

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2016

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on October 18, 2016. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Gordon, Chair
 Douglas Krauss, Member
 Bryan McNamara, Member
 Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager (joined and
 left meeting in progress)
 Donna Liney, Recreation Director
 David Fritchey, Supervisor Liaison

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McNamara moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of September 13, 2016 as written.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 2105 PROPOSED BRONZE AWARD PROJECT APPROVAL

Scouts from Troop 2105 were present to discuss their project to help save bats by making and installing bat boxes with materials that are environmentally friendly. They will make at least four boxes and propose to complete building the boxes by the end of October with the boxes to be installed in Memorial Park at the edge of the woods. The bat boxes will help stop the spread of Zika virus as bats eat mosquitos and will also help stop the bats from getting white nose syndrome. The poles will be 20' to 24' high and will be mounted in the ground in cement. The boxes are 4' tall. They have collected sufficient donations to complete six bat boxes.

Mr. Gordon asked if all the boxes are proposed to be installed in Memorial Park, and one of the Scout leaders stated the girls would like to install them there because it is a calm location. Mr. Wysocki stated the Five Mile Woods Naturalist may be able to

provide input on the project. Ms. Liney agreed to contact Mr. Heilferty to see if he would like to have some installed at the Five Mile Woods. Veterans Square was also suggested. Ms. Liney will contact the Scouts with more information.

Mr. Wysocki moved, Ms. McNamara seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the project.

DOG PARK SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Greg Papazian, Ms. Wendy Simon, and Ms. Mary Waldman were present. Mr. Papazian stated a group of volunteers started meeting on a regular basis after the Board passed the Resolution providing land for the Dog Park to advise the Township on the development and implementation of operating procedures for the Dog Park. He stated they were also charged with doing some preliminary fundraising for the Dog Park. He stated their first meeting was in March, and they meet the first and third Mondays of the month. He stated they have created their own webpage, Facebook page, and Instagram and Twitter accounts.

Mr. Fedorchak joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Papazian stated they looked at the different models including Doylestown, Core Creek, Falls Township, and Morrisville; but they knew the Board passed it with the idea that it would be a closed park with an annual fee, and there would be a need that dogs were to be up to date with their shots. He stated they created some rules for the Park much of them taken from the Doylestown Dog Park. He stated they have also tried to build support and interest in the community and generate funds for the Park.

Mr. Papazian reviewed the different fundraising events. He stated to date they have raised \$4,944.38, with expenses of \$1,692.06 for net funds raised of \$3,252.32. He stated they have one commitment of \$10,000 from VSEC Animal Hospital, and the paperwork was provided to Mr. Benedetto their liaison. Mr. Gordon asked if any promises have been made for this commitment such as advertising or banners. Mr. Papazian stated the Committee created a flyer that they use when they are at events or meeting with businesses, and it lists what each level of donation gets. He stated for \$10,000 you get signage at the Dog Park, a day at the Park when they can use it for a fundraising event, membership to the Park, and mention on the Dog Park website as well as bricks/pavers similar to what the Veterans Square did. Mr. Papazian stated he recently heard from Cares Animal Hospital although they have not committed to an exact dollar amount at this point.

Mr. Papazian stated the Committee is focused on meeting with other business to solicit more cash donations or in-kind donations. He stated the Committee is hoping they could get a materials page of building materials and what might be necessary for the Park. He stated they know they need fencing, benches, etc. but if they had a materials list they could go to a fence company about donating a certain amount of fencing. Ms. Simon stated they need specifics on the kind and amount of fencing needed. She stated they are using Doylestown a lot as they are the newest Dog Park, and they did an excellent job soliciting in-kind services and donations besides funds from different businesses; and they would like to model themselves after that as well. She stated they feel they can find a plumber, an electrician, and people who are involved with building; however, they cannot solicit them or Home Depot or Lowe's because the Committee does not know what is required.

Mr. Gordon stated it was his understanding that certain things need to be bid out, and he does not want to get in a situation where there are people making commitments for things that have to be bid out.

Mr. Fedorchak stated the first things they need is a final design that the Park & Rec Board and the Supervisors have agreed on.

Ms. Simon stated the Committee has created a very long list of local businesses that they want to contact; and since they are going to start doing that, they would like to have all the information. Mr. Papazian asked if they know when that might be available since there are those who may not be interested in giving cash donations, they might be interested in donating labor and materials.

