

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MAY 9, 2017

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on May 9, 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 (joined meeting in
 progress)
 Douglas Krauss, Member
 David Malinowski, Member
 Bryan McNamara, Member (joined meeting in
 progress)
 Dennis Wysocki, Member

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of April 18, 2017 as written.

PAA REPORT

Mr. Jason Simon, PAA Commissioner, stated they will have a Mothers' Day Softball Tournament with fifty-five teams coming. He stated last year was the first year they had this Tournament and they had thirty teams. Mr. Simon stated they have been meeting with Park & Rec and Chief Coluzzi on parking. Mr. Simon stated the Pennsbury Invitational Softball Tournament will be Father's Day weekend.

Ms. Bunn joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Simon stated there was a request from some of the Managers to potentially put port-a-potties between the two fields at Caiola probably behind the new cages. Ms. Liney stated she feels they could do this for a few months and then remove it when there is no play. Ms. Bunn suggested it be put next to the shed.

Mr. Simon thanked the Township for their help with the batting cages, and the reviewed the work that PAA did. He stated they are always in use. He stated they hope to add more next year at other locations.

LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP POOL DISCUSSION

Mr. Jeff Brown, Manager, and Ms. Janet Smith were present. Mr. Brown stated he and Ms. Smith are part of the Pool management team, and they are looking forward to the start of the season. He stated they have had four Saturday clean ups conducted by a very enthusiastic and appreciative Pool staff. He stated Mr. Bob Copson and his staff have been working very hard as well. Mr. Brown stated their inspections and yearly maintenance are close to completion. He reviewed the work done at the Pool this year. He stated major work was done on the overflow gutter system, and some of the overflow coping tiles have been replaced. He stated they had an issue with the west wall in the Olympic pool which needed to be reinforced, and some decking work was done. He stated the heaters have been serviced and inspected, and a new heating system will be installed in the lap pool. He discussed the new furniture which has been purchased which will be put in service right away. Mr. Brown stated all the slides have been inspected, and the diving board standards were serviced and inspected. He stated the high diving board standards have been totally recovered in Plexiglas, and Mr. Copson and his staff did an excellent job with that. Mr. Brown stated they were very excited about the Wi-Fi system as there had been issues over the years, and it will be totally upgraded to a Commercial system.

Mr. Brown stated they have a tremendous Management Team and outstanding Head Guards; and they all appreciate the importance of their job. He stated they had instituted the new Senior Guard position last year to reward their committed, experienced staff; and they have special responsibilities and a small increase in pay, and they will continue that position. He stated they will meet with the entire staff on May 19, and at that time they will cover many important issues. He stated they have two evening mandatory in-service meetings scheduled, one for the lifeguards and one for the maintenance staff when they review in great detail the Emergency Action Plan. He stated last year there was a serious incident, and they were very proud of how the staff responded to the incident. Mr. Brown stated they meet with all the lifeguards at the beginning of every shift to review what is going that day highlighting any special concerns. He stated they also close every evening with a “post impact meeting,” so that guards and staff can provide feedback and discuss any issues that came up so that they can make the next day even better and safer for their patrons.

Mr. Brown stated they want to increase the use of their deep water test policy that was put in the year before last and the pre-screening for swim lessons. He stated the focus for the lifeguarding staff is always preventive lifeguarding so that they can prevent accidents before they happen, and then victim recognition and rescue. He stated for the senior staff it is treatment procedures.

Mr. Brown stated they will continue the popular events they have instituted over the last few years – the Dollar Dog Day on Friday, 1/2 price guest fee, float nights, water aerobics, aqua Zumba, and expansion of the lawn games. He reviewed some of the thirteen special events they have scheduled. He stated last year they had a very popular Family Hawaiian Luau Day, and they will continue that again this year.

Mr. Brown stated they are very fortunate to have the hard work and dedication of Ms. Liney and Ms. Todd and the other Pool Managers to get the season off to a good start. Mr. Brown stated it is an honor to work with their staff.

