

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2018

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on December 11, 2018. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Gordon, Chairman
 Douglas Krauss, Secretary
 Michael Brody, Member
 Patricia Bunn, Member
 Bryan McNamara, Member
 Dennis Wysocki, Member

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

Absent: David Malinowski, Park & Rec Vice Chairman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McNamara moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of November 13, 2018 as written.

RECOGNITION OF YMS FOR THEIR SERVICE DURING THE WATER CRISIS

Mr. Steve Beede and Mr. Michael Hanson were present. Mr. Beede stated when news of the water crisis broke, he received a text from Mr. Hanson who had been working with the Fields Director. Mr. Beede stated they had approximately 150 to 200 cases of water that was left from the Columbus Cup that they had planned on rolling over to Epic and selling at the concessions. He stated given the situation that was taking place in the Township with the water, they felt that it was the right thing for them to do was to give it out to the residents. He stated they set up a station at Macclesfield and there were volunteers there to give out the water.

Mr. Gordon asked how they got the word out to the Township, and Mr. Beede stated they put it on the Lower Makefield is a Great Place to Live page and the YMS page as well. He stated they gave out all of the water. Mr. Gordon asked how many were YMS-affiliated families, and Mr. Beede stated he felt very few were YMS affiliated since many of them asked what is YMS so they were able to tell them about their organization.

Mr. Gordon thanked YMS on behalf of the Township and the Park & Recreation Board for doing this, and that they appreciate it. Ms. Tierney provided to Mr. Beede ten Pool passes for the Club to use at their discretion.

LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Beede stated they still have some League games going on because of the challenging weather. He stated the older age groups are still competing in their Leagues as well. He stated a few of the boys teams just returned from North Carolina competing in the National League. Mr. Beede stated on the weekend of December 1 YMS participated in the inaugural Washington Crossing Cup the purpose of which was to bring together local soccer clubs from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He stated they tied the event to a local soccer program that services underprivileged youth in the Trenton area. He stated once all the costs of the Tournament were covered, the rest of the money was donated to that group was in the amount of \$2,000.

Mr. Beede stated as part of their Club's ongoing efforts to do more in the community than just play soccer, they have partnered with a program called Operation Gratitude which provides care packages to military personnel serving overseas. He stated at this point only the travel program is involved, and each of the travel teams are putting together between ten and twenty care packages to send overseas. They will be brought together hopefully at the Community Center in February where they will put the packages together and write letters to the service men and women. He stated they feel they will be able to send out between 800 and 1,000 care packages.

Mr. Gordon thanked YMS for all they are doing for the community. Mr. Wysocki stated while he has been away from YMS for some time, he is still proud to have been affiliated with them given all that they are doing.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Rahil Dixit, the Youth Committee Chair, was present with a number of other Youth Committee members who introduced themselves. Mr. Dixit stated they are present to provide an update on what they have been doing since they last met with the Park & Recreation Board. Mr. Dixit stated during the Veterans Day Parade, they had a benefit drive to benefit homeless veterans in the Greater Philadelphia area. He stated they were able to collect 1,502 items. The Youth Committee was also involved with a TEDx event on September 22 where there were thirteen speakers

speaking on various topics. Mr. Dixit stated they spoke to the individual who organized that event, and they believe that they will be having another TEDx event in March; and that would focus more on the Pennsbury School District area.

It was noted last Friday there was a Holiday Family Fun Night which the Youth Committee participated in, and they worked the food stand. About 200 people were in attendance. They reached out to some other youth volunteers at that event, and they believe that some of them will be joining the Youth Committee. The next Family Fun Night will be on January 4, which will be a New Years theme. Mr. Grenier stated he and his family were in attendance, and advised the Youth Committee that they did a great job.

The Youth Committee will hold their General Board meeting, and they will discuss the next Family Fun Night. They will be advertising their meetings on Facebook pages. They will also be part of a concert organized by Pennsbury, and the ticket proceeds will be going toward building a school in India.

