

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2017

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on April 18, 2017. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board:           David Gordon, Chair  
  Patricia Bunn, Vice Chair  
  Douglas Krauss, Member  
  Dennis Wysocki, Member

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

Absent:                                    Andrew Newbon, Park & Rec Secretary  
  Bryan McNamara, Park & Rec Member  
  David Malinowski, Park & Rec Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Krauss seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of March 2, 2017 as written.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Mr. Matt Sestrick was present and stated he is a Life Scout from Troop 10 and his plan for his Eagle Scout project is to replace the sign at Macclesfield where the wood is badly cracked and the sign is fading out. He stated his proposal is to make a 3' by 8' sign as shown on the information he presented to the Board. He stated there is an option to include a 1' by 8' smaller sign as shown which would include wording such as "Home of YMS" or "Home of Yardley Makefield Soccer" if the Park Board would be in favor of this. Mr. Gordon stated YMS does have the most activity at the Park although PAA also uses fields there; and until other fields are completed, football and some other group activities use fields at Macclesfield. Ms. Bunn stated she was not in favor of the optional sign included since it is not exclusively YMS' park.

Ms. Bunn also asked that Mr. Sestrick meet with Ms. Liney on the wording of the sign so that it is consistent with the rest of the Township signs. Ms. Liney stated she did suggest that he use the address of the Park on this sign. Mr. Gordon agreed that this should be included as the address could be provided to those with a GPS and those using Uber. Mr. Sestrick stated the material of the sign is a vinyl-laminated metal which he plans to balance on a plywood backing so that it will have more rigidity which would be very long lasting. He stated if it does start to deteriorate, you would only have to replace the backing. There was discussions about the posts, and Ms. Liney will look into this. Ms. Liney stated Mr. Sestrick originally had a different project in mind, but she had advised him that they needed a new sign at Macclesfield; and he agreed to change his project to this one which will save taxpayer dollars as the existing sign was going to have to be replaced.

Mr. Wysocki asked Mr. Sestrick how he will be raising funds, and Mr. Sestrick stated he is planning to have a car wash near McCaffrey's. Ms. Bunn suggested the Methodist Church in the area as prior car washes at that location have been highly successful.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels there are people who would like to have the existing sign and possibly he could raffle it out to help with the costs of the sign replacement. Mr. Krauss stated he could set it up on EBay Bid. Ms. Bunn suggested doing this on the Lower Makefield Facebook page. Ms. Liney stated the Park crew can get the existing sign out of the ground.

Mr. Sestrick stated he could also install some landscaping around the sign, and this was acceptable to the Park Board. Mr. Gordon asked that whatever is installed it be as low maintenance as possible. Ms. Bunn stated she feels mulch/grass is the best option.

Mr. Gordon asked that Mr. Sestrick show his design to Ms. Liney for approval before it is printed. Ms. Liney advised Mr. Sestrick that he should e-mail it to her and she can e-mail it to the Park Board. The project as proposed was acceptable to the Board.

#### LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER DISCUSSION

Ms. Ann Schreiber asked the Park Board what they would like to feature in the way of news or photographs. She stated last issue they featured Community Pride Day. Ms. Schreiber stated Mr. Fritchey had suggested Memorial Park since there is a lot going on at that Park. Mr. Fritchey stated they also have a tree planting scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> at that Park. Mr. Fritchey also suggested a picture of the Revere Road

Tennis Courts and a feature on pickle ball. Mr. Gordon stated that while the Dog Park is not completed, it is something that they are very excited about, and there could be a picture of the sign and the area as it looks now. Mr. Fritchey stated there could also be a picture of the conceptual plan. Mr. Krauss stated they could also include information about the fundraising that is being done for the Dog Park.

Mr. Fritchey stated there are also two new GaGa courts that have been installed within the last two years both of which were Scout projects.

Mr. Gordon asked when the Newsletter will be going out, and Ms. Schreiber stated it will be late spring/early summer. Mr. Gordon stated they could also include information on the Pool along with pictures. Ms. Schreiber stated the Pool has a side bar of its own.