Ms. Bunn asked if it is possible for the Pool to partner with the Township so that those who need to be re-Certified as a lifeguard could do that at the Pool for a lesser amount as it is expensive. Mr. Brown stated the price that they would be able to do it for at the Pool would not really be that much less than what is offered. He stated most of their guards go for re-Certification at Pennsbury, and he has helped do that re-Certification process. He stated he has done emergency re-Certifications at the Pool for those who could not make it to Pennsbury, and they will continue to do that. Ms. Bunn stated she felt the cost for re-Certification was \$20; however, Mr. Brown stated he believes that it is \$80 at Pennsbury. Ms. Bunn stated she felt the cost at the Y was a lot more, and Mr. Brown agreed it is a lot more at the Y. Mr. Brown stated he advises his staff of all the dates when the re-Certification is offered at Pennsbury.

Mr. Krauss asked for a further explanation of the deep water test. Mr. Brown stated three years ago they instituted this test which gives the parents the comfort to know that their child has the ability to be in deep water and use the slides and the diving boards. He stated they make an announcement in the newsletter and through e-mail to members that they offer the deep water test. He stated the parent would take the child to the office, and the Head Guard or Manager would conduct the test. He stated the children have to swim fifteen yards in one direction, and fifteen yards back in five to six feet of water, and go down and touch the bottom of the pool. He stated this simulates the depth that they would go into if they went down the slide or jumped off the diving board. He stated you have to do the test without touching the side, and their name is then added to a list. Mr. Krauss stated he assumes if someone is that section, they would not know if they had passed the test or not; and while Mr. Brown stated that is correct, if the guard sees someone

who is having difficulty, they will ask them to get out of the water and ask if they had passed the deep water test. He stated if they had not they would require them to take the test if the guard had concerns about their safety.

Ms. Smith stated the pre-test for swim lessons is also very helpful as the parents sometimes do not know what level the child should be in when they want to register them for swim lessons; and then they know what level they should be registered in.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the Wi-Fi is for the operation of the Pool, and Mr. Brown stated it is for the Pool operation and the membership. He reviewed how it is used at the gates for access to the Pool. He stated they have had it at the Pool for three years; however, there were previously some issues with the operation. He stated they feel that will no longer be an issue as they have Commercial grade hardware that was put in. Ms. Liney stated this was in conjunction with the overall upgrade at all the Township facilities. Ms. Smith stated a number of people come to the Pool and do their work on their laptops while their children are swimming.

Ms. Liney stated a key component to the success of the Pool is management, and they are very fortunate to have the management team that they have. She thanked Mr. Brown, Ms. Smith and the other members of the team adding it is very much appreciated by the community. Mr. Fritchey agreed, and he thanked them on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Sandy Borowsky, stated this is her sixth season as President of the Swim and Dive Team. She stated she is very thankful to Mr. Brown and his team and how well the Pool is run.

Ms. Borowsky stated they are in the midst of Registration. She stated last season they had 320 athletes, and they expect to have that many again this year. she stated they have a veteran team of coaches. She stated the Swim Team has two squads, one of which was undefeated last year and won the Championship, and the other team was competitive as well at a different Division of the League. She stated the Dive Team was also undefeated last year and was the Champion. She stated they have the biggest team out of the entire Lower Bucks Swim League by more than double. She stated their season starts the Tuesday after Memorial Day and goes through the end of July. She stated they have Swim meets every Tuesday and Thursday for seven weeks and two to three dive meets as well. She stated they are hosting the League finals this year, and they get to host it because they do the best job and have the best facility. She stated she has a staff of twenty swim coaches and four dive coaches ranging in age from fifteen to fifty, most of whom live in the Township.

Mr. Gordon thanked Ms. Borowsky for doing this as it is a big responsibility, and the Swim and Dive Team are a big part of the Pool.

Ms. Borowsky thanked Ms. Liney for all her work.

Mr. Fritchey thanked Ms. Borowsky on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for her help with the youth on the community.

PICKLEBALL UPDATE

Ms. Bonnie Gannon, Vice President and Treasurer of Lower Makefield Township Pickleball, and Ms. Jody Plassa, President, were present. Ms. Gannon noted a number of their members are present in the audience this evening. Ms. Gannon stated they started out with two courts at Cardinal and twelve players. She stated they are currently at forty-five members. She stated they have outgrown the two courts at Cardinal. She added Ms. Liney has granted them four Permits, as they play four times a week; however, a member has requested to be able to play regularly Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 so they will be playing five times a week. She stated they have been working with Mr. Liney to expand the number of courts at Cardinal into four or five courts, and she had provided them a sketch.