Mr. Gordon stated the Park & Recreation Board wants to make sure that the Youth Committee continues and builds, and he asked about their plans for that. It was noted they have a form on Instagram, and they will share their page with Lower Makefield. Mr. Krauss asked if the Youth Committee is present when the incoming Freshmen come to Pennsbury to do a walk around, and he was advised that they are not allowed to do that since they are not a Pennsbury Club. Mr. Dixit stated the Youth Committee would like to start small with ten to fifteen general members, and they can expand as they get more volunteer opportunities.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT ON FEES

Ms. Tierney stated tomorrow there will be a meeting with the staff to review all of the fees before they are proposed to the Board of Supervisors next week. She stated she is proposing increasing the security deposit for the Community Center so people have more ownership for the rentals, and the proposal is to go from \$50 to \$100. Ms. Tierney stated they have not had to keep any of the security deposits to date. Ms. Tierney stated with regard to the charge to non-residents for classes, they have found that charging the \$15 fee per class does not work since sometimes it is a one-time class for \$25 and other times it is a eight-time class for \$300 so it is not well distributed. She stated she is proposing to change it to a percentage based on her conversations with other Townships who do it that way. She stated they really do not have a lot of non-residents coming to the programs.

Ms. Tierney stated with regard to the Dog Park, they are not generating enough revenue to cover all the costs. She stated she is recommending to charge \$35 for one dog. She stated they have had complaints about charging for up to two dogs when you only have one dog, and people felt it was unfair. Ms. Tierney stated if they charge \$35 for one dog and \$15 for each additional dog, this will bring the revenue up enough to cover the complete annual expenses. Ms. Bunn asked how much they were short, and Ms. Tierney stated it was a couple thousand dollars. Ms. Bunn asked about those who are already members who have two dogs, and Ms. Tierney stated they would not pay the additional amount until they renew. Ms. Bunn stated she feels they should be prepared to hear complaints from current members. Ms. Tierney stated they do have an additional three months because of the gate situation. Ms. Tierney stated there are 109 people who have a second dog. Mr. Krauss stated he feels there could be a boost in sign ups in the spring.

Ms. Tierney stated with regard to the summer camp fees they are based on costs as at a minimum they would like to break even. She stated there will be a resident rate, a Pool member rate, and a non-resident rate. Mr. Gordon asked how they will staff the Camp, and Ms. Tierney stated they will hire staff specifically for the Camp. She stated they will base the number of those hired on the registration. Mr. Gordon asked if there are other fixed costs other than staff; and Ms. Tierney stated there will be one to two trips a week which are already planned, crafts, and they will need supplies such as sport and activity equipment. She stated this should be a one-time fee with a little replacement each year. She stated they need games as well if there is a rainy day. She stated they also need to pay for training of the staff.

Mr. Brody asked if they feel there is a demand for a camp as there are a lot of camps in the area. Ms. Tierney stated last year they offered a lot of mini-camps, and people were disappointed that they did not offer full-day camp. She stated they are only looking for fifty campers. She stated they will need one bus to accommodate fifty campers.

Ms. Tierney stated in the past at the Pool they have not charged to rent the pavilion; however, it does cost them extra since it has to be manned and there is extra trash removal. She stated they are suggesting that there be a \$10 an hour charge to rent the pavilion at the Pool which is the same amount they charge for all of the other pavilions in the Township.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Brody asked Ms. Tierney the age of an individual who can accompany an eleven to fourteen year old to the Pool, and Ms. Tierney stated it is sixteen years old. She added for those under eleven years old, they must be accompanied by a parent or

guardian. Mr. Krauss asked if a sixteen year old can bring in more than one eleven year old, and Ms. Tierney stated she feels they need to consider setting a limit of two as to how many kids a sixteen year old can bring in. Ms. Tierney stated there is a limit in the rules and regulations as to how many children can be accompanied by one adult, and she believes that the limit is ten.

Mr. Brody asked when there will be information on the new swimmers membership. Ms. Tierney stated it is not really a new membership, and it will be an individual membership like they had in the past which means they can go to swim and dive team practice, but they would have to come with an adult at any other time outside of that.