Mr. Gordon stated there are certain things that need to be speced out and approved by the engineers. He stated what the Committee is doing is great, and they all agree that they want to use the least amount of Township funds possible. Mr. Fedorchak stated Ms. Saylor is present this evening, and she was involved with the design.

Ms. Liney stated they also have to wait and see about the Grant. Ms. Saylor stated they have submitted for the Grant, and they will hear something anytime between the end of this month and February. Ms. Saylor stated they had to submit cost estimates for specific items, and there is a 50/50 match so they have to be careful about what is put in the Bid. Mr. Krauss asked if someone were to come in with an in-kind donation would this effect the Grant, and Ms. Saylor stated she will have to look into that. She stated there are many other items that they discussed that were not in the Bid which would be nice amenities.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels the amenities should be the focus of the Dog Park Committee fundraising efforts versus fencing which he feels will have to be bid out so they satisfy the Grant assuming they do get the Grant. Mr. Gordon asked that the Dog Park Committee be given guidance on the amenities. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels the easiest way to do this would be if they knew what was included in the Grant, and they would then look for items that are not on that list.

Mr. Wysocki thanked the Committee for all the work they are doing, and he asked where the funds are being held. Mr. Papazian stated there is a Contract to be signed for donations which was used by Doylestown; and someone from the Committee signs, someone from the Township signs, and the entity donating the money signs as well. Ms. Simon stated the funds they have raised are being held in the Township's 501C3.

Ms. Liney introduced Adrienne from the Township staff who is present this evening, adding she has been tasked with being the Township official who will be processing the paperwork for enrollment in the Dog Park. Ms. Liney stated they are going to try to tie it to the Pool program adding onto to it.

Mr. Gordon asked about trying to get a sign up at the Dog Park location. Mr. Fedorchak asked if there is an official logo yet, and Ms. Simon showed the logo which is on their shirts, all their literature, and on the Website.

Mr. Krauss thanked everyone working on this. Mr. Fritchey also thanked them on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Benedetto stated Cares had requested to be a \$10,000 donor but it will probably be an in-kind contribution since they have already covered a lot of insurance for the canine unit for many years. Mr. Benedetto stated the Dog Park Committee has been doing a great job, but he feels the Township should be up front that the Township is covering the costs. He stated he feels the Dog Park Committee should be raising money for the maintenance long-term. He stated he does not feel it is reasonable to expect that this group can raise all the funds for the Dog Park. Mr. Gordon stated if they get the Grant, it does have to be Township funds for the match. He stated he feels the Dog Park Committee should help the with the design, rules and regulations, and to publicize it. He stated the more money the Committee can raise, the more amenities they will have. He stated the Committee should not feel pressured that they have to raise all the money to be able to have the Dog Park. Mr. Fritchey stated clearly Township funds will be going into the Dog Park.

Ms. Simon stated she spoke to those with the canine unit who indicated that they would be interested in there being an agility course at the Dog Park which they would be using daily if it was available. This would be a portable system.

Mr. Krauss asked if there is any idea as to costs for on-going maintenance; and Ms. Simon stated they felt the Membership Fee would cover the maintenance costs, and future fundraising would go toward amenities that they were not able to afford when they first built the Park.

BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Fedorchak stated this is very much a work in progress, and it will be another few weeks until they are able to put together all the different Departments and funds; and he will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors at that time. He stated they will be seeing in Ms. Liney's Budget for the first time Operating costs for the Community Center which they expect will be completed by mid year. He stated there will also be Operating costs for the Dog Park as well which is certain to be constructed sometime early next year.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Fritchey stated the Revere Road courts have been completed, and he saw that they were being used. Mr. Gordon asked if they have been lined for pickle ball as well; and Mr. Fritchey stated they were, and the people he saw playing there were playing pickle ball. Mr. Gordon asked Ms. Liney if they are putting up a sign at Schuyler to let people know about the Revere Road courts. Ms. Liney stated they did put up some signs, but they are getting more signs. Mr. Fritchey stated he felt the signs were too small. He stated the sign at Revere is so small that you cannot see it from the street. Mr. Gordon stated they want to make sure that it is clear on the sign that the Courts are Township courts.