Ms. Gannon stated they are not asking for any additional funding for nets as they will invest in portable nets. Ms. Gannon stated Ms. Plassa would like to have a utility storage bin for the portable nets. Ms. Gannon stated that would also be at their expense. Ms. Gannon stated if they are successful at a fundraiser, they would also like to put in some windscreens; although those are expensive, and she is not sure that they will be able to get them this year.

Ms. Gannon stated many of the members are concerned about the surface of the Cardinal Courts. She stated they would like to know what is proposed for resurfacing those courts or about the possibility of playing at a different venue long term. Ms. Liney stated those courts are scheduled for renovation by June 30. She stated the cracks are to be repaired the way they repaired the cracks at the Memorial Park basketball courts. Ms. Liney stated they will not be totally dug up which would be more expensive. Ms. Liney stated the gentleman who will be doing the mesh over cover and painting could convert the space to get multiple courts which is where the sketch came from. Ms. Liney stated it was in the Minutes that the Revere courts were not to be Permitted, and they were for pick-up play. Mr. Gordon asked if they are lined for pickleball, and Ms. Liney stated they are. Ms. Liney stated the Park & Rec Board may want to reconsider whether they could be Permitted.

Mr. Gordon stated they would like to have them Permitted because they would then be sure they were available for the League even though for the most part the courts at Revere are available, and Ms. Gannon agreed. Mr. Gordon asked if they know how often the Revere courts are being used now that they have been resurfaced. Mr. Russ Kantner, 1269 Knox Drive, stated he does not see anyone using them.

Mr. Jason Zerbe, 1710 Makefield Road, stated the courts at Cardinal Drive are similar to playing on one of the Edgewood baseball fields compared to the courts at Revere which would be like playing at Citizens Bank Park.

Mr. McNamara joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Krauss asked what time of day they are playing. Ms. Gannon stated Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday they play 4:20 to 6, Saturday, 9 to 12, and they are now also asking for Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mr. Gordon asked how many courts are at Revere, and it was noted there are three. Mr. Gordon asked how many they would be looking for, and Ms. Gannon stated they would like to have all three. Mr. Gordon stated possibly they could Permit them for two, and leave one open for public use.

Ms. Bonnie Filipowicz, 1189 Long Meadow Lane, stated if the Township has spent the money and marked out pickleball lines on the tennis courts, why do they not have a Permit to play pickleball. Ms. Liney stated when they redid the courts at Revere, it is in the Park Board Minutes that they were not going to be Permitted for League play as there were residents who back to those courts who did not want to see League play four days a week for three hours since pickleball is noisy. Ms. Filipowicz asked if this was not taken into consideration before the lines for pickleball were painted in. Ms. Liney stated the lines were not a big expense. She stated the courts were being redone for tennis primarily, and they put the pickleball lines on them as well to allow for multi use. Ms. Filipowicz stated she is a tennis player, but she recently started playing pickleball, and she plans to continue with it. She stated she would not play tennis on the Cardinal Drive courts. She stated the cracks are severe and there are holes. Ms. Liney stated they are waiting to get those courts renovated, and they should be done by June 30. She stated the cracks are going to be repaired the way they repaired the basketball courts at Memorial Park. Ms. Liney stated the Cardinal courts are older courts, and they will not be totally dug up as that would be more expensive. She stated they will do the mesh over cover and paint them, and that is where the sketch comes in; and the gentleman who is doing the work on the courts could convert space and get multiple courts at Cardinal Drive. She stated these courts will not be as good

as Revere which were brand new from the ground up. Mr. Wysocki stated the intent of putting the mesh on is to bridge gaps, and they will then cover them and paint them.

Ms. Gannon stated they would like to work with the Township, but for the long term they would like to come back if there is still an issue with the Cardinal Courts. Ms. Liney noted they do have an Interim Permit to use Revere while they are waiting for Cardinal to be renovated. Mr. Gordon stated the Revere courts can be used by anyone so they should use them. He stated he does not believe they are used that much for tennis. Mr. Krauss stated as the weather gets nicer the overflow for tennis may go to Revere.