Mr. Fritchey stated the construction of the Community Center should be included as well. Mr. Fritchey stated they hope to proceed with Snipes as well in mid-May. Mr. Gordon also suggesting including something on Macclesfield and the ball fields as well. Publicizing the Five Mile Woods was also suggested.

Ms. Schreiber stated she is open to continued suggestions, and she will work with Ms. Liney to help secure photographs. She stated they want to feature things on-line as well. Mr. Krauss suggested that someone take photographs of the Community Center as construction proceeds.

#### UPDATE FROM DOG PARK SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Greg Papazian was present and stated at the last meeting there were some concerns about the Sponsorship as well as Memorial Dedication opportunities. He stated in the information provided the blue folder includes the Sponsorship opportunities and the green folder are Memorial and Dedication opportunities. He noted the blue folder, and they have re-done the Sponsorship levels and included Platinum for \$25,000, Gold for \$10,000, Silver \$5,000, and Bronze \$2,500. He stated they also included term limits as to how long the Sponsorship will last as there was a concern when they were present last time. He stated for Platinum it is ten years, Gold five years, Silver three years, and Bronze two years.

Mr. Papazian stated he feels signage is the real opportunity for fundraising; and the Platinum sponsor would get the opportunity to put up a sign approved by the Committee that would advertise their company at the entrance to the Park so everyone will see it. He stated the Gold Sponsors would get to sponsor one of the areas either the small dog part, the large dog park, or the transitional area.

Mr. Gordon asked if they would limit it to just one of each, and Mr. Papazian stated at this point that is what they are proposing adding they priced it out over the term so that for Platinum it would be \$2,500 a year if you look at it in terms of advertising dollars. Ms. Wendy Simon stated they did set the transitional area at \$8,000 rather than \$10,000 which are for the large and small areas since the transitional area would not be used as frequently.

Mr. Papazian stated the sponsors would also have access to the Dog Park for specific periods of time and the Platinum and Gold would get a half day exclusively. He stated there was debate whether it would be just for members or whether they would be able to bring outside dogs in, and they did not make a final decision on that. Mr. Papazian stated VSEC may want to have people from outside come in and see the Park. Mr. Gordon stated his concern would be liability. Ms. Simon stated they would have to have their own insurance, and that is included in their literature. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels the dogs would also have to be healthy; and Mr. Papazian stated they were hoping that if it were a veterinary facility, they would just be inviting the owners of dogs that they already care for. Mr. Krauss stated the question would be regardless of who the sponsor is, they will have to set parameters including insurance and all dogs will have to meet inoculation requirements unless the Township says for that half day the insurance is enough to cover, and the sponsor would assume their own liability.

Ms. Simon stated this would be a private event just for that sponsor; and typically when you go to similar events, they do not require those attending to show documents that their dog is inoculated. She stated as long as the event is closed and they have insurance, she feels that would be fine since she does not feel it would be possible to check everyone's veterinarian records. It was agreed that they should have a liability form. Ms. Simon stated they should also be responsible for any damage as well.

Mr. Papazian stated with regard to the signs, they would have a sign for Platinum at the entrance and a sign at each of the area of a size he showed the Board. He stated they could have their logo. He stated in addition they would have a small structure before you get to the entrance area where there would be small engraved plaques listing their sponsorship level.

Ms. Bunn asked if the members will no be able to go to the Dog Park during the private sponsorship events. Mr. Papazian stated they were considering having the event in the Transitional area so that it would not effect others from coming. Ms. Bunn stated she feels the sponsors would want as many people there as possible.

Mr. Krauss stated they discussed who needs to be the person that will sign and approve the sponsorship documents. Mr. Fritchey stated it would be the Township Manager or his designee. Ms. Bunn asked if the Township solicitor has reviewed the documents, and she stated it should all go there first before they start providing them to potential sponsors. Mr. Krauss stated it is possible that someone may want to agree to one of the higher levels of sponsorship but cannot pay for it all at once. Ms. Bunn stated she feels they need to discuss this with the Township Manager. Mr. Papazian stated at Doylestown, he feels they allowed them to spread their payments out over a period of time. Mr. Krauss stated the Township Manager would be authorize any modifications, and the Board agreed.

