

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – DECEMBER 13, 2016

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on December 13, 2016. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Newbon moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the November 15, 2016 Minutes as written.

DISCUSSION OF DEVELOPMENT OF EAST SIDE OF MEMORIAL PARK

Ms. Maryellen Saylor and Mr. Ron Jackson, Boucher & James, were present. Mr. Jackson showed on the Plan a red line which is the extent of what is existing versus what is proposed. He stated the west has been installed, and everything to the east is proposed with the exception of the fact that there are some features that extend throughout the Park. He stated the improvements that are contemplated stem from the original base Plan created in 2003 when the Park was first constructed. He showed the proposed location for the tennis courts and parking, the gazebo, and the beach volleyball courts which were all part of that. He stated additional improvements that were not part of the original Plan are the disc golf course, a small tot lot, and a pavilion. Mr. Jackson stated there is already a large playground that was previously installed at a location he showed on the Plan.

Mr. Jackson stated at this time, they do not know what the nature of the additional playground will be. He also stated with regard to the pavilion, they are seeking direction from the Park & Recreation Board if this should also include a restroom facility.

Ms. Bunn asked if they have details as to how they are going to cross the stream since they had previously looked at this, and it was determined that they would need the full NPDES Permit and not the Waiver. Mr. Jackson stated they need the full Permit anyway because of the extent of the disturbance. He stated an NPDES Permit is different from a Chapter 105 Wetlands Crossings Permit. He stated they will need a General Permit, but it will not be the more cumbersome year and a half Permit. Ms. Bunn stated the reason they had not moved further on this portion was because of the Permitting costs. Ms. Bunn stated she felt the engineers were going to be directed by Mr. Fedorchak to provide the Park & Rec Board with their best guess as to what the Permitting costs would be to get to the point where they can build. She stated if it is going to be tens of thousands of dollars to get the Permit, she is not sure that they want to do this moving forward.

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Bunn if she is speaking about the Permits for the crossing versus the Permits for the improvements, and Ms. Bunn stated she is speaking about the Permits to get everything to the point where they can put a shovel in the ground. Ms. Saylor stated she feels Ms. Bunn is asking about the Environmental Permits, and Ms. Saylor stated they would need the General Permit for the crossing and the NPDES. Ms. Bunn stated those will result in an expensive long-lead time, and this is where they were at the last meeting; and they wanted to know how feasible this really is moving forward. She stated if the Permits are going to be two-thirds of the value of what the project is going to cost, she does not know that is how they would want to proceed. Mr. Jackson stated he believes Mr. Eisold would be more informed about this as he does not speak to Mr. Fedorchak personally. Ms. Saylor stated they will look into this.

Ms. Bunn stated they wanted to know this because they needed to decide if they were going to cross the stream or try to get another entrance which they did not want to do. Mr. Jackson stated the crossing of the stream will have no serious impact on the cost to do the improvements, and it is a very, very minimal expense compared to what they are proposing with this project. Ms. Bunn stated they wanted Boucher & James to guarantee that because when they looked at it before, that was not the case. It was agreed Boucher & James will look into this.

Mr. Fritchey stated the sense the Supervisors got in speaking to Mr. Eisold was that he felt the price for that would not be staggering.

Mr. Gordon suggested that they continue to discuss the Plan conceptually, and they will then follow up on this matter with Mr. Eisold.

Mr. Gordon stated they already have two beach volleyball courts, and Ms. Liney agreed they have two at the entrance. Mr. Gordon asked if they are getting so much use that they need additional courts, and Ms. Liney stated they are not.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels that the two courts are sufficient. Mr. Krauss stated if they find in the future that they need additional courts, they could add them to the area where the two courts are currently located. Ms. Liney stated she feels the additional Tot Lot would be a duplication as well, and she suggested having exercise apparatus instead.

Mr. Krauss asked the dimension of an open area he noted on the Plan, and Mr. Jackson stated it is 1,100 feet long and 150 across. Mr. Jackson stated at this point there are no plans for that area, and it will just be grass. Mr. Jackson described what is proposed for the disk golf, and the baskets will be visible at a number of places in the field.