Ms. Tierney stated the Board of Supervisors did approve the age change at the Pool, and the information has been put out about that. She stated the Board also authorized the engineer to prepare the documents for Bid for the Pool repair, and they plan to put it out to Bid in early January.

Ms. Tierney stated the Dog Park trees will be planted tomorrow.

Ms. Tierney stated with regard to the Garden of Reflection, there was a discussion with Ms. Ellen Saracini in August as to how she could help with planting trees and some of the other needs they have at the Garden. Ms. Saracini has since found donations for all of the trees that were damaged, and that planting will be started hopefully this week. She stated planting will continue through the year since not all the plants can be planted in December. Ms. Tierney stated Ms. Saracini has gotten donation for tree removal, the new plants, and the installation; and this was all outside of her fund and these were in-kind donations.

Ms. Tierney stated they are currently taking registrations for the classes and programs for the winter. She stated the spring guide will be mailed in January. She stated they will be consolidating the guide and all the Pool information into one comprehensive document.

Ms. Tierney stated they have closed up the parks including the bathrooms and water fountains. She stated they also continue to seed and fertilize fields. She stated they also repaired a broken drainage pipe at Macclesfield so hopefully there will be less water in the fields. She stated they planted a replacement tree for a tree that had fallen down. She stated they are also working on pruning, cleaning, and some other small projects.

Mr. Brody asked about Teen Nights at the Pool. Ms. Tierney stated she and Lynn are reviewing this. She stated they will need to bring on additional staff so that they are manned as they should be, and they are also considering waivers which she will discuss with Mr. Truelove. Mr. Gordon asked the age range, and Ms. Tierney stated currently it is a pre-teen group that attends. Mr. Gordon noted they may want to consider having parents volunteer to chaperone.

Ms. Tierney stated as noted by the Youth Committee, they have started their First Friday Family Fun Nights. She stated this was in response to feedback from the residents about wanting to have open time at the Community Center where they could come. Ms. Tierney stated while this was done, there was low attendance, and so they started to have theme nights. She stated the first themed Friday Fun Night was last Friday, and they had about 150 to 200 participants and 15 volunteers. She stated there were food sales, Santa, and crafts.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Grenier stated a large portion of the last Board of Supervisors meeting was regarding the Woodside shared use path that runs from Merrick, across from the Golf Course, along the northern side of Woodside, to Taylorsville. He stated this involves a Grant Application, and the plan is to connect it directly to the towpath. This is a Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Grant which requires a 20% match by the Township. Mr. Grenier stated originally the path was proposed to be on the south side of Woodside; but when the Bridge Commission widened Woodside, they changed the geometry of the road making it very steep and unsafe to connect on the south side so it was moved to the north side. Mr. Grenier stated the original proposal was for it to be a shared use path which could be used by walkers and bicyclists from the Golf Course to the Clearview Estates neighborhood, and everything else was striping on the road to make it a bike lane with a narrow bike lane all the way to the towpath; however, the Board changed that for the purposes of the Grant Application to be a shared used path the whole way to allow for safe pedestrian connection throughout the whole system.

Ms. Bunn asked if bikers would be forced to use that path since that does not happen now and bikers are on the road. Mr. Grenier stated it qualifies as a shared use path which allows for bikes and pedestrians. Ms. Bunn stated she knows it “allows” for that; however, they should be forcing bikers to use it since we are spending a lot of money on bike paths, and people do not bike on them. Mr. Grenier stated there are State laws for bikers going over certain speeds. Ms. Bunn stated she feels that is dangerous for the drivers to have to give bikers four feet and go into oncoming traffic when there is a path for the bikers to use.

