

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – JANUARY 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on January 9, 2018. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Gordon, Chairman
David Malinowski, Vice Chairman
Douglas Krauss, Secretary
Bryan McNamara, Member

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director
Daniel Grenier, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Patricia Bunn, Park & Recreation Board Member
Dennis Wysocki, Park & Recreation Board Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McNamara moved, Mr. Krauss seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of November 14, 2017 and December 12, 2017 as written.

DISCUSSION OF PARK & RECREATION BOARD VACANCY

Mr. Gordon stated that he understands Applications are due next Wednesday for the vacancy on the Park & Rec Board, and there will be a discussion about filling this vacancy in order to have a full Board again.

Mr. Grenier stated he did request a list of the open positions from Mr. Fedorchak a few days ago, but he does not recall that was on the list. Mr. Gordon stated they will have to discuss this with Mr. Fedorchak.

REORGANIZE LMT PARK BOARD FOR 2018

Mr. McNamara moved, Mr. Malinowski seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint Douglass Krauss as Secretary of the Park & Recreation Board for 2018.

Mr. McNamara moved, Mr. Gordon seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint David Malinowski as Vice Chairman of the Park & Recreation Board for 2018.

Mr. McNamara moved, Mr. Malinowski seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint David Gordon as Chairman of the Park & Recreation Board for 2018.

PROPOSED CLASS SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNITY CENTER

Ms. Tierney stated she has met with several community members and people with close ties to the community who are very talented individuals. She stated there are a few people who have committed to classes already, and she has met some additional people since she provided the schedule to the Park & Rec Board. She stated she wanted to show the Board what people are offering. She stated she has been able to negotiate fairly low prices.

There was discussion on the Kick & Play Classes, and Mr. Gordon stated he wants to make sure that they are not doing something that is competitive with YMS. Ms. Tierney stated that ages for Kick & Play are one to five. Mr. Krauss asked what is the lowest age in YMS, and Mr. Sean O'Hara stated YMS starts at age three. Ms. Tierney stated Kick & Play has characters and songs like a "Mommy and Me" program, and it is not really the same as YMS soccer. She stated they do offer soccer for older children, but they are more oriented to those who are "non-athletic." Ms. Tierney stated they indicated that they would operate as a feeder program for YMS and give out the YMS literature when children finish the program. She stated Kick & Play is the name of the company which operates out of the Oxford Valley Mall complex. She stated these classes would be offered during the week.

Mr. O'Hara stated YMS does something similar to this already in the afternoon during the day for two to three year olds. Ms. Tierney asked Mr. O'Hara if he feels Kick & Play would compete with YMS.

Ms. Tierney noted that she has not signed any contracts with anyone.

Mr. Gordon suggested that Ms. Tierney speak to Steve Beede, current President of YMS, before they commit to this. Mr. Gordon stated possibly YMS could add a program like this as an offshoot of their program at the Community Center. Ms. Tierney agreed to do so. She stated she does not feel the twelve to twenty-four month Kick & Play Program would compete with YMS; and Mr. Gordon stated while he agrees, he feels a program like this may be something that YMS would like to add now that there is an indoor venue.

Mr. O'Hara stated there were discussions at YMS about the user groups getting together and providing education/training sessions at the Community Center.

Ms. Tierney stated she is also proposing Zumba and Zumba Gold which is a Senior or lower level Zumba. She stated she is also interviewing another Zumba instructor this week who might teach evening/weekend classes to provide more variety. She stated she also has meetings scheduled with some Yoga instructors who might be able to teach evenings/weekends. She stated there are two Yoga classes proposed during the day.

Mr. Krauss asked which rooms they would be using for these programs, and Ms. Tierney stated they would all be in the classroom to the right when you walk into the building.

Mr. Krauss asked if there will be an on-line calendar, and Ms. Tierney stated there will be eventually. Ms. Tierney stated people will also be able to register on-line for classes and programs. Mr. Krauss asked if people will also be able to book a room, and Ms. Tierney stated they will have to come to her to book a room. She stated she is not starting that at this point until she knows what kind of programming they will have and what will be available to book.

Ms. Tierney stated while there are a lot of athletics shown on the hand-out she provided, she has also interviewed an art instructor offering different forms of painting. She stated he is also interested in doing an "Art in the Park" series where people go out into the parks with easels. Mr. Grenier asked if he works with Artists of Yardley; and Ms. Tierney stated she does not feel he does, although she knows that he is in a lot of different Townships and he lives in Lower Makefield.