Mr. Gordon stated they have agreed they do not need the additional beach volleyball courts or the playground although he feels exercise equipment may be welcome with an area that has different exercise stations. Mr. Fritchey stated they might have larger pieces of play equipment for older children, and Ms. Liney stated there are rock climbing pieces. Mr. Fritchey stated the Secret Garden is for those six and under so they could consider a play area for older children, and Ms. Liney agreed. Ms. Saylor asked if they would like this in the area where they had proposed the tot lot, and Mr. Gordon stated he feels it should be up where they proposed the beach volleyball to provide more space. Ms. Bunn stated if they are going to install a playground for older children, it should be located closer to the Secret Garden for families that have children of different ages and abilities.

Mr. Fritchey stated they wanted to consider what kinds of activities they wanted to have near the pavilion for people having picnics. Ms. Bunn stated she does not feel people will be renting that pavilion. Ms. Liney stated the pavilion next to the playground is popular. Ms. Bunn stated she does not feel this one would be in high demand. Ms. Liney stated when this was first conceived they considered roller hockey which would be turned into ice hockey in the winter, but that may be cost prohibitive. There were also concerns expressed about liability.

Mr. Newbon asked about bocce since the Courts near the Township Building get a lot of use; however, Ms. Liney stated while that is true, the Seniors are using those courts, and the Seniors would have to go up there. Ms. Bunn stated when they were discussing the Community Center the Seniors did not want it there because they did not want to drive that distance. Mr. Newbon stated there may be Seniors living in the area. Ms. Liney stated bocce would be doable since it is not expensive. Shuffleboard was also suggested.

Mr. Gordon suggested that the engineers come back with a revised proposal showing a combination of exercise equipment, bocce, shuffleboard, possibly horseshoes, etc. Ms. Liney stated she feels they would be looking for something unique. Mr. Jackson asked about the pavilion, and Mr. Gordon stated he does feel that the pavilions are used; and if they have these adult games, the pavilion would be useful. It was agreed the pavilion would not have bathrooms.

Ms. Saylor asked about the tennis courts and asked if they were considering lighting them, and the Park Board members stated they were not. Ms. Liney stated she would suggest double striping the tennis courts so that they can be used for pickle ball.

UPDATE ON THE ARBORETUM

Ms. Saylor stated Phase I, II, and III are now planted, and the signs are up. She stated they are looking at installation of Phase IV in early spring, 2017. She showed a conceptual plan of what is proposed for Phase IV. She stated there is an area designated for summer growth, trees that are more showy in the summer on the bottom, and the more showy fall trees at a location she showed on the Plan. She stated there will be approximately fifty trees. Mr. Gordon asked if these are trees from the Tree Bank, and Ms. Liney agreed. Ms. Saylor stated the landscape architect would like to know if the Township has an end goal as to the number of phases they would eventually want to do and how far from the Park it might extend. Ms. Saylor stated they will want the trees in the Arboretum maintained nicely, and there are also signs that need to be considered as well. She stated most of the signs were placed in the mulch beds to help with the maintenance so they could just mow around the beds. Ms. Saylor stated they should talk about whether they want to have a certified arborist come up with a plan as to how to maintain the trees, who is going to maintain them, and come up with a schedule for maintenance. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels the Board of Supervisors is going to want that. He stated they now have over one hundred trees.

Ms. Saylor reviewed the type of trees that are proposed for Phase IV. Ms. Bunn asked where the list came from, and Ms. Saylor stated it was from the arborist on staff from Boucher & James. Ms. Bunn stated what is proposed for the summer are not her favorites. Ms. Saylor asked Ms. Bunn for suggestions, and she stated she could consider this. Ms. Saylor stated they would be open to any other suggestions.