Mr. Fritchey stated the brochure indicates the Order deadlines are December 31, 2017 and a spring grand opening; and while that is fine, they are hoping to open in 2017. Mr. Fritchey stated they will probably have a ceremony in the spring of 2018; but as soon as it is constructed, they want to be able to open it hopefully by the fall.

Mr. Papazian noted the green folder provided which includes the water station, park benches, trash cans, etc.; and these are other opportunities for donation. He stated these would be the life of the item, and they would get a plaque engraved. Ms. Bunn stated she feels that life of the item should be made clear. Mr. Wysocki stated if a bench wears out in fifteen years and needs to be replaced, you do not want the original donor to feel that it will be replaced and the original donor will still have their name on it. Ms. Simon stated if something is damaged or vandalized that should be replaced, and what they are discussing would be the natural life of the project.

The Committee was commended for doing all of this work. Mr. Fritchey suggested that a group photo at the Dog Park be included in the Newsletter.

It was agreed that the documents should be provided to the Township Manager's Assistant as Ms. Liney will be out of the office for a week so that they can be forwarded to the Township Solicitor.

#### LEAGUE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Jason Simon stated PAA is doing well and baseball and softball are thriving. He thanked Ms. Liney and the Park & Rec crew for helping them get two new batting cages installed between the two Caiola fields. He stated since they used AstroTurf, cleats are not allowed. He stated this is a result of their fundraising and the volunteer fee being pumped back into the League. He stated they plan to install them at Fred Allan next year and to continue to improve the physical plant of the League.

Mr. Simon stated they met with Ms. Liney and the Police Department last week to address parking concerns as they have two Softball Tournament upcoming one Memorial Day Weekend with fifty-five teams already registered and another in June.

Mr. Simon reported that the Arty Peake Award was awarded to Doug Kimball this year who has run the umpire program for the last four years adding there are fifty-five kids in the umpire program this year.

He stated on Opening Day they honored Ms. Liney who threw out the first pitch and was also presented with a plaque. He noted all Ms. Liney has done for the user groups in the Township. Mr. Simon read the words on the plaque.

Mr. Simon stated the Magik program is for those on the autistic spectrum, and they get three hours of field time on Saturdays. He stated they are up to forty-seven players, and they are playing games with the help of players from the other teams and others in the community such as the Boy Scout. He stated this is also a good opportunity for those who need volunteer hours to help. Mr. Fritchey asked if it is boys and girls playing together, and Mr. Simon agreed.

#### FIVE MILE WOODS ANNUAL PRESENTATION

Mr. John Heilferty, Naturalist at the Five Mile Woods, was present with Mr. John Lloyd and Ms. Jan McFarland, Friends of the Five Mile Woods. Mr. Heilferty thanked Ms. Liney and her staff for their help with repairs and maintenance issues. He stated this Sunday they will be having an Open House. He stated they had been trying to run a low-cost operation which is starting to catch up with them. He stated this year they replaced office windows, and they still need carpeting and paint. He stated the restroom also needs some improvements, and he would like to discuss these items with Ms. Liney before her retirement. Mr. Heilferty stated the roof of the building is going to need to be replaced. He stated they have a long-term tenant in the house who does more than the Lease Agreement requires.

Mr. Heilferty stated that former Park Board member and Supervisor, Don Formigli, was very instrumental in the preservation of the Five Mile Woods and had significant historical documentation about the preservation effort of the Woods. He stated Mr. Formigli retained a reputable author, Peter Osbourne, who is in the latter stages of writing a book about the history of the Five Mile Woods. He stated he, Mr. Lloyd, and Ms. McFarland were helpful in this effort as well. He stated a lot of historical research involved Ms. Helen Heinz and others. Mr. Lloyd stated there

will be a book signing on June 4 at 3:00 p.m. at the David Library of the American Revolution. He stated it is free to the public, but you need to register on the David Library Website. Mr. Lloyd stated he will also be at the Five Mile Woods at the fall Open House to be held on September 24. Mr. Lloyd stated the Heritage Conservancy will hold the copyright and they will be part of the event on June 4 as well as the Lower Makefield Historical Society since Pat Miiller and others were involved in this project as well.

