

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 15, 2016

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on November 15, 2016. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Gordon, Chair
Patricia Bunn, Vice Chair
Andrew Newbon, Secretary
Douglas Krauss, Member

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager
Donna Liney, Recreation Director
David Fritchey, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: David Malinowski, Park & Rec Member
Bryan McNamara, Park & Rec Member
Dennis Wysocki, Park & Rec Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC PATTERN MACCLESFIELD PARK

Ms. Liney stated Township Traffic Safety Officer, Retired Captain Tom Roche, is going to make a presentation about potential changes to the traffic pattern at Macclesfield Park to make it more traffic friendly. Mr. Roche stated for thirty-eight of the forty years he was with the Police Department he was involved in traffic safety. He stated Ms. Liney had asked him about the traffic flow problems at Macclesfield Park. He reviewed the measurements taken on the roads in the Park as shown on the hand out he provided. He stated he feels there would be problems if they had two-way traffic throughout the whole Park. He stated he feels there are certain areas which are too tight to make traffic flow easier. He noted the entrance and he stated if there was a way to soften the curve to where someone coming in going right would not be near someone going out and turning right it would be better. He stated he would also suggest not only stop signs but also stop bars and signs asking driver to follow alternating traffic.

Mr. Newbon asked if there is a study that shows how much of the traffic goes right and how much traffic goes left when they come out of the Park. He stated the left turn would be what holds traffic up. Ms. Bunn stated she feels it is ridiculous to have to go all the way to the back to get out; and if it is not busy, she goes right out particularly at night.

Mr. Roche stated with regard to the connector roads, he feels they could have the inside curve with a little extra shoulder. He stated they should also have direction arrows so people know which way they should go.

Mr. Jason Simon noted a traffic tie up which occurs when you come off of the Snack Bar area and make a left because cars are backing out in both directions and children are running around. He stated if everyone came around in one direction at a location he showed on the Plan, he feels it would be safer. Mr. Simon also noted that children are running out between the cars all the time.

Mr. Roche stated if half to three quarters of the traffic goes out A and not D, D will no longer have the volume that it had. He stated there will still be two-way traffic since people want to back out; however, they may not have fifty cars in line waiting.

Ms. Bunn stated she feels the changes could work if they striped it, put up signage, and then educated everyone through e-mails sent out by the League Managers explaining the new traffic patterns. She stated if they do not have the 40+ cars from baseball going all the way to the back, that is 40 less cars going to the back unnecessarily.

Mr. Gordon asked if there is any utility to angling the parking. He stated when cars have to park straight in, they have to back straight out into two lanes. Mr. Roche stated he had not considered that, but he could look into it. Ms. Bunn stated she feels this would result in the loss of parking spaces throughout the Park, and they are already tight for parking.

There was discussion about a potential exit road straight down the Cemetery tree line. It was noted they would be going onto a State road. Mr. Fritchey stated he felt that they had looked at that at one time.

Ms. Bunn stated they are making football go past baseball unnecessarily, and they are putting all the cars on A for no reason.

Ms. Liney asked if they could do part of the changes that are easier in house. Mr. Fedorchak stated they need to see what they could do in house. Ms. Liney stated she feels widening the curves and signage could be done if they wanted to try two-way from A and B. Ms. Bunn stated that should be relatively inexpensive. Mr. Fritchey asked when they would do this, and Ms. Liney stated she feels the Park crew could do this as a winter project.

Mr. Fritchey stated it would be ideal if they could get permission from PennDOT to open up an exit.

Ms. Liney stated with the permission of the Park Board now that they have suggestions from the Police, she would like to talk to the Township engineer within the next week and come back with something in December. This was acceptable to Mr. Fedorchak and the Park Board. Mr. Gordon asked that they come back with a couple of options.

Mr. Roche stated they should have two exits for any future Parks.

BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Liney stated Park & Recreation and the Pool Operating Budgets were reviewed last evening during the Board of Supervisors public Work Session for the Budget for 2017. No changes were made to those Budgets. She stated there was a lot of discussion on the Capital Budgets, and Mr. Fedorchak agreed to come this evening to discuss this. Mr. Fedorchak noted information provided to the Park & Rec Board. He stated the Community Center is proceeding. He stated the Snipes Tract is before the Zoning Hearing Board this evening. He stated he assumes that the Park & Rec Board would continue to strongly support the development of the Snipes Tract, and all Board members agreed. Mr. Fedorchak stated with regard to the east section of Memorial Park, he knows that the Park & Rec Board has been discussing opening that up for quite some time. He stated to start with they should put in the tennis courts; and in order to do that, an access road needs to be constructed as well as parking. He stated he also believes there has been some discussion about leveling off fields around that area.