Ms. Saylor asked about trees for the east side, and Mr. Gordon stated he does not feel they would be able to conceptualize trees for the east side until the east side development is done.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT MEMORIAL PARK

Mr. Krauss referred to the photo and showed an area where he felt there was insufficient parking. He asked if there is an opportunity to provide another “chute” at a location he showed on the photograph. Mr. Gordon stated as they continue to expand the Park and add new things on the east with the parking already being inadequate, they feel there should be consideration to expanding the parking. Ms. Liney stated since they added the playground, the parking lot is often full. She added it is really only two lanes. Ms. Saylor stated she does feel there is an opportunity to add parking, and she asked if they would like to see it with the improvements, and Mr. Gordon stated he feels they would if possible. Ms. Liney stated she feels they are looking at re-surfacing the parking lot in 2017 so that would be the time to address this.

Mr. Fritchey asked how many extra spaces they would like to see, and Mr. Krauss stated he feels they should add another row; and if they replicate what there is there now they could double the parking. Ms. Bunn stated if they are going to put in another lane, it should be double sided so it would actually get two more rows. Mr. Krauss agreed. Mr. Newbon stated he feels even if they add a double row, they would still be close to full. Ms. Liney stated the playground is very popular.

Mr. Krauss stated if there is an event going on where someone has rented out the pavilion, this could also result in lots of cars.

FOLLOW UP TRAFFIC PATTERN DISCUSSION MACCLESFIELD PARK

Ms. Saylor stated currently you come in and are directed one way; and at a location she showed on the Plan, it is then two-way. She stated the concern is that if you come around and there is no parking, you are forced to go all the way around to go out. She noted an area where you cannot really leave the Park; however, Board members indicated that physically you can do it. Ms. Bunn stated you can leave that way, and they cannot ticket you because it is not a legal one-way in and out.

Mr. Gordon asked Ms. Liney if the extra parking was added in the back by the Cemetery, and Ms. Liney stated she does not feel that is going to happen. Ms. Liney added she felt YMS indicated they could live with it as it is right now if they can get the Snipes tract going.

Ms. Bunn stated she received a lot of calls after the last Tournament about people getting ticketed. She stated clearly there is not enough parking in the right locations, and she feels they should add more spaces. Mr. O'Hara stated there was a problem with one of the Tournaments, and tickets were handed out one weekend mostly to non-residents. He stated he saw the estimated costs to add more parking, and he feels they could save that money; and YMS would make sure people park in the rights spots. He stated other than the Tournaments, they do not have problems any other time. Mr. Gordon stated he understands they would rather have the money used toward Snipes. Ms. Bunn stated if this is the case on a Tournament weekend, people should be able to park on the grass. Mr. O'Hara stated they do provide shuttle buses from the Park & Ride. Ms. Bunn stated this is not convenient particularly when you have young children. She stated it is also a problem for Township residents who are coming to work the Tournaments. Mr. Newbon stated if they allow parking on the grass during Tournaments, they will want to do it all the time. Mr. O'Hara stated there is a belief by the residents that they will not get ticketed so they park on the grass; and if you change that belief, they will not park on the grass. Ms. Bunn stated if people are always parking on the grass at one location, they need to provide more parking at that location. Mr. Gordon stated it is really only two weekends a year that it is a significant problem. Mr. O'Hara stated while he agrees it would be great to have more parking, he would not recommend spending \$50,000 to \$100,000 to put in more parking for two weekends. Ms. Saylor stated they could do some turf reinforcement. Ms. Bunn stated that is more expensive; however, Ms. Bunn stated it is not more expensive than paving. Other Board members were not in favor of this the turf reinforcement option.

Ms. Kristin Tyler asked if they could not put up yellow tape and allow temporary parking for those two weekends; and Mr. O'Hara stated they do provide grass parking near the cemetery, but there are still a lot of people who park elsewhere, and there is a belief that they will not get ticketed. Mr. O'Hara stated it states there is not to be parking on the grass on the Tournament information as well as on the Website. Mr. Newbon stated he does not understand why the ticketing was an issue if they were told not to park there. Mr. Fritchey stated he does not have sympathy for people who are getting tickets if they are providing shuttle buses, have a taped off area, and they still park all over.

Ms. Liney stated she believes the Supervisors would defer to the user groups that are running the Tournaments; and if Mr. O'Hara feels they can handle it, they should have the say.