Ms. Liney stated she feels the Supervisors should be advised of this, and she asked Mr. Heilferty to attend their meeting tomorrow evening and discuss this as Public Comment; and Mr. Fritchey agreed.

Mr. Heilferty stated they are thinking that it would be good to consider a revised Master Plan as Mr. Rick Mellon wrote the original one in 1981. He stated he will discuss this with Mr. Fedorchak and attend a Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss this at some point.

Mr. Lloyd stated with regard to events at the Woods, unfortunately this year and last year they had to cancel the maple syrup demonstration because of the unusual weather. He stated the Frog and Salamander Walk had to be canceled due to the unusual weather as well. Mr. Lloyd stated they will hold the spring Open House this Sunday, and they are hoping for good weather. Mr. Lloyd stated last year they had a bat talk which was well attended, and they hope to hold this again this year. Mr. Lloyd noted the fall Open House will be held on September 24 which is the Sunday after Yardley Harvest Day where they will have a information booth. Mr. Lloyd stated the Friends hold their work days the second Saturday of the month from March to November. He stated at their last work day they had a walk with people from the Silver Lake Nature Center in attendance, and they discussed the possibility of some joint programs. Mr. Heilferty stated this Saturday there is a Philadelphia Trails group coming for a walk in the Woods so it is definitely being used.

Mr. Heilferty stated he is working with three Boy Scouts currently and one Girl Scout on their projects. He stated Ms. Liney also arranged a project with a local Girl Scout groups who installed a number of bat boxes in the Township, one of which was installed at the Woods.

Mr. Heilferty stated with regard to the deer hunt in 2015/2016 he cut the hunt back to twenty-one days because he was concerned about limiting public access to the Woods. He stated that year they took thirteen deer from the Woods and the Banko property. He stated the group which runs the hunt is very cooperative, follow strict regulations, and there have never been any incidents. He stated in 2016/2017 the hunt was increased to thirty-nine days, and they only took three deer. Mr. Heilferty

stated he has been advised that the deer have become very wary, and it is possible that there may be fewer deer in the Woods although he is not sure that is correct. He stated there are also more coyotes in the Township so that may be having an impact. Mr. Heilferty stated he feels he is seeing some signs of regeneration in the Woods.

Mr. Heilferty thanked the Park & Recreation Board for all of their support.

#### SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Fritchey stated the Board of Supervisors was hoping to authorize putting Snipes out to bid at the meeting tomorrow night; however, this has been Tabled because the Township solicitor was of the opinion that they have to get a recommendation from the Planning Commission on this before they can put it out to bid as this is a requirement in the Subdivision Ordinance. Mr. Fritchey stated it is now scheduled to be on the Planning Commission Agenda on May 8. Mr. Gordon asked that the Park & Recreation Board members be reminded of this in case they wish to attend. Mr. Fritchey stated the Board of Supervisors plans to have it on their Agenda on May 17, and it would be good for the Park & Recreation Board members to weigh in at that meeting as well.

#### RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Liney stated the Township was happy to be a part of the PAA Opening Day festivities April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Stoddart fields. Hundreds of PAA players, coaches, families, and friends paraded in the Complex. She stated she was honored to throw out the first pitch of the season, and she thanked PAA for a wonderful memory.

Ms. Liney stated spring bocce has started for the Lower Makefield Seniors and is being held every Monday and Friday at the Fred Allan Complex on Oxford Valley Road.

