage found there. Mr. Heilferty stated he agrees that he does not want to see all the deer removed, but they do not want so many that it has a negative impact on the foliage and other wildlife species. Mr. Lloyd stated thirteen deer from Woods is probably what is the appropriate for the total population should be, but taking out thirteen does help with not increasing the population.

Mr. Gordon asked if there are any Camps planned in the Woods for the summer; and Mr. Heilferty stated they are always looking for nature camps, although they were not successful last summer.

Mr. Krauss asked if there is anything else the Park & Rec Board can do to help promote the Woods, and Mr. Lloyd stated just telling people to come to the Open House events, joining the Friends, and helping them at their work days would be a help.

Mr. Heilferty stated it is a privilege to work with the Friends of the Five Mile Woods.

LMT POOL

Ms. Liney stated in the Board's packet it can be seen how well the Pool is doing. She stated a key component of the Pool being successful is good management, and she thanked both Mr. Brown and Ms. Smith who have done an outstanding job.

Mr. Jeff Brown, Manager, and Ms. Janet Smith were present. Mr. Brown stated they are looking forward to the season. He stated Mr. Copson has been there working very hard every day. He stated the Pools are mostly painted and some of them are filled. He stated most of the inspections are finished. They need to do some more work on the slides. He stated they have had four days of clean up with their very enthusiastic staff. He stated this year they have a new shade pergola at the baby pool. He stated the membership is growing with young families, and they will appreciate that. He stated they have seventy-five new lounge chairs and seventy-five new armchairs, and additional tables and umbrellas that will be able to accommodate their growing population. He stated they also have some updated landscaping in the front of the entrance area and a new concrete pad.

Mr. Brown stated the heaters will be serviced next week. Mr. McNamara asked how the pools are heated, and Mr. Brown stated they are gas heaters which are engineered and designed for swimming pool. He stated when it gets warm, they are shut off.

Mr. Brown stated they are happy to have a great management team as well as outstanding head guards. He stated last year they instituted a new position called senior guard as they wanted to reward their committed, outstanding college-aged lifeguards to encourage them to stay at the facility. He stated they gave them extra responsibilities and made them part of the instructional team, and they were able to get a pay increase. Mr. Brown stated they have many new Applicants. Ms. Liney stated their staff is over 100. Mr. Brown stated the staff has a great work ethic.

Mr. Brown stated with regard to safety, they will continue the wonderful safety record they have had for many years. He stated they want to continue to expand the deep water test, and to prescreen for the instructional swimming program so that the children are at the proper level at the very beginning.

Mr. Brown stated they will continue the popular events they have had including the Dollar Dog Day, half-price guest fee on Friday, float nights during the week, water aerobics and water Zumba. He stated they have thirteen special event days planned including the Teen Dance Party which is held at the beginning of the season. He stated they also have Family Fun Day, Halloween in July Parade, and Movie Nights on the big screen which is a huge draw. He stated they had some new events last year which were very popular which they will have again this year including a Super Hero Day with activities and games along that theme. He stated they also had a Family Dip and Dine with special music and entertainment and a special menu at the Snack Bar.

Mr. Brown stated they are very fortunate to have Ms. Liney and Ms. Todd as well as the rest of the Township staff working very hard.

Mr. Gordon stated in the past they have discussed the price of swim lessons, and he feels the price should be increased. It was noted that the current charge is \$40 for the first child and \$30 for each additional sibling for which you get twelve lessons. Ms. Liney stated they do want them to learn how to swim. Mr. Gordon asked how long the price has been at that level, and Ms. Liney stated she believes the last increase was approximately three years ago. Ms. Liney stated they could address this again at Budget time, since the price is already set at this time.

Ms. Smith stated the price for Swim Camp was increased to \$80 a week. Mr. Krauss asked if most of the lessons are filled to capacity, and Mr. Brown stated the first session is always very popular. Mr. Brown stated there is an increasing demand for private lessons which they offer at \$20 for a half hour.