Ms. Saylor stated the roads are wide enough to have two lanes around the whole loop. She stated they have looked at eradicating the one-way arrows, replacing them with two-way directional arrows, and making an intersection she showed on the Plan a three-way stop. Ms. Saylor stated she would recommend a separate lane for right turns in so that it does not stack out onto River Road. Mr. Gordon asked if they would also have a right-turn going out, and Mr. Krauss stated you need to merge. Mr. Krauss expressed concern with people coming in and you would not know if they were going to stop, and Ms. Bunn stated as long as it is signed “on-coming traffic does not stop,” it should be fine. Ms. Saylor stated right turns would keep coming in right and would not be in conflict with any other movements.

Mr. Gordon asked if they would have a dotted yellow line down the middle around the loop to remind people that it is two-way; and Ms. Saylor showed how it would be marked. Mr. Newbon suggested that when you are leaving there should be a sign indicating “alternate merge;” and Ms. Saylor agreed they should have that.

Ms. Saylor stated the Police had recommended softening curves she noted on the Plan; and while she understands they wanted to make it an easier motion, she feels they should check this out with the traffic engineer. Ms. Bunn stated she would rather keep them narrower because it slows people down, and other Board members agreed. Mr. Krauss asked if they have given any consideration to speed bumps, but others present did not feel these should be installed.

All present were in favor of the concept of two-way traffic.

Mr. Bill Baldwin stated at a prior meeting the Police Officer brought up the idea of another exit by the Cemetery; and while he understands that would be costly, he feels it would permanently fix the issue. Mr. Gordon stated he understands they would have had to get the State involved which would be complicated and costly. Ms. Bunn stated she is not sure they could get it because there is a minimum requirement between entrances which she does not feel they would be able to meet.

Ms. Liney stated she feels a lot of the work to make it two-way traffic could be done in-house this winter. Mr. Krauss stated while they would get communication out to the user groups about this, initially they maybe should have a sign that goes up at the entrance that says “new traffic pattern.” Ms. Saylor stated they have considered a number of these traffic signs temporarily all along the loop road.

Mr. Gordon stated YMS and PAA could put out an e-mail blast about this.

Mr. O’Hara noted an area on the Plan where he was concerned it may not be wide enough for two-way traffic, and Ms. Saylor stated she feels it is wide enough. She stated the Police did recommend widening it at a number of locations, but she

would recommend that they check with the traffic engineer to see if it is appropriate since if it is made wider, people may go faster. Ms. Bunn stated she feels that if they stripe it, it will be fine; and it will force people to go slow.

Ms. Bunn moved, Mr. Newbon seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they approve the new traffic pattern at Macclesfield Park for two-way traffic with the required stop signs and signage as recommended by Boucher & James.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Fritchey stated at the last Board of Supervisors meeting the Board approved the Preliminary Budget, and they will be voting on it December 21. He stated the new Budget contains a lot of capital projects that the Board has been promoting for a long time including Snipes, Memorial Park build out, the Community Center, and the Dog Park. Mr. Fritchey stated approximately eight years ago the Park & Rec Budget was cut back a quarter of a mill, and that was never reinstated; however, this year they have found an extra 8/10th of a mill for Park & Rec this year which bring it close to 2 mills for Park & Rec. Mr. Fritchey stated the average homeowner in Morrisville and Yardley pay more, and Lower Makefield also has no earned income tax. Mr. Fritchey stated there will also be more money for road repairs.

Mr. Baldwin asked if there are going to be improvements for Caiola, and Mr. Fritchey stated that is in there as well.

Mr. Gordon asked about the Community Center, and Mr. Fritchey stated they hope the building will be completed by mid summer.

LEAGUE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Baldwin thanked the Board for their support. He stated they recently opened Registration for spring, 2017 season. He stated they have a new Website which is connected to Babe Ruth which is their sanctioning body. He stated they are offering early registration until January 1, and they will probably close around mid-February so that they can get uniforms ordered.