Mr. Krauss stated similar to what was discussed with regard to YMS, Ms. Tierney should reach out to AOY. Ms. Tierney stated she is also meeting with a jewelry maker and a chef who is interested in teaching cooking classes. Ms. Tierney stated she would have to have all the proper Certifications to use the kitchen. Ms. Tierney stated she is also insured. It was asked if the kitchen is large enough to have cooking classes; and Ms. Tierney stated while it is small, they could have five to six people in attendance. Ms. Tierney stated the cooking classes will be a little more expensive since those attending would have to cover the cost of the food. Ms. Tierney stated for the painting classes, those attending would have to purchase their own paints.

Ms. Tierney stated she has worked out an agreement with Capital Health today, and they are going to offer four lectures annually – once each quarter. She stated the classes have been set for this year, and the first one will be a babysitting class during the spring for which there will be a fee. She stated there will also be a free concussion class in June. Mr. Krauss asked if it would be appropriate to have this at

a different time given when the Township sports run their programs. Mr. McNamara stated he feels September would be the best time to do this. There was discussion about when the High School players are required to take the concussion class which is before their individual season. Ms. Tierney stated what she is discussing would be a physician making a presentation for general awareness. She stated if it is felt there is a better time of year to do this, she could discuss it with them. Mr. McNamara stated they may want to coordinate this with LMFA and YMS as far as going into their fall season. Ms. Tierney stated St. Mary's through Safe Kids is also willing to give a concussion training for coaches, and they are looking into Grant money for that. Ms. Tierney stated that would be a separate program, and what she is discussing through Capital Health would be parent awareness. Mr. McNamara stated he feels that in June, they are out of school and going on vacation; and other than baseball tournaments, most people are not thinking about sports until probably the beginning of August. Ms. Tierney stated they could consider the program for September, and switch it for a different program for June.

Ms. Tierney stated they are also looking at nutrition as one of the topics as well as a presentation about plastic surgery and a presentation on getting better sleep. Ms. Tierney stated Capital Health also offered to sponsor one community program, and they would like to do something at the Dog Park such as Paws for Cause or Pink Pups. She had advised them that would be best for the fall.

Mr. McNamara asked when the Dog Park will be opening, and Ms. Tierney stated they do not have an exact date yet although they are looking at March/April. She stated they currently have no electric to the facility and they also need cable. She stated they may open prior to the actual Grand Opening so members can start using it. She stated they currently have thirty people registered, and approximately 85 people have taken the class already with 40 more taking the class tomorrow night.

Ms. Tierney stated there was a Dog Park Committee meeting prior to this evening's meeting. Mr. Grenier asked why people who are running the Friends of the Dog Park Facebook site are asking him for updates on the Dog Park, and it was noted that is not the official Township Dog Park site. Ms. Tierney stated those with questions can always call her.

Ms. Tierney stated she will be moving into the Community Center on Monday, and the Seniors will be in there on Tuesday, January 16.

Mr. McNamara asked Ms. Tierney how she has found those interested in doing programming at the Community Center, and Ms. Tierney stated they are coming to her. She stated those contacting her are from the Township, are close by, or are teaching at other Townships in the area and heard about the Community Center.

Mr. Grenier asked if they will be offering any First Aid/CPR classes, and Ms. Tierney stated twice a year Capital Health will offer a free First Aid class. She stated the concussion class and the nutrition class will also be free. She stated they will also do two Pool talks a year – one on skin cancer and one on bike safety. She stated she is trying to make the Contract so that it encompasses all of the Township Park & Rec assets as opposed to just limiting it to the Community Center. Ms. Tierney noted that the First Aid and CPR classes are non-certified classes, and they are just providing knowledge. There was discussion about the babysitter class which will be a full day class on March 28 from 9 to 4, and this will be done by Capital Health.

Ms. Tierney stated she also spoke to St. Mary's, and they plan to offer to offer six to eight week class series. Ms. Tierney stated since she previously worked there, she is aware of a class they offer called Kinder Connection which is a "Mom and Me" health and nutrition class; and she asked that they offer that class. She stated they are also discussing offering Tai Chi and meditation. She stated they still need to work on the details.

Mr. Krauss asked if they could offer anything for the Seniors, and Ms. Tierney stated St. Mary's and Capital Health are going to meet directly with the Seniors and program with the Senior User Group. Mr. Krauss stated that might be a way to get more Seniors to join the Senior group. He stated they could publicize these events, and non-members of the Senior group could still come for a fee; and they may then become a member of the Senior group.