Mr. Krauss asked if there would be a way to generate additional income if there are people who do not belong to the Club but want to get lessons so that they could fill up any spots with non members, and charge them a higher rate. Mr. Krauss stated this might also be a way to bring people back to the Club. Ms. Liney stated that has been discussed previously; and the position was taken that if you want to get lessons, you would need to be a Member. Mr. Krauss stated he understands but he did not know if they were at capacity. Mr. Brown stated the first session is always at capacity. He stated they also have to coordinate the space with the Swim Team. He stated some of the later sessions are not quite as filled, but they are close to capacity.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels the swim lesson fee should be raised to \$50 or \$55 next year.

Mr. Newbon asked if there was not an issue at one point with gutters leaking, and Ms. Liney stated they do look at them every year. She stated it was indicated that at some point they will have to be addressed. She stated there was also a suggestion about installing a liner rather than replacing all the gutters.

Mr. Gordon asked who is running the Swim Team this year, and Ms. Liney stated it is Sandy Borowsky, who wanted to attend this evening, but is ill.

Ms. Liney stated she has indicated that they are on target at 220 swimmers and are still registering through June 1. Ms. Liney stated Ms. Borowsky also advised they have the Swim Team Coach Kathryn Young returning, and the Dive Coach Joe Costello who is also the Dive Coach for Pennsbury High School. Ms. Liney stated Ms. Sandy Borowsky advised that she is looking forward to a great season and appreciates all the help that Lower Makefield Pool management gives her in coordinating events. Ms. Liney stated they will be hosting a number of events for the Swim Team this year including Champs.

Mr. Brown stated some of the Swim Team sessions are very early in the morning and have very limited impact on their regular schedule. He stated they can make accommodations for their lap swimmers as well. Mr. Gordon stated he saw last year that they were able to coordinate the lanes and have certain restrictions, and it seemed like last year this was working better than it had been in the past. Mr. Brown stated the walking lane they added is very popular, and they will continue that. Mr. Brown stated coordination with the Swim Team has been wonderful and the coordination with the Snack Bar has been excellent.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. George Szwabiuk was present. Ms. Liney stated Mr. Szwabiuk had pointed out that when they are doing bike path resurfacing, if they put on a little extra material it would be a smooth surface and enable skating to go better. Mr. Szwabiuk stated the wheels on in-line skates are smaller, and the surface needs to be fairly smooth. He asked that the Board consider putting in another layer of asphalt which will make it smoother on the bike paths. Ms. Liney stated possibly at the Snipes Tract they could put in a bike path surrounding the perimeter, and that would allow for skaters to use this as well. Mr. Wysocki stated there is probably a spec for a skating surface that the engineers could look into.

Mr. Szwabiuk stated Falls Township has a huge Skate Park, but it is so extreme that no one hardly uses it. He stated they also have a skate hockey rink, but not many people are using that either. He stated what he is proposing is low cost and everybody could use it from little children to adults.

Mr. Fritchey asked if Mr. Szwabiuk would like to see a track within a Park or just have this on the bike paths along roads throughout the Township, and Mr. Szwabiuk stated he would like to see it in a Park and on the existing bike paths.

LEAGUE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Sean O'Hara thanked the Township for approving the Snipes Plan. He also thanked Football and Lacrosse as the three groups have worked well together on an overall plan. Mr. O'Hara stated the Tournament went well, and he thanked the Township and Township staff for their help with the Tournament. He also thanked the Police Department for their help. Mr. O'Hara stated the EPIC had 250 teams come with 3,500 players, 375 games; and they used five facilities including Macclesfield, Falls, the Middle Schools and two fields in New Jersey. He stated they also utilized 450 hotel rooms in the area.

Mr. O'Hara stated they are continuing to work with the Boy Scouts working on a gazebo and signage. Mr. O'Hara stated YMS is also contributing to a group that focuses on Veteran suicide.

He stated they are looking to replace the turf field next summer. Mr. McNamara asked if they can sell the old turf; and Mr. O'Hara stated they are looking to see what they can do with some of it, however parts of the existing turf are almost unplayable.

Mr. Wysocki asked how long does it take until the field is playable again, and Mr. O'Hara stated it will take six weeks.