Mr. Grenier stated there were two primary crossings that were discussed - one crossing Taylorsville which would be a signaled crosswalk from path to path. He stated they will look into this further during the design to make sure it is safe. There was a question about bikers crossing the road at this location; and Mr. Grenier stated according to the law, you are supposed to get off your bike and walk across a crosswalk. Mr. Grenier stated with regard to the second crossing that is contemplated when you look at the approach to the towpath, on the north side there is a bridge before you get to the towpath, and while there is a painted crosswalk from towpath to the towpath, that is to the east of an existing narrow bridge. Mr. Grenier stated they are contemplating working with the DCNR who owns the Canal to put in a walking bridge across the Canal, and that is part of the Grant Application. Ms. Bunn asked if that would be adjacent to the current bridge, and Mr. Grenier agreed. He stated the existing bridge probably qualifies as a historic bridge. Mr. Grenier stated it is very narrow there, and the bike lane that was contemplated previously in that location was only about 3' to 4' wide and would require lane shifting, and that would not have been able to be used by pedestrians at all which he feels defeats the purpose.

Mr. Grenier stated now the shared use path would cover all the way from the Golf Course area which would connect via the crosswalk to Merrick which is another shared used path that goes all the way to Memorial Park and up to Lindenhurst. He stated if you turn on Dolington when it turns to the left it goes toward Creamery and Quarry so it creates a better system. He stated if we get the Grant and are able to construct this, you would be able to get on the towpath; and with the bridge and the stairs, you can get to the Jersey side.

Mr. Grenier stated the Township was hoping that the Bridge Commission was planning a better path, but on the south side of the road they are planning a small bike path in the woods that comes from the existing Park and Ride back to the parking lot, crosses their parking lot that the Bridge Commission is constructing, goes through the woods and stops at the historic house which is where they are planning restrooms. Mr. Grenier stated it falls short of connecting to the towpath on the west side of the bridge so pedestrians and bikes cannot use it for anything other than getting from the Park and Ride to the restrooms. Mr. Grenier stated a number of people misunderstood the Agreement that was signed in 2016 and misquoted it both at the meeting and on Facebook saying that the path would connect Taylorsville to the towpath when in reality what the Agreement says is it will connect the Park and Ride parking lot to the Delaware towpath area, which means it not directly to the towpath.

Mr. Grenier stated the house which they are using for the restroom is the house that is close to the road. He stated they have torn down a lot of it, but the plan is to add back some of the historic features. Mr. Grenier stated under Projects on the Bridge Commission's Website, you can look at the Scudder Falls Bridge project where you can see the lay out of the bike path.

Mr. Wysocki expressed concern with the way the traffic lights are set up on Taylorsville Road, and Mr. Grenier stated they do have to work on the timing, which will be driven by Bridge traffic. He stated integrating a shared use path/ bike path with that will be a challenge. Mr. Wysocki stated it is a challenge now without the bike path.

Ms. Bunn asked that Mr. Grenier look into the lack of communication from the Township during the recent water issues. She stated the Lower Makefield Website was not updated during the incident. She stated people are relying on Facebook which she does not feel is a good idea as not everyone is on Facebook, and they are looking to the Township to get proper information. Mr. Grenier stated while he agrees with Ms. Bunn, the Water Company is privately owned and has their own alert system and a Website. He stated he recognizes that most people would go to the Township since they believe the water system is owned by the Township. Ms. Bunn stated Yardley Borough was more responsive to their residents than was the Township. She stated Yardley Borough had information on their Website two hours before a phone call was received from American Water, and there was no communication from our own Township. Mr. Grenier stated it is up to the Water Company to alert the Township, and they have to rely on the Water Company to give the Township the information as well as the Water Company informing their customers. Mr. Grenier stated he does agree that the Township has to do a better job to communicate with the residents. Mr. Grenier agreed to discuss this with Chief Coluzzi and the Township Manager. There was discussion as to whether the Water Company will be reimbursing their customers. Mr. Grenier discussed what happened regarding the quality of the water. He stated the Board of Supervisors has passed a Resolution to have the Water Company come before the Board of Supervisors to discuss this matter; and if they do not, the Township will file a complaint with the PUC. Mr. Grenier stated if the Water Company comes before the Board of Supervisors he will ask them about a credit on bills.

December 11, 2018

Park & Recreation Board – page 9 of 9

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Krauss, Secretary