Mr. Fritchey stated the signs for the first phase of the Memorial Park Arboretum are due to be installed tomorrow morning. He stated there is more planting proposed, and they have been advised they can plant until mid-November. Mr. Fritchey stated they also hope to have the running/walking/biking track in before Thanksgiving, and Ms. Liney stated they are beginning to work on it tomorrow.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated the Township would like to acknowledge the completion of Louis Fancher's Eagle Scout project this past weekend at Memorial Park. Mr. Fancher constructed the trellis entrance as shown on the Secret Garden design plan and also planted six shade trees around the perimeter of the playground. Ms. Liney stated the Township appreciates Mr. Francher's commitment to the community and the Eagle Scout program. A picture of the trellis was distributed to the Park Board this evening, and the finished product is a very nice piece of work.

Ms. Liney stated a large shade tree was planted today at the Fred Allan Complex, middle field, by friends of the Abel family marking the two-year anniversary of the tragic loss of Caitlyn Able who was killed by a drunk driver. The Abel family is active in both softball and baseball, with Caitlyn having played softball in the PAA program as well as the St. John program which also uses Township fields.

Ms. Liney stated the Township, responding to resident requests, has purchased three acres of property off Maplevale, formerly the Jennings tract, as open space. The Park crew will clean up the path area leading to the Canal path for the residents in that section to have easier access to the Delaware Canal. This should be completed by the end of this week.

Ms. Liney stated the Park crew has been working with the Township engineer's office on the installation of tree signs at Memorial Park, identifying the various species of trees recently planted in Phases I and II of the Arboretum planting this year. The signs are scheduled for install by the Park crew tomorrow at Memorial Park. The 1 kilometer walking path is also being installed tomorrow.

Ms. Liney stated the three newly-restored tennis courts at Revere are now in use, and the Township has been working with one of the residents backing to the court who requested a buffering along the fence. The Township Pickleball Program has requested use of these courts for 2017, and Ms. Liney stated she understands there is a spike in activity on the courts, both tennis and pickleball. Ms. Liney stated if the Park Board is good with Permitting these courts in 2017, she will consider issuing for them if applied for. Ms. Liney stated she recalls at an earlier meeting the Minutes indicated that they were not going to permit these courts, but she does have a request to do so. She stated they also want to re-do the Heacock courts next year. Ms. Liney stated the Pickleball Program is a sanctioned group as they pay a User Fee and they have insurance. She stated they are looking for specific dates four days a week. Mr. Gordon stated if they have a League, they want to make sure they have courts. Mr. Fritchey stated he still feels they need to have some courts available for those who are not in a League. Ms. Liney stated currently there are three courts at Revere and two at Heacock which are all lined for pickleball. Mr. Gordon stated he

would not have a problem Permitting Heacock and two courts at Revere and leave one for open play. Mr. Wysocki stated it is important for Pickleball to have Permitting so that they can have a schedule, and Mr. Fritchey agreed. He stated he feels one at Revere that is left open would be fine.

Mr. Wysocki stated with regard to the resident near Revere having concern with the noise who is looking for buffering, it should be known that pickleball is a louder game than tennis.

Ms. Liney stated the Pennsbury High School Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer Teams have requested and been Permitted fields for Playoff games to be held at Macclesfield Park next week. Pennsbury will have definite game dates and times once the District seeding meeting takes place, and Ms. Liney stated the Township appreciates YMS working with us to be able to host these games. Tentatively the dates are Tuesday, 10/25, Thursday, 10/27, and possibly Tuesday, 11/2.

Ms. Liney stated planning is underway for the Annual Veterans Parade on Sunday, November 6 departing Edgewood and Long Acre at 1 p.m. and marching down to Veterans Square. The renowned Pennsbury Marching band as well as veterans and local Scout Troops will participate in this year's Parade.

Ms. Liney stated the regularly scheduled Park Board meeting for November falls on Election Day, November 8. She wanted to confirm if the park Board would like to reschedule that date or keep it; and Park Board members stated the meeting should not be held on Election Day. It was suggested that the date tentatively be scheduled for the next Tuesday after Election Day, and Ms. Liney agreed to poll the members.

Mr. Fedorchak left the meeting at this time.

LEAGUE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Jason Simon and Mr. Bill Baldwin, PAA, were present. Mr. Simon stated they are wrapping up the fall season which was very successful. He stated he is very proud of the way softball has evolved this year, and they are launching an inaugural fall Softball Tournament. He stated they are also very busy planning for 2017, and they will be launching a new Website which will allow for additional capabilities.