Mr. O'Hara stated they have signed some new Agreements with the Philadelphia Union and Sky Blue the woman's program at Rutgers.

Mr. McNamara thanked YMS for trying to accommodate baseball as much as they did this weekend.

Mr. Benedetto asked what happened with the issue where they had to hire Police at the Cemetery adjacent to Macclesfield. Mr. O'Hara stated last year someone indicated that people were walking through the Cemetery and going through a hole in the chain link fence to get to Macclesfield, and they had felt that the people going to the Soccer Tournament had cut the hole which was not true as the Church indicated it had been there for a while. Mr. O'Hara stated this year they provided a security person to prevent anyone from cutting through there.

Mr. Krauss stated his son plays on the Ultimate Frisbee Team. Mr. Krauss stated they do not have a League Director, but he wanted to report that they did have a great Tournament on the weekend of April 23 with over sixteen teams playing at Memorial Park; and he thanked Ms. Liney and the Park & Rec Department.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Fritchey stated at the Board of Supervisors meeting they had a very long meeting that resulted in a solution as to the competing use for the Garden of Reflection on the 9/11 weekend. He stated the Board of Supervisors did have the Dedication of the Arboretum kick off which was successful, and twenty-five trees were planted. Mr. Fritchey stated the Board of Supervisors approved rebidding the Community Center. Mr. Benedetto stated they have put it out for the original and the alternative plans. There was discussion about how the prior Bid came in which

was higher than had been anticipated. Mr. Krauss noted an article about a 22,000 square foot construction at Holy Ghost Prep for \$3.5 million. Mr. Benedetto stated the difference is because the Township has to pay prevailing wage.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated the restoration of the Revere tennis courts is underway. The Lower Makefield Public Works Department has completed removing the existing fence. Overgrown trees in the area are being cut back today to allow for the new fence installation. Ms. Liney stated the contractor who was low bidder for the spring, 2016 Township paving program, Morrissey, will mill the cracks and overlay the asphalt for three courts as the first portion of the spring paving program. The Township Park crew will install new tennis posts, ratchets, and nets. Kurts Kourts will paint and line the courts for pickleball and tennis use. Ms. Liney stated the new fencing will be bid separately and installed at the end of the painting along with a new access path and seeding in the area where the fourth court was removed. She stated the Township is targeting completion of this restoration by early summer.

Ms. Liney stated the Township hosted a successful Arbor Day planting event on April 30th at Memorial Park. A total of 25 native trees of varied species were planted as Phase I of the planned Memorial Park Arboretum. Volunteers from Woodside Presbyterian, Boy Scout Troops, along with the Supervisors and EAC helped; and the Township greatly appreciated their support.

Ms. Liney stated this past weekend saw thousands of players, coaches, families, and friends enjoying Lower Makefield Township facilities with the YMC EPIC Soccer Tournament and a PAA Fastpitch Softball event. Ms. Liney stated Tournaments of this size are not possible without great facilities and dedicated volunteers handling coordination, and she congratulated both YMS and PAA for their success this weekend.

Ms. Liney stated preparations for the opening of the Pool on May 28th are ongoing, servicing every aspect of this outstanding facility. As in the past, mandatory staff meetings are scheduled in the next two weeks for over 100 Pool employees with the Pool Manager to review our Township policies, safety procedures, and job responsibilities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Benedetto stated there is a crack through the basketball court, and Ms. Liney stated she did have Kurts Kourts look at it today; and he will give a price on that. Ms. Liney stated it is ten years old which is about when you can get cracks. Ms. Liney stated Kurts Kourts is going to propose putting in plastic which is a new procedure they are having good luck with so it should not re-occur in three years.

Mr. Wysocki stated next year is the 325th Anniversary of the Township of Makefield and the 280th Anniversary of Lower Makefield. He stated it might be a good idea to consider a Time Capsule for the Township to be put in one of the Parks. He stated he has done some research in to the vaults, and they are not that expensive. He stated he also was able to find a list of items you might want to include. All present felt this was a good idea.

There being no further business, Mr. McNamara moved, Mr. Newbon seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Newbon, Secretary