Mr. Grenier stated all the hospital classes are free, and Ms. Tierney stated the hospitals will rent the classroom to teach the class. There was discussion on the charges to those attending, and Ms. Tierney stated some of the classes will charge a nominal commitment fee.

Mr. Grenier stated he understands that everything else being discussed will charge individual fees associated with the classes. Ms. Tierney agreed, as noted in the packet she had provided, which shows some of the fee structures for residents and non-residents. Ms. Tierney stated she worked with each individual on setting the rate; and while they were able to set their rates, she did indicate to them what the minimum class requirement should be so that they can break even on the rental for the classroom.

Ms. Tierney showed Newtown Township's Park & Rec guide showing the numerous classes they offer. Ms. Tierney stated she would like to have a guide like this eventually. Mr. Krauss asked that they also promote use of the Five Mile Woods and programs they have there. Ms. Tierney stated currently she is working on all of this on her own; however, she is hoping that as it grows, she will be able to get someone else to help as well. She stated she is being contacted frequently with different ideas. Mr. Grenier asked about the Intern, and Ms. Tierney stated the Intern will start on Tuesday.

PARK & RECREATION LOGO DISCUSSION

Three potential logos were shown and discussed. Ms. Tierney stated they must consider how it will look when they shrink it to put it on t-shirts, etc.; and she feels simple is better. It was agreed to consider this again in the future.

COMMENTS BY MR. O'HARA

Mr. Sean O'Hara stated he wanted to thank the Park & Recreation Board, Ms. Donna Liney, and Ms. Tierney for all their help over the years he was President of YMS.

Mr. Gordon stated YMS is an important organization to the Township, and they appreciated Mr. O'Hara's Presidency and all he did for the Township and the community. He stated he also appreciates the outstanding communication by YMS with other organizations, particularly PAA, which he feels benefits all the programs and the whole Township; and he hopes that this will continue. Mr. O'Hara stated his goal was to keep YMS moving forward and to bring in all the other user groups as well. He stated they now meet twice a year as User groups to make sure they keep open communication. Mr. O'Hara stated he plans to continue to attend Park & Recreation Board meetings.

Mr. Gordon stated at the last meeting, Mr. Beede, the new President of YMS, was present and discussed the turf field. Mr. Grenier asked how many turf fields there are at Macclesfield; and Mr. Gordon stated there is only one, and it was paid for by YMS, and the Township leases the land to them for an extended period of time. He stated the Township gave YMS a ten-year term in order for them to be able to get bank financing they needed to do it.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Tierney stated she put postings out for the Pool Aquatics Manager and Assistant Manager; and she had over one hundred applicants for the Assistant Manager's position, sixty of whom were local. She stated she will start interviews in February. She stated for Aquatics Manager, she had one person who indicated an interest, but did not apply. Mr. McNamara asked what the Aquatics Manager would do, and Ms. Tierney stated they would manage the chemicals in the pool and the lifeguards. She stated with regard to the operations of the pool, Ms. Todd will be doing the business end where, Mr. Brown used to do both.

Mr. McNamara asked about the snack stand; and Ms. Tierney stated the RFP closed on January 5, and there were two applicants. She stated this will go before the Board of Supervisors at their next meeting.

Ms. Tierney stated field reservations are open for the season, and a few have been reserved. She will be reaching out to the leagues to schedule their reservations.

Ms. Tierney stated her Office and the Seniors will be moving to the Community Center next week. Mr. Gordon asked if that will be Ms. Tierney's permanent office, and Ms. Tierney agreed. Ms. Tierney stated she is setting up the programming, as discussed earlier, to start in March, after which she will start taking additional reservations; and she would like to start with fundraisers, local events and programs, and then move from there.

Ms. Tierney stated they are in the process of hiring the seasonal staff for the Pool, and she stated those interested in getting involved with the pool should apply now.

Ms. Tierney stated construction continues on the Arboretum at Memorial Park. She stated she will provide information on the Grant as she gets updates. Mr. Grenier stated the Board of Supervisors will be discussing that soon. Mr. Krauss stated he understands the match was put in the Budget, and Ms. Grenier agreed.

Ms. Tierney stated pre-registration for the pool will be starting soon.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Gordon asked if Ms. Reiss has officially resigned, and Mr. Grenier agreed she did so at the beginning of their Reorganization meeting on Tuesday. He stated John Lewis is the new Chair, Fred Weiss is Vice Chair, Kristin Tyler is Secretary, and he is the Treasurer. Mr. Grenier stated they will be having interviews for a new

Supervisor to replace Ms. Reiss on January 17 during the regular meeting.