Mr. Simon reviewed some field maintenance purchases they recently made. He stated they are working with the Township to build two new batting cages. He stated they plan to have new and improved batting cages at all of their fields over the next several years. He stated this they will have Baseball Travel Team try outs over the next two weekends. He stated Softball did their Travel Team try outs in August. He stated they continue to work for the community and are working with the Dog Park Committee to help raise funds. Mr. Simon stated they will offer winter clinics for all age groups.

Mr. Baldwin stated their fall Softball Tournament will be over two weekends, with eighteen teams scheduled the first weekend and they will use Fred Allan and the Pool. He stated they are still selling for the second weekend, and he understands some groups are waiting to see about the weather. Mr. Baldwin stated they are working on re-building the Gems Program, and he reviewed the number of teams they have in the various age brackets. He stated 85% of the players have come out of the PAA system. Mr. Fritchey discussed the importance of having good pitchers.

Mr. Simon stated the Board and the coaches are very committed to the softball program, and on the baseball side, they have built a strong culture on putting the players first. He stated they decided last year to take some of their funds and invest in pitching for softball, and he made available to younger girls the opportunity to get coached in pitching as developing pitching is critical to be successful. He reviewed the successes PAA has had this year.

Mr. Sean O'Hara, YMS, thanked the Board of Supervisors for recognizing the Xplosion for winning the National Title, and he added they are in Harrisburg today being recognized as well. He stated they have added a second star to the logo. Mr. O'Hara asked for an update on Snipes, and Ms. Liney stated there is funding for it in the Operating Budget. She stated the Capital construction is come out of the Bond. Mr. Fritchey stated the Township solicitor is currently involved in making an Application before the Zoning Hearing Board to develop the Complex.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels the discussion was they would build it in 2017 so that the fields could be used by 2019. Ms. Liney stated they may sod the fields; and Mr. Gordon stated if that is done, they may be able to use them in 2018.

Mr. O'Hara stated the numbers for the all the organizations are up which puts more people at Macclesfield. Mr. Gordon stated they had discussed if they could get lights at Caiola, Macclesfield H could be opened up for YMS which would be a short-term solution. Mr. O'Hara stated football needs fields as well, and they are sharing Field H with them every night. Mr. Wysocki asked if Heacock is now no longer able to be used for soccer, and Ms. Liney stated they cannot use Heacock. Mr. Wysocki stated

he understands that they do not Permit Memorial Park, but possibly they could use it temporarily; however, Ms. Liney stated the problem now is they are putting in the path which is cutting into the flat playing area that is there.

Mr. Krauss stated he is seeing a turn over in his neighborhood, and more younger families are moving in.

There was discussion about putting lights in the rear section of Macclesfield to help relieve some of the pressure for field space; however, Mr. Fritchey stated he did not feel this would be acceptable to the residents at Rivergate. Mr. Fritchey stated he also does not feel there will be a significant amount of construction at Snipes during 2017, although it might start by the end of 2017.

Mr. O'Hara reviewed the YMS season to date. He stated they hosted a Tournament two weeks ago and hosted 225 teams. He thanked Ms. Liney, the Lower Makefield employees, and the Police Department for their help with the Tournament.

Mr. Gordon asked about the turf replacement, and Mr. O'Hara stated it will be 18 to 24 months from now. He stated they do have the funds to take care of this project. He stated their Lease is up in two to three years, and they would like to renegotiate that before they put in the new turf. Mr. Wysocki asked how much life they got from the turf field; and Mr. O'Hara stated it will be twelve years, which is good since it is rated for ten to twelve years.

Mr. O'Hara was thanked for all the work they do.

OTHER BUSINESS – GARDEN OF REFLECTION DISCUSSION

Ms. Ellen Saracini, Ms. Debbie Sanko, and Ms. Gerry Gatto were present. Ms. Saracini stated they appreciate the Township's help with their Ceremony, and she specifically thanked Ms. Liney, Bob Copson, the Park crew, and the Police Department. She stated everything went very smoothly. She stated over 2,000 people attended their Ceremony.

Ms. Saracini stated tonight they would like to hand in a Use Permit for a ceremony for next year. She stated this year they were permitted to set up a 4:00, and they have fifty Honor Students come to help out. She stated the sound director started set up at 4:00 p.m., but he did not have enough time to do all of the things that he would usually do concerning safety. Ms. Saracini stated a woman did trip on some of the cording that went across, and she knocked out some lines which could not be fixed so two of the speakers in the back were out; and the people in the back

could not hear. She stated they were thankful the woman did not fall and hurt herself. Ms. Saracini stated they are asking that they be permitted to start setting up next year at 3:00 p.m. so that they can take the safety precautions necessary. Ms. Saracini stated they have no other issues with any of the other ceremonies.