Ms. Gannon asked if there is any long-term consideration for a future facility, and Ms. Liney stated there is at Memorial Park. Mr. Fritchey stated there are tennis courts scheduled to be built at Memorial Park. Ms. Gannon asked if there are any restrictions to League play there, and Ms. Bunn noted Memorial Park is a non-Permitted Park. Mr. Fritchey stated they have found that if some groups adopt a particular venue, that becomes the pattern.

Ms. Gannon stated they would like to continue to work with the Park Board, and they appreciate all of their feedback. She stated it has also been a pleasure working with Ms. Liney.

Mr. Gordon asked that they make sure that the Cardinal Drive courts are included on the Road Tour this year.

Ms. Gannon stated as they grow, they would like to be able to have dedicated pickleball courts. She stated it is an adult activity, and their insurance covers those nineteen and older. Ms. Gannon thanked Ms. Plassa who has taken over and is there every session teaching beginners and inviting people to coach advanced levels. She stated with pickleball you can advance like you can with tennis.

Mr. Krauss asked if there are youth programs; and Ms. Gannon stated many High School and Colleges across the County offer it as a sport, but generally speaking it is considered an adult sports. She stated it is very popular in Florida.

Mr. Wysocki asked about the heights of the nets; and Ms. Gannon stated working with Ms. Liney they asked her to put holes and cement them in, and they have eye holes and net adjusters to bring the net down 2". She stated Ms. Jody Plassa is there setting up the nets for every session, and she then takes the equipment back. Ms. Gannon stated they appreciate the cooperation of the Township.

Mr. Wysocki asked if a lot of tennis players are using the courts at Cardinal Drive, and it was noted that they are not. Mr. Wysocki noted the sketch for the re-design at Cardinal Drive, and he asked if there is sufficient room for four courts.

Ms. Plassa stated four would be fine. Ms. Liney stated the gentleman doing the courts will do what they want, and they could do four rather than the five shown. Ms. Gannon stated Ms. Plassa lives across the street from the Cardinal Drive courts, and she advised that those courts are generally used by young children on their bicycles; so if the Township was interested in these being dedicated pickleball courts, they would be okay with that as well. Mr. Wysocki asked that they consider what they would do to set it up if it were to be a dedicated pickleball.

Ms. Bunn suggested that they starting using the Revere courts now that they have the temporary Permit. She stated if they have no complaints by June 30 maybe they could extend it further.

A gentleman asked what is the difference between someone complaining about their use of the Cardinal Drive courts and their use of the Revere Road courts. Ms. Bunn stated Cardinal has been Permitted, but at Revere they had indicated that they would not be Permitted. Ms. Bunn stated it is possible they may not get complaints about them using the courts at Revere which would make it easier to extend the Permit. Ms. Liney stated she would not treat any complaints differently. She stated if she gets a complaint about Cardinal she would respond to it; however, she has not heard any complaints about Cardinal. Mr. Gordon asked if there are homes backing up to Cardinal like they are at Revere, and it was noted that homes are actually closer to Cardinal than they are at Revere.

YMS REPORT

Mr. Sean O'Hara stated they are a 501C3 and every dollar they bring in gets spent on youth development, fields, equipment, etc. He stated all Board members are volunteers. He stated they do save money in a reserve account for future expenditures such as replacement of the turf field which will cost approximately \$800,000 to \$900,000.

Mr. O'Hara stated YMS has been very successful this year with a great graduating class going on to play in college.

Mr. O'Hara stated at the last Board of Supervisors meeting a resident named Scott Burgess discussed a program he would like to put together with the Police to help prevent drug addiction, and Mr. O'Hara stated he and Mr. Simon have offered their support through YMS and PAA.

Mr. Wysocki stated he feels it is often overlooked that it often helps young people who have played soccer and other sports get into the College and University they want to get admitted to. Mr. Krauss stated there are also other avenues besides just being a player such as being a referee, a mentor, to get involved and show leadership skills.

Mr. O'Hara stated the EPIC Tournament is this weekend, and there are 272 teams coming to the area which equals 4,300 players. He stated they will play 500 games and 75 referees will be there with more than half from the YMS program who have been trained through their program. Mr. O'Hara stated they will support two charities during the Tournament – Collecting Cleats and A Soldier's Hands.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Fritchey stated at the last Board of Supervisors' meeting they discussed the emergency as to whether or not the Pool snack bar was going to open or whether the Township was going to lose the Permit because the McCaffrey's who were going to take over the Permit were victims of Internet trolling. Mr. Fritchey stated the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to ask the McCaffrey's to reconsider withdrawing, and the Board apologized for inappropriate and slanderous behavior by some of the Township residents on the Internet; and fortunately they agreed to reconsider, and they will be running the Pool snack bar.