Mr. Gordon stated that whole area would still need to come through the main entrance, and Mr. Fedorchak agreed. Mr. Fritchey stated there would be a spur road coming off the parking lot for the Garden of Reflection.

Mr. Fedorchak stated he feels at least they should construct the access road recognizing that there is a creek and wetlands so they may need a bridge which would make the price higher than normal. Mr. Fedorchak stated he understands they were considering four tennis courts, and Ms. Liney agreed. Mr. Fedorchak stated they would also need some parking and leveling off the area. He stated depending on the Budget, they may be able to put in a pavilion; and while restrooms would be nice, this gets expensive. Mr. Fedorchak asked if they would agree that this project is high on their priority list, and the Park & Rec members agreed.

Mr. Fedorchak stated the parking lot would be completing what is existing, and Mr. Liney agreed it would be paving that. Mr. Fedorchak stated the next piece would be the expansion they are discussing now. Ms. Bunn asked if the cost being shown includes the engineering fees. She stated when they looked at this previously, the Permit to get across the creek was extremely expensive. She stated she felt it was \$50,000 to \$100,000 since they have to do a full NPDES Permit. Mr. Fedorchak stated if that is true, it may be better to have a second entrance. He stated however this gets resolved, he feels the Park Board is looking at this as one of their top priorities.

Mr. Fedorchak stated they are also talking about expanding the bike path program. He stated they have money set aside for a bike path going up Woodside from Taylorsville where the Park & Ride Lot is. Mr. Fedorchak stated they will then have a bike path all the way to Lindenhurst Road. Ms. Liney stated with regard to bike paths, they were going to connect to Veterans Square since this is something the Disabled Parsons Advisory Board had wanted to connect from Yardley Hunt into Veterans Square/Farmers Market. Ms. Liney stated the third item was new bike path from Edgewood Park development, and she showed the map which shows that coming out of Kings and having a path to connect on Edgewood. Mr. Fedorchak stated they are talking about connecting what is existing. Ms. Liney stated the fourth item was re-surfacing on Mill Road from Edgewood to Oxford Valley, and this is a resurfacing of the existing path. Mr. Fedorchak stated that is maintenance.

Ms. Liney stated they also talked about lighting on the 70' and 90' fields. Mr. Gordon stated the Park Board sees the lighting as a high priority since that plays a role with different groups and opening up Macclesfield more. Mr. Gordon stated he feels only three or four houses would be effected at all by the lights; and the way the lights are built today with focus on the fields and very little spread, he feels there will be a minimal impact. Ms. Liney stated at the Budget Session last night there was some discussion about having the User Groups contribute to that funding wise, although they did not require that at other fields. Mr. Krauss stated the User Groups do pay for the electricity.

Mr. Simon stated with the additional fields at Caiola with lights, PAA would be able to give up Field H at Macclesfield which would allow YMS to convert that field into a soccer field and create more space. Mr. Simon stated they cannot do that without having the lights. Mr. Newbon stated the lighting of Caiola is really important because it impacts both PAA and YMS. Mr. Simon stated the Dog Park was active space used by YMS, and that started a cascade. He stated YMS gave that up knowing that there were other discussions about the lighting.

Mr. Simon stated he has done a lot of research on the lighting mechanisms. He stated the lights now come with a cap so the illumination directs back off of the cap and back onto the fields so there is almost no leakage. Mr. Simon stated they also come with other features that the current system does not, and the newer lights come with complete control and they can turn them on and off and tract the usage; and they are controlled through I-pad or I-phone aps as well so on a rainy night they can turn them off. Mr. Simon stated they also have two programs – a financing program and a lease program. He stated both of the programs at Musco come with twenty-five years of full service, and they do not want anyone else touching or replacing bulbs; and they will come out and make sure all the adjustments are done right.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels the Park Board feels strongly about all the projects on the list. Mr. Fedorchak stated they plan to open up expense line items for all of the projects.

Mr. Simon asked the sale price for the Park & Ride, and Mr. Fedorchak stated it was over \$1 million; and it was purchased by the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission. He reviewed what they will be building on the site. Mr. Gordon asked if there will still be parking spaces available there, and Mr. Fedorchak stated there will be spaces.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Fritchey stated at Memorial Park the 1K track is in, and people are already using it. He stated they have installed additional trees as well. Mr. Fedorchak asked Ms. Liney to review the Tree Bank as it relates to the trees planted. Ms. Liney stated they have spent \$60,000 on trees to date. Mr. Fritchey stated the signs are in for Phase I of the Arboretum, and the signs for Phase II and III will be installed hopefully before Christmas. Mr. Gordon asked if there are mileage marking, and Mr. Fritchey stated there is not yet. He stated they want people to know that there is a measured 1K.

