

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – APRIL 9, 2019

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on April 9, 2019. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Gordon, Chair
 Douglas Krauss, Secretary
 Patricia Bunn, Member (joined meeting in progress)
 Bryan McNamara, Member
 Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director
 John B. Lewis, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: David Malinowski, Park & Rec Board Vice Chair
 Michael Brody, Park & Rec Board Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. McNamara seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of March 12, 2019 as written.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion of Recommendation to Define Park and Recreation User Groups

Ms. Tierney stated she had previously provided to the Board a User Groups packet for the Board to review. She stated these are current User Groups. She stated she defined them and showed the fees and charges associated with them so that as we move into working on defining the "Mission, Vision, and Goals," she feels it is important to define our population. Ms. Tierney asked if the Board would be willing to approve defining the User Groups as she has proposed.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels what has been shown makes sense. Ms. Tierney stated moving forward they will be working on “Mission, Vision, and Goals” at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels what has been provided by Ms. Tierney is laid out well addressing all of the User Groups and potential User Groups in the Township. He feels they should adopt it recognizing that it is a dynamic document that can be addressed when new things happen.

Ms. Tierney asked if this is something the Park & Rec Board should vote on or just indicate that they are adopting it. Mr. Krauss suggested that they take a vote at the next meeting as he would like time to review it. Mr. Wysocki asked if it is going to go to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Krauss stated the Fees are already approved. Ms. Tierney stated it is just whether the Park & Rec Board wants to adopt this model. Mr. Gordon stated they are not talking about the specifics tonight, and he feels they are fine with conceptually adopting the model.

Ms. Tierney stated as discussed by e-mail by the next meeting she plans to provide the Park & Recreation Board with a full report on the finances. She stated tonight they are not approving any Fees as what is shown are the existing Fees. She stated the discussion is actually to approve the definitions, lay-out, and scheme. She stated she will provide a financial report on 2018 to show the Park & Rec Board how the Fees cover the costs of our expenses per the User Groups, and to consider if there should be adjustments for 2020.

Mr. Krauss stated he would like Ms. Tierney to look back more than just 2018. Mr. Krauss stated he would like to see 2017, 2018, and the latest estimate for 2019 so at least they have three years to look at. Ms. Tierney stated in May they would not see much as she has not billed the Leagues yet. Mr. Krauss stated he would be interested in seeing the estimate for the season based on expectations of costs; and Ms. Tierney stated she could provide an estimate for costs, but it would be harder for her to do that for the Users. Mr. Krauss stated he would like to see historical trends, and Ms. Tierney agreed to provide multiple years.

Mr. Wysocki questions relative to the other area Townships, is Lower Makefield leading the way with this definition of User Groups. Ms. Tierney stated she feels she is more business-minded, and we might be ahead of the curve although the National Association does break things up in this way.

Ms. Bunn joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Lewis stated there is an option for new Clubs and smaller groups of people. He asked if someone wanted to start their own pick-up basketball group would that make you a League automatically even if there are only ten to twenty individuals who want to have a recurring pick-up basketball program. Ms. Tierney stated if you were going to be a sports league, there would be a liability associated with having twenty-five people together. Ms. Tierney stated it could be similar to pickleball if they wanted it to be a “meet-up/pick-up thing.” Mr. Lewis stated pickleball is not a League, and Mr. Tierney stated they are not as of the last Park & Recreation Board meeting. Mr. Krauss stated a League would be defined as having a number of teams with multiple games versus just people coming to play basketball with a time reserved through the Township. Mr. Lewis stated he was not thinking of having defined teams, and it would just be a group of twenty-five individuals who may e-mail each other and stated when they are going to meet. Ms. Tierney stated that would be more like pickleball. Ms. Tierney stated a League has games, competitions, and tournaments, coaches, instructors, and professional instruction; and what Mr. Lewis is looking for is not like that and it is more like pickleball where it is a meet-up/gathering. Mr. Krauss stated the difference is they would be asking the Township to reserve court time, and Mr. Lewis agreed. Mr. Krauss stated if they just send out a notice to a number of people and tell them to meet up at the courts at a certain time, they could do that; however, there would be no guarantee that they would get the court. Mr. Gordon stated if they want to have a guarantee that they are going to get the court, there has to be some kind of buy-in to get that guarantee.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels that the Park & Recreation Board is generally in agreement to the concept of what Ms. Tierney has provided, but they would like to hear more details about this at next meeting. Ms. Tierney stated she would “define the details as finances,” and Mr. Gordon agreed. Mr. Gordon stated conceptually Ms. Tierney can represent that the Park & Rec Board is conceptually in favor of breaking things out as she has proposed.