Mr. Fritchey stated the Community Center is moving ahead, and hopefully it will be completed mid-Summer. He stated they are also moving ahead on the Dog Park, and they hope that will be open sometime mid-fall. Mr. Fritchey stated the Board of Supervisors anticipates letting the Contract for the development of the Snipes project sometime soon. He stated they planted more trees at Memorial Park during an Arbor Day Ceremony, and there will be more trees planted prior to Memorial Day. He stated there is also a new running track which is a great place to take young children to learn to ride a bike. He stated they will be adding more trails in other phases of the Park. He stated they hope to let the Contract for the road/bridge over the stream to open up the east side of the Park. He stated they have applied for a grant of \$250,000 which the Township will match to complete the east side of Memorial Park with a fitness area, tennis/pickleball, jogging trails, bocce, horseshoes, a pavilion, and a playground that would be for older children as they already have the Secret Garden which is an inclusive playground.

Mr. Fritchey stated Ms. Liney will be retiring, and she will be honored at the Pennsbury Gems Fathers Day Tournament on June 16 at 11:00 a.m. where she will be presented with a plaque, a gift, and she will be throwing out the first pitch. Mr. Fritchey stated everyone is invited to attend to honor Ms. Liney.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated that May is one of the busiest months in the Township Park system. She stated the Township Park crew continues to maintain and fine tune all ten Park sites, as well as preparing and supporting several large scale events in the community.

Ms. Liney stated this weekend approximately 6,000 players, coaches, families and friends will be enjoying Lower Makefield Township facilities with the annual YMS Mothers Day Soccer Tournament and the PAA Fast Pitch Softball events at the end of this month and in June. Tournaments of this size are not possible without great facilities and dedicated volunteers, and the Township is pleased to support the efforts of YMS and PAA during these events.

Ms. Liney stated preparations for the opening of the Pool on May 27th are ongoing, servicing every aspect of this outstanding facility. As in the past, mandatory staff meetings are scheduled in the next two weeks for over 100 Pool employees with the Pool Manager to review Township policy, safety procedures, and job responsibilities.

Ms. Liney stated the Lower Makefield Farmers Market will kick off their ninth season on Thursday, May 25th at 3:30 at Veterans Square. Water and electric have been installed by the Park crew at the Market for use by the vendors. The Market will typically draw several hundred people weekly to purchase local produce and wares.

Ms. Liney stated the Lower Makefield Seniors group held an alternative living expo for Seniors today in the Township Building. Participants included Ann's Choice, Attleboro Village, Chandler Hall, Sunrise at Lower Makefield and many others. The expo was well attended and very informative.

Ms. Liney stated construction on the new Community Center continues. Framing is underway, the parking lot has been stoned, and concrete walks, light poles, and curbs have been installed. The anticipated completion according to the Township engineer will be early September, 2017. The upcoming Softball Tournaments will access field parking between the complexes through a roped entry road at the Community Center.

Ms. Liney stated the Dog Park project is now being advertised on Penn Bid. Bids are due to be opened June 7, 2017, and this project is tracking on schedule for mid-fall completion.

Ms. Liney stated the paving of the existing parking lot at Memorial Park was awarded to Harris Contracting and should be completed in conjunction with the road resurfacing projects by mid-August, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

SNIPES TRACT DISCUSSION AND MOTION

Mr. Gordon stated the Park & Recreation Board is aware of the many comments made by residents, EAC, and others at the Planning Commission meeting on May 8th. It is the Park & Recreation Board's position that most of the comments were either inaccurate or not persuasive enough for the Park & Recreation Board to consider revising the Snipes Plan as presented. He stated they want to clearly state to the Board of Supervisors that the Park & Recreation Board still unanimously approves the Snipes Tract Development Plan as submitted to them and the Planning Commission.

Mr. Wysocki moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to accept the language just stated by Mr. Gordon and convey that to the Board of Supervisors.

There being no further business, Mr. Wysocki moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Gordon, Chair