Mr. Gordon asked how many years are left on her term, and Mr. Grenier stated there are two. Mr. Grenier stated they are accepting resumes until January 10.

Mr. Grenier stated at the Reorganization meeting they agreed that the Township Solicitor, Hill Wallack, will remain unchanged, and there are some other counsels for various items. He stated there are various engineers as well. He stated Boucher & James was removed as engineer, and Remington Vernick will replace them on an interim basis subject to RFPs and interviews, although dates for that have not been set. He stated Ebert will stay on as the Sewer engineer. He stated TPD will stay on as Traffic engineer in the interim to finalize some reports they are working on. He stated the Building Inspector will stay on in the interim subject to RFPs. Mr. Grenier stated moving forward for large projects, they will probably get a conflicts engineer to do the design so that the same engineer does not do the design and the review.

Mr. Grenier stated his background is civil and environmental engineering and consulting. He stated as part of his professional life he designs parks, fields, greenways, and green space, etc.

Mr. Krauss asked about Snipes which was designed by the previous firm.

Mr. Grenier stated he asked Mr. Fedorchak and Mr. Majewski to meet with Boucher & James to review all the open projects, activities, and reviews they were doing and get an update and a “data dump” for all their engineering drawings so they are not lost. He stated the new engineer will then take those over.

Mr. McNamara asked if the new engineer will be redesigning things, and Mr. Grenier stated that depends on the project.

Mr. McNamara asked about Snipes, and Mr. Grenier stated there has been a lot of discussion about Snipes; however, that cannot go before the Board of Supervisors prior to March 4. Mr. Grenier stated he only has one vote, and he has his own opinions on Snipes. He stated he does not feel it will get “canned,” but he feels it will go back for a redesign. He stated the budget for Snipes was split up over the next two years which makes sense based on the schedule. He stated this opens up funding for other items this year. He stated he does not feel the lights would be installed at Snipes for a year or two until the fields were settled. He stated this allowed for some reconsideration of the current design and lay out to include some different things and take a better look at it.

Mr. McNamara asked what he is considering including or taking out. Mr. Grenier stated the design that looks to have been approved by the Board had the three fields as the centerpiece with lights, and he does not feel that will change. He stated he feels the infrastructure within Snipes will get “tweaked,” such as the stormwater

design lay out and trees. He stated the neighbors want a path, which he feels will not be expensive. He stated he walked the property with Mr. Majewski to consider existing pathways that could be turned into a path for “nothing.” Mr. Grenier stated he plays rugby, and he would like there to be places for picnics, etc. in the area so that when there is a tournament, there is a place to have shade and a picnic. He stated he would like more enhancements and a more efficient design. He stated one of his main concerns from a technical standpoint at Snipes is the difficulty for pedestrians to get there. He stated he runs past there every day, and the intersection is “hairy;” and there should be planning for future enhancements to the intersection. He stated the basin was designed in sandstone, which is not the best place to have a basin, so they may shift that basin and maybe even split it in two and make it “a little prettier” along Dolington. This would allow for the realignment at some point in the future and have Dolington connect directly to Creamery to make it a four-way, which would make it an easier pedestrian intersection. Mr. Grenier stated they may move some things around at Snipes, but he does not feel the fields will be affected although they may look to “tweak” the alignment a little. Mr. Gordon stated there was also a fourth smaller field in the corner, and Mr. Grenier stated that may get moved a little. Mr. Gordon stated Mr. Grenier’s skill set is welcome.

Mr. Grenier stated while there were some heated discussions about Snipes, his review is “purely technical” where he saw some things that could be changed. Mr. Gordon stated Park & Rec put a lot of time and energy into Snipes, and they are strongly in support of it for a number of reasons. Mr. Grenier stated he understands that.

Mr. Grenier stated Mr. Fedorchak is now the acting Township Manager. He stated they are accepting resumes for his position until January 10. He stated they have not seen any of those resumes from the outside consulting firm, but will be seeing them soon. Mr. Gordon asked if Mr. Fedorchak has agreed to stay on until the new person is hired and even do some overlap to help the transition. Mr. Grenier stated Mr. Fedorchak’s Contract runs through the end of this year, but he may or may not stay on that long depending on the need.