Ms. Liney stated the Garden of Reflection fountains have been activated and that site is proving to be a popular spot for prom pictures with the local high schools. Moon Landscaping began servicing the Garden last week. She stated continuing with the planting of the Arboretum, an additional Phase will be planted on April 28. Ms. Liney stated many community members have been using the newly-installed path around the arboretum for biking and strolling.



Ms. Liney stated seasonal maintenance at the Community Pool is underway. All four pools have been drained, grouted, power washed, painted, and the lines and targets are being completed. Phase I repairs to a weak wall section in the Olympic pool were completed. Post season the Phase II portion of repairs will take place on that wall. A new heating unit has been ordered for the lap pool for installation next month. Seams and spider cracks on the dual slides will be sanded and gel coated this week. Ms. Liney stated the Pool update is scheduled for the May 9<sup>th</sup> Park Board meeting with Mr. Jeff Brown, and Swim Team, and anyone else connected with the Pool in attendance.

Ms. Liney stated DCNR completed their required review of the proposed Dog Park specifications, and the Board of Supervisors should be directing the Township engineer to advertise for bids for that project at their meeting tomorrow.

Ms. Liney stated the Township has applied for a DCNR Grant for Memorial Park improvements, and notification of any award for that will be late 2017.

Ms. Liney stated she understands that the Snipes Tract will be on the BOS Agenda for discussion and direction in May.

Ms. Liney stated Community Center construction is continuing. Curbing, light pole columns, and storm boxes are in. The retaining wall has been completed, and the foundation is under construction.

Mr. Gordon asked for an update on McCaffrey's at the Pool concession stand, and Ms. Liney stated they will be doing the concession stand this year. She stated he is in the process of ordering the equipment he needs. She stated this matter will be on the Park Board Agenda next month. She stated he did draft a proposed menu with popular items sold previously are proposed to be sold again. Ms. Liney stated Mr. McCaffrey indicated he would be keeping pricing very close to what it was. Mr. Gordon asked if they are charging him the same amount as they charged the previous contractor, and Ms. Liney stated Mr. Fedorchak is working on the Agreement, and it is fairly close to what Marsha was charged.

Ms. Bunn asked about the potential for an app so that you can order and be advised when your order is ready so that you do not have to wait in line. Ms. Liney stated she had mentioned that to Mr. McCaffrey that this was a suggestion, but they have not committed to that yet.

Ms. Liney stated there was a concern by McCaffrey's that the past contractor would be missed by the Pool Membership, and she had advised them that in the two surveys they had the Concession Stand was one of the "hot spots" as far as service,

quality, and pricing; and they indicated they were determined to address all of those issues and make them a positive. Ms. Liney stated they will continue with the Dollar Dogs, and the Township will not be required to reimburse them.

Mr. Wysocki stated with regard to Memorial Park they had discussed at a prior meeting their concern with the proposed location for the disc golf. He stated he feels the chimney would be a better location, and Ms. Liney stated that is where they are going to focus on and not have it anywhere near the Garden of Reflection. Mr. Fritchey stated this will all be fine tuned in 2018, and hopefully they will get the Grant which was tailored to what the favored projects are this year. He stated it is for \$250,000, and the Township will have to match. He stated Boucher & James feel they have a good change of getting it. He stated the Township needs to build the road to show that they are serious.

Mr. Gordon asked about Registration at the Pool. Ms. Liney stated they had more people at Discount which means there are more residents. She stated funds are down since they had Seniors switch out from Individual into the Senior \$100 category. She stated there are over one hundred in that category. Those aged sixty-two qualify for that category.

Mr. Fritchey asked about Mr. Benedetto's desire to have a gate at Kids Kingdom, and Ms. Liney stated that was an e-mail that came this morning that a resident had recommended be considered in case a child would run out into Edgewood Road. Ms. Liney stated she had advised that the Park & Recreation Board would discuss this. It was noted that there are no gates at any of the Township playgrounds. There was some concern that children could swing on the gate and get hurt, and the Board was not in favor of it.

There being no further business, Ms. Bunn moved, Mr. Krauss seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Gordon, Chair