

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2020

A joint Committee Meeting of the Park & Recreation Board and the Disability Advisory Board was held remotely on November 19, 2020. Ms. Tierney called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: Michael Brody, Secretary
Mike Blundi, Member
David Malinowski, Member
Kimberly Rock, Member (joined meeting in progress)
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Disability Advisory Board: David Mann, Chair (left meeting in progress)
Lisa Huchler, Secretary (left meeting in progress)
David Rogers, Member

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

Absent: Douglas Krauss, Chair, Park & Recreation Board
Patricia Bunn, Member, Park & Recreation Board
Patricia O'Donnell, Member, Disability Advisory Board

Ms. Tierney stated we have been through a number of steps for the feasibility planning for the Pool. She stated prior to COVID, there was a public meeting where there was a presentation similar to what