Mr. Grenier stated they will be looking at other Department Heads including a Finance Director. Mr. McNamara stated he understands there is now a part-time Finance Director, however, Mr. Grenier stated they had a Finance Director on staff but she is no longer on staff. He stated that position has not been posted, as they are waiting for the Township Manager position to be filled so that they can shape their own group.

Mr. Grenier stated he wanted to know about the various Leagues in the Township, and he is aware of YMS, PAA, LMFA, LBL, Rugby, and Frisbee. Mr. Gordon stated there is also tennis, and Ms. Tierney stated there is also pickleball. Ms. Tierney stated there is a full list of all the Leagues on the Township website. Mr. Grenier asked if they are all private leagues, and Mr. Gordon agreed. Mr. McNamara stated some of the leagues that want to come in are LBL, as they are in Middletown, and also field hockey. Mr. McNamara stated Frisbee does not play in Lower Makefield because we do not have fields for them. Ms. Tierney stated there is a small group which is a club team that does reserve space. Mr. Grenier stated he has seen them playing at Memorial Park. Mr. Krauss stated there was a group that reserved Memorial Park in the summer for an instructional camp, which is separate from the team that the girls and boys play in. He stated they are currently practicing on Edgewood Field.

Mr. McNamara stated rugby “piggy-backs” off of YMS’ lease of the fields at Edgewood; and YMS has to pay to use the Pennsbury School District fields. He stated they have to pay for an entire day even though they only use them until Noon. Mr. O’Hara stated that at Pennsbury you still have to pay for the whole day even if you only use it for one hour.

Mr. Grenier stated YMS has a ten-year Lease at Macclesfield, and Mr. Gordon stated that is only for Field C. Ms. Tierney stated that Lease is in its final year. Mr. Gordon stated everything else is Permitted for a season.

Mr. Krauss stated they would like to use Memorial Park for tournaments twice a year, but since the trees planted for the Arboretum prevented that.. Mr. Grenier stated he would like to see the Arboretum built-out plan since he builds those, and he was not “duly impressed” with Boucher & James’ plan.

Mr. O’Hara stated there is also basketball in the Township which is PRBL, and Ms. Tierney stated they do have that on their list.

Mr. Grenier asked if there is any track in the Township, and it was noted that there is not.

There was discussion about the popularity of pickleball and the problem with sharing the courts with tennis. Ms. Tierney stated she did contact other Townships about the four-court net situation. She stated in Lower Makefield there are currently four pickleball courts on either side of a tennis net, and they cannot permanently have pickleball nets. Ms. Tierney stated no other Township has this problem.

Mr. Grenier asked for the number of bocce courts that are shown on various plans, although he stated he does not know if they have all been built. Ms. Tierney stated there will be one at the Community Center, and there are only ten people in the Bocce League. She stated once the bocce court is built at the Community Center, they will turn the existing bocce court at the softball fields into a batting cage.

Mr. Gordon stated there are multiple organizations that do not require our fields such as the wrestling club and the swimming club. He stated the swimming club uses other facilities in the winter. It was noted there is also ice hockey, which uses Grundy.

Mr. McNamara stated rugby cannot get any fields in Lower Makefield unless YMS lets them use their fields. He stated field hockey and lacrosse also cannot come into Lower Makefield because all of the fields are maxed out.

Mr. Grenier asked the total number of rectangular fields in the Township, and he was advised there are just the fields at Macclesfield. Mr. Krauss stated Memorial Park is designed as an un-Permitted park, although Ms. Liney would occasionally grant space. Mr. Gordon stated the Arboretum has negatively impacted that. He stated Ultimate Frisbee was using space at Memorial Park, but they can no longer use it because of the Arboretum. Mr. Grenier stated he is “not a fan” of the Arboretum design. The negative impact of the path and the Arboretum had on the use of Memorial Park was discussed.

Mr. O’Hara stated the VP of football has indicated they are going to try to have a spring flag football league, and they would need fields at Macclesfield. Mr. O’Hara stated they are looking to share fields with YMS in the spring. Mr. Grenier asked about using the baseball outfields for this, and Mr. O’Hara stated they do this already; although anything that has a fence around it makes this difficult. Mr. Krauss stated when Caiola opened up, PAA was able to move t-ball from the School fields at Quarry Road, so that they did not have to pay the School anymore. He stated they used the outfield at the complex on Saturday mornings, running double shifts, before the older players use them.

There being no further business, Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. McNamara seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Krauss, Secretary