Mr. Krauss stated he feels with this they should properly communicate to residents what the process is if they are interested in creating a new Club.

Pool Update

Ms. Tierney stated on Wednesday the Board of Supervisors approved the Pool Feasibility Study. She stated an option was added to do boring in all the pools so that tests are done on the concrete. She stated there is potential that they will do the large pool while they are working on it, so that they can see before they finish the project whether there is a problem with the concrete. She stated they will then do the other pools after the season is over.

Ms. Tierney stated everything is running on schedule at the Pool, and it seems that there will be a cost savings since they were losing 3” of water a day.

Ms. Tierney stated she and Lynn have joined Bucks County Aquatics Consortium which bids chemicals and other supplies for pools as a consortium group. She stated the Consortium bidding is almost done, and it should save us a significant amount of money in chemicals, etc. She stated they will be bringing that to the Board of Supervisors for approval in the future.

Ms. Tierney stated they have completed hiring and have a full management team. She stated they were able to find one more Assistant Manager who has a lot of experience.

Mr. Lewis stated Pennsylvania American Water will be donating filling the large pool which is worth approximately \$40,000. He stated he feels this is a constructive first step as it relates to the Issues that took place last year with the Water Company. Mr. Lewis stated the Board will be meeting with the Water Company in May and will have more discussions about water quality and other issues. Mr. Wysocki asked if they will be bringing in tankers, and Ms. Tierney stated they will be using the hydrants.

Summer Camp Update

Ms. Tierney stated the discount period for Camp LMT has ended, and they are full. She stated the lowest attendance week is the last week with forty-one campers, and all other weeks have fifty to fifty-five campers. She stated currently there is a waiting list. She stated hiring for Camp LMT is almost complete.

Discussion of Employee Training

Ms. Tierney noted that there will be a difference in training employees this year and every employee will have AED/CPR/First Aid, including the maintenance staff. She stated they will also have sexual harassment training, customer service training, and job-specific, on-site training. She stated there will also be job safety training based on position.

Update on Programming

Ms. Tierney stated we have 169 spring program registrants, 37 summer program registrants, 77 different children signed up for Summer Camp, and there are 48 different program offerings. Ms. Tierney stated she would like to start considering expanding into different areas such as outdoor programs as we move forward.

Facilities Update

Ms. Tierney stated her report includes a listing of all the summer prep work being done including mulch at the playgrounds. She stated they will be painting Kids Kingdom, and it will be closed for a week. She stated they are replacing lights at Macclesfield Park where there were twenty-eight light bulbs which were out. She stated pavilion rentals have started. Ms. Tierney noted the Dog Park fence has been completed, and they are working on rehabbing some of the grass so they can start transitioning and growing grass in the other areas. Ms. Tierney stated some volunteers will be doing mulching at the Community Center. Ms. Tierney stated there are also monthly Five Mile Woods clean-up days with the specific dates listed in the report she provided.

GIRL SCOUT PROJECT TO ADD A LITTLE LIBRARY OUTSIDE THE LMT DOG PARK

A group of Girl Scouts from Troop 21574 were present to discuss their proposal to add a Little Library with children's books outside the LMT Dog Park. They are proposing to use repurposed TV carts and they would need to add weatherproof paint, plexi-glass to the doors, and wood to stabilize the back. They showed photos of some possible locations to place the Library. They have a Budget of \$300, and they discussed how funds will be raised. They will collect the books to fill the Library through donations from their families and friends. They hope to have all the materials purchased and collected by the end of April, finish building the Library by the end of May, and install it by the end of June.