Mr. Baldwin stated they had an issue at Macclesfield Park where there was a break in of their shed and some hate crime language was written into the fields using the chalk painters. He stated the Police are looking into it, and they have been looking at tapes.

Mr. Gordon asked what they are doing this winter, and Mr. Baldwin stated they will be inside over the winter using Nation Nine in Morrisville.

Mr. Baldwin thanked Ms. Liney for her help with the batting cages which will be put in the spring.

Mr. O'Hara thanked the Park & Rec Board for addressing the traffic issues at Macclesfield. He stated they have just finished their fall season, and they had 1,720 players this fall. He stated they have six Teams going to Disney for a College Showcase. He stated they now have two ladies teams competing at the National Level – the Xplosion and the O2 Premier. He noted that Coach John Greaves was selected as the Coach of the Year for the Region 1 area.

Mr. O'Hara thanked everyone for all the work the Board has done and all the engineers. He thanked Mr. Simon and PAA for showing their support regarding Snipes at the last Board of Supervisors' meeting. Mr. O'Hara also thanked the Board of Supervisors for all their support as well as the Park & Recreation Board.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated the Township looks forward to the opportunity to thank over thirty volunteer coordinators, officers, and Board members of the Lower Makefield Seniors group tomorrow at their annual holiday event at the Washington Crossing Inn. She stated this is always a festive event with close to 150 Seniors attending. Supervisor Reiss will help distribute the thank you gifts from the Township.

Ms. Liney stated the Park crew is gearing up for a busy winter season. The crew is currently completing renovations on the baseball and softball field baselines. The crew will be assisting with the repairs to concrete gutters in the pool this winter, as well as some renovation work on the high dive. Completing this work in-house will result in a cost savings to the Township taxpayers and Pool members.

Ms. Liney stated a 12 x 24 wood A frame garage has been installed at Memorial Park near the existing springhouse for storage of mowing equipment by the Park crew. This addition will alleviate the need to drive the mowers through the streets from the Township Building to that site. The Park crew will also work on converting the traffic lanes along baseball fields A & B in Macclesfield Park from one-way to two-way this winter under the direction of the Township engineer.

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

Ms. Liney thanked all the members of the Park & Recreation Board for their continued support and efforts with the community this past year, and she stated she looks forward to a successful 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Krauss stated at the last meeting there was discussion about a different rate for Seniors, and Ms. Liney stated the Supervisors did approve a \$100 membership for an Individual Senior. She stated this is for residents only, and non-residents would not be eligible for that discount.

Mr. Fritchey stated he does not want to forget about the idea of the time capsule, and Mr. Gordon stated they will put this on the next Agenda.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT MEETING OF THE PARK & RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Gordon stated he and Ms. Liney talked prior to the meeting and they felt they may be able to skip the January meeting and meet next in February. There was discussion about the exact date, and Ms. Liney stated she will poll the Board.

DISCUSSION ABOUT NAMING THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Mr. Fritchey noted the recent passing of Mary Fazzalore, wife of Frank Fazzalore, who was extremely active in a lot of community affairs. Mr. Fritchey asked that they consider naming the Community Center for Frank and Mary Fazzalore, and he asked if the Park & Rec Board would be in favor of this that they make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Tyler stated while she feels this is a lovely gesture, there were many other Seniors who were also involved for many years working to get a Community Center; and she would not like to slight anyone. She stated she feels they could do things within the Community Center honoring various people. Ms. Bunn stated she agrees with this.

Ms. Bunn suggested the Township hold a contest to name the Community Center, and they could put this out to the Schools as well.

Mr. Baldwin stated PAA has also questioned naming fields for individual people since they lose people almost every year, and there is only so much inventory.

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Mr. Gordon stated he feels it is premature to make a recommendation on the name for the Community Center without further discussion. Mr. Newbon stated he feels Mr. Fazzalore has done a lot of great things for the Township and was one of the driving forces for the Community Center; however, he stated Mr. Wes Hackman has also done great things for the Township as well. Mr. Krauss stated he feels once the building is up there will be opportunities to recognize individuals that had a key part in the Community Center.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Newbon, Secretary