LEAGUE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Jason Simon, PAA, stated they have finished a successful fall season. He stated all their Travel Teams are selected for the spring for softball and baseball. He stated they are getting ready to launch Registration for 2017. He stated they are moving to a new Website. He stated they are doing away with an early fee and will go back to late fee penalties when they get later in the cycle. He stated they are going to keep the free T-ball, and they had sixteen T-ball teams last year which will help them populate through the rest of the organization. Mr. Simon stated they are making some improvements to the facilities, and he thanked Ms. Liney. Mr. Simon stated PAA grew last year, and they expect to grow again. He stated they were happy with the turn out for try-outs.

Mr. Bill Baldwin stated last time he was before the Board he spoke about the two Tournaments they were going to have, and he thanked Ms. Liney for her help. He stated they got many compliments about the facilities. He stated the volunteers also groomed the fields in between every game so they were playing on quality acreage. He stated they used the Fred Allan fields and the Pool field two weekends in a row. Mr. Baldwin reviewed the results of the Tournament. He stated there was a total of twenty-nine teams. He stated the concession stand generated approximately \$5,000. He stated they are trying to build up the PAA softball brand to make it as big as it was in the 80s and 90s.

Mr. Simon stated the Board is doing a phenomenal job, and the improvements they are making they are investing back in the League. He stated the Commissioners prior to himself started to build back their financial liability, as they lose on every Registration when they factor in all the costs. He stated the fund-raising they do and the Snack Bar are really vital to their program. He stated last year was the first year they initiated the volunteer fee, and it worked really well. He stated those who volunteered were refunded their investment. He stated this year they will be putting up two new batting cages between Caiola. He stated they are also going to make some improvements to the other batting cages. He stated their goal is two more cages next year. He stated the one behind A at Macclesfield will get improved this year. He stated the signage that the Township put up this year for the parking was really helpful. He stated whenever PAA hosts a Tournament they get a lot of compliments about both facilities, and he thanked the Township for the facilities.

Ms. Bunn asked why PAA does not have a big draw for baseball tournaments, and Mr. Simon stated they have gone in the direction to host the Cal Ripken State Tournaments versus softball which has a different structure. He stated every year they would like one of the age groups to take on hosting a State Tournament. Ms. Bunn stated the girls get Showcases where scouts can come and look at them, and they do not provide that at all for the boys. Mr. Fritchey stated that is a product of a historical relationship, and there are only five of those Nationwide. Mr. Fritchey stated having a Showcase is pretty extraordinary, and this is the only one on the East Coast. Mr. Simon stated that Softball Tournament is spread out in other locations as well. He stated it is also unique since it the last Tournament where coaches can interact with the players but the parents cannot talk to the coaches because of NCAA rules. Mr. Fritchey stated that is why teams come in from all over the Country. Mr. Simon stated also on the baseball side the structure is different, and what they are seeing is as the players get older there is a lot more AAU ball being played which is outside of Babe Ruth; and those Tournaments are taking place at those levels. Mr. Baldwin stated they could have an open Tournament much like the two tournaments they just had and any team – an independent, AAU, Little League, Cal Ripken – could all come and play a weekend Tournament. He stated they have done that in the past but it is a lot of logistics, and it is really about volunteers. Mr. Newbon stated he imagines that those Tournaments are already established; and if you had that Tournament every year, they will not give it to someone else.

Mr. Simon stated they held a Softball Tournament on Memorial Day weekend, and Morrisville Little League runs a Tournament at their facility; and PAA played it as it is an open Tournament, and they would not want to compete with them. Mr. Simon stated they all play in the same Travel League for baseball and both Little League and Cal Ripken all play in it so every weekend they could be playing Little League Teams. He stated there are differences in the set of rules, and he reviewed the differences and how they work together to level the playing field.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated the Township honored Veterans on November 6 with the 10th Annual Veterans Day Parade. Community support was evident in the large turnout, and Park & Recreation was happy to be a part of this special event.

Ms. Liney stated the Park crew has begun winterizing the various Park sites. She stated by November 23rd all restrooms and concession stands which are not heated will be closed for the winter. The Garden of Reflection fountain and pool are closed for the season.

Ms. Liney stated the Township has issued a Permit to Representative Santarsiero and Supervisor Judi Reiss for a public gathering Thursday evening, November 17th at the Garden of Reflection starting about 5 p.m. She stated the event was listed in the Courier Times as a gathering to speak against the acts of racism, homophobia, and Islamophobia reported across the Country since Election Day. Ms. Liney stated she had an individual call who indicated they were not a resident, but they were very angry that the Township had issued that Permit.

Ms. Liney stated Mr. Joe Menard is present, and he was at the Budget meeting last evening; and he had indicated that he would be stopping by the Park Board's meeting. Ms. Liney advised Mr. Menard that they have already addressed the Budget earlier this evening; and the Park Board indicated that as to prioritization, they feel that all of the projects are projects that need to be accomplished.

Mr. Menard stated in terms of the Pool Senior Citizen Membership, there was discussion whether there could be an additional classification for a Senior Membership that would allow the Senior member to be at the Pool all day. Ms. Liney stated they could be there all day if they purchased an Individual Membership which is \$180 at the Discount. She stated there is also a Limited Membership which is after 4 p.m. which is \$30. Ms. Liney stated they are looking for something in between where they could come a little earlier but still have a discount. Mr. Menard stated the easiest thing would be to have a Discount off of the Individual Membership for Seniors. Mr. Krauss asked the number of Senior members they have now, and Ms. Liney stated it is 157. She stated the 157 are the ones paying the \$30 Senior Rate, and they do not break out the Individuals. Mr. Gordon stated if was \$50 or \$75 maybe more of the Seniors paying the \$30 would pay for that membership. Mr. Krauss stated they may also get some that are paying the \$180 for an Individual rate may pay less by paying the lesser rate. Mr. Menard stated the idea would be to get more Seniors to participate and have total revenue go up. He stated the goal would be to get more residents involved at the Pool. Ms. Bunn stated since the Pool opens at Noon, they would want to be there from Noon until close. Ms. Bunn asked Mr. Menard if he has a feeling what they want to pay for that, and Mr. Menard stated they did not get that far in the discussion. Ms. Bunn stated they could not be there earlier in the morning because there are Swim Lessons, and that is the purpose of not having the Pool open to the Membership until Noon. Ms. Liney stated they are looking for additional time to include Noon to 3 p.m. Ms. Bunn stated that is the hottest part of the day, and she would not think they would want to be out in the sun during that part of the day. Mr. Menard stated they should consider if it would hurt to offer it and see what happens. Mr. Menard stated he is not sure if there would be any other impact on the use of the Pool or activities; and if they are inclined to do this, they should discuss it with Jeff Brown, the Pool Manage, to see if that would have any impact

in terms of Pool operation. Mr. Gordon stated he feels they should be able to find a price point that makes more money for the Pool and given them some more access. Mr. Menard stated he feels there is enough capacity at the Pool that it should not have much of a negative impact unless Mr. Brown says otherwise.

Mr. Simon asked if the Seniors would have a Membership or any type of fee for any of the activities at the Community Center. Ms. Liney stated the inclination to her at the meeting last night was the Board was not thinking there were going to do that although it was put out for consideration. Mr. Fritchey stated none of the Board members wanted to do that. Ms. Bunn stated she does not think that is fair since every other User group has to pay a User fee, and now they have a whole building because none of the other Users wanted to be in there. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels that they decided they would consider that later as the building is not up yet, and there is sufficient time for the Park Board to make a recommendation. Mr. Simon stated the only reason he raised this was because if there was a fee to be a member at the Community Center, they could add a certain amount to also include membership at the Pool.

Ms. Liney asked Mr. Menard if they should try \$100 for the Senior Membership he has discussed, and she could run this by Mr. Brown to see if he sees anything that could cause a problem. She stated she is not sure that they could break out the Individual Membership by age. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels this is something that the Park & Rec Board can address over the next three months. Ms. Liney stated she felt they wanted it to be included in the Budget. She also noted that Membership information is mailed out in January. Mr. Menard stated they could make it a 50% discount for Seniors to have an Individual membership. Ms. Bunn stated she felt that was too much. Ms. Bunn stated she felt they should go from \$30 to \$75. She was advised that they are getting a lot of additional time at the Pool. Ms. Bunn stated she still feels that is a big jump for them to go to \$100. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels Ms. Liney should discuss this with Mr. Brown, and the Park Board can talk about it again in December; although ultimately he does not feel it would have much of an impact on the Budget.

Ms. Liney reviewed other Pool fees which have been raised.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Newbon, Secretary