Mr. Wysocki asked how they would replenish the books if they are taken or are damaged, and it was noted they would get new ones through donations. Mr. Wysocki asked if they will be going back periodically to make sure it is stocked, and it was noted that a number of the Scouts go to the Dog Park, and they will also let people drop off books as well.

Ms. Bunn asked Ms. Tierney if she would be opposed to having them include sidewalk chalk in the cabinet; and Ms. Tierney stated while she would not, there is a limited amount of pavement. One of the Scouts indicated they were also considering some small toys. Ms. Bunn stated that could present a problem due to the range of ages, but she would be in favor of books and sidewalk chalk.

Mr. Wysocki noted the proposed location near the entry, and Ms. Tierney stated she feels it would be better away from the main entrance. Mr. Wysocki asked that they work with Ms. Tierney on the exact location. Ms. Tierney stated she has one more bench to install at the Dog Park; and if they moved the Library further down from where they had proposed, they could put the bench next to it. Mr. Gordon stated when they are ready to install the Library, they should be in touch with Ms. Tierney so she can advise what would be the best location. One of the Scouts stated their original idea was to buy a bench and have the Library attached to it. Mr. Gordon stated people donate benches, and the benches have to be sturdy and professionally made for safety reasons.

Mr. Krauss stated they had indicated they would be repurposing an existing TV cart, and he asked that they work with Ms. Tierney and her staff so they can determine the best way to secure it to the fence. Ms. Tierney asked if they were going to make it stand independently or attach it to the fence as she would recommend putting it into the ground as opposed to attaching it to the fence since it could get very heavy with books in it, and that could damage the fence. She recommended having it on a post. Ms. Bunn asked if the Township could install the post that they could connect to, and Ms. Tierney stated they could help with that.

Mr. Krauss stated there is an event at the Dog Park on July 11, and he hopes this will be installed by that event. Ms. Tierney stated possibly they could have an unveiling of the Library at that event.

Mr. Lewis asked if they have a fundraiser planned already or a place where people can make donations, and the Scouts indicated stated they are still working on fundraising.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Tierney stated they have been partnering with Josh's Squad House, and they are planning on having an event behind Edgewood School. She stated they will make a presentation at the next Park & Recreation Board meeting. She stated they had also been thinking about doing a fundraiser to have disc golf. She stated

she recently attended a Conference and she met an individual who would install a nine-hole disc golf course for \$10,000. Ms. Tierney stated Josh's family was interested, and they are considering fundraising.

Mr. Gordon asked for information about Josh's Squad House; and Mr. Krauss stated after Josh had passed, a foundation was formed around the premise of letting kids be themselves and not succumb to peer pressure, and to have a safe place to go and be themselves.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the disc golf will be a permanent installation, and Ms. Tierney agreed. Ms. Tierney stated it is a beginner's course. Mr. McNamara stated he feels this was in the Master Plan for Memorial Park; however, Ms. Tierney stated she did not realize that. Ms. Tierney stated they were thinking of doing it in the woods behind the Community Center. Ms. Tierney stated they do not need a lot of square footage to do nine holes. Ms. Bunn stated she believes the disc golf was shown on the new Memorial Park Plan, and other Board members agreed.

Ms. Tierney stated Josh's family liked it at the Community Center since it is closer to where they live. Mr. McNamara stated he does not believe there is enough room to have nine holes behind the Community Center. Ms. Bunn stated she would prefer having it a Memorial Park since they could build on it at that location if it becomes popular. Ms. Tierney stated they do like to play in the woods with the obstacles of the woods, and at Memorial Park they do not really have that opportunity.

There being no further business, Mr. McNamara moved, Mr. Krauss seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Krauss, Secretary