Ms. Sanko stated if there is opposition to the 3:00 time for set up, they would ask that just the sound people get in there at 3:00 so that it is a safe environment for everybody. Mr. Gordon stated they wanted to make sure that there was at least time when nothing was going on which would be a solemn time for those wishing to visit the Garden who are not participating in any ceremony.

Mr. Benedetto stated he feels the Township staff did a wonderful job. He stated he recognizes that there are a number of people who want to be there during the day and have quiet time. He stated they were able to do the set up starting at 4 p.m., but only because of the number of volunteers they had. He stated he also had a discussion with Dave Fleming who has always been very supportive in the past; and Mr. Fleming indicated that he could not help this year because there was insufficient time, and indicated he would be concerned about safety issues.

Mr. Benedetto stated he feels these issues could be addressed if they had the additional hour. He stated while there are a lot of people paying respects up until 3 to 3:30 it does start to dwindle around that time. He stated the morning ceremony ends around 10:30 to 11:00. Mr. Gordon asked what time the evening Ceremony starts; and Ms. Saracini stated while it starts at 7:00 p.m., people start arriving as early as 6:00 p.m. Ms. Saracini stated the morning event ends prior to 10:30

Mr. Gordon stated this year was the 15th Anniversary and it was also on a Sunday, and he asked if more people attended than usual because of this. Ms. Saracini stated Sunday is still a school night and Friday and Saturday would be different since more people would attend on those nights. She stated there is a difference in the number of people attending the morning and evening ceremonies, and there is also a difference in the Ceremonies themselves since the morning ceremony marks the chronological events of 9/11 and there are some people who want to have that time to pay their respects. She stated they have noticed that people with children and the surviving families that have children are not able to attend the morning ceremony as it is difficult for them to reenact the time frame and to hear the bells ring. She stated the night ceremony, After Darkness Light, initially celebrates the lives that were lost; but each year there is a different theme, and they honored first responders one year, children another year, etc.

Mr. Fritchey stated he went to all three Ceremonies this year, and each one attracted a different constituency, and each one had a different feeling. He stated there are people who find one type of ceremony resonates with them. He stated there had been discussion whether there should be one, two or three ceremonies; but he has now come away from this more convinced than ever that there needs to be all three ceremonies as if they do not there will be people who feel that their emotional and spiritual needs are not being fulfilled by only one type of ceremony. He feels it worked quite well this year, although there could be some fine-tuning.

Ms. Liney stated Valerie spoke to her earlier in the week regarding the request for 3:00, and she feels the Township could make that accommodation although she does not feel they should go much earlier than that because of the solemnity of the day and allowing people to go up without the interruption of the set up. She does not feel 3:00 is an unreasonable time and agrees that the attendance does start to filter down. Ms. Liney stated what Ms. Saracini is presenting this evening is an Application, and it is not a Permit. Ms. Liney stated the process is the Application comes in, and they will then be issue a Permit. She stated the Permit would be issued in January of 2017, and she does not issue any 2017 Permits until January.

Mr. Wysocki asked what activities would be taking place during the first hour of set up, and he asked if he would be doing sound testing. Ms. Saracini stated he would be laying cable and putting speakers out. Mr. Wysocki asked if the area would be cordoned off as he would be concerned if someone wanted to go in, and Ms. Saracini stated it is never blocked off. She stated previously someone indicated that they could not get to the fountain area; however, she stated it was never like that. She stated the only thing they have ever roped off was the edge of the sidewalk walking up as they were concerned someone could fall there. She stated they did not do it this year because they did not have time. She stated they had been previously instructed by Tom Roche that they should rope off that area like that because of safety concerns.

Ms. Saracini noted Shady Brook did provide them with things, and they toned that down as well since they had been told that it was “too festive.” She stated they never tried to make it festive, although they did put up a platform so that people can see. She stated the hay bales were put out in front of the platform. She stated they can discuss what is felt is the best for purposes of security.

Mr. Krauss asked if different people are doing the sound systems for the morning and evening ceremonies; and Ms. Saracini stated they all use the same person. Ms. Saracini stated they uses different parts of the Garden for the morning and evening ceremonies. She stated because of the volume of people attending in the evening, they need to have more speakers on the outskirts.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

David Gordon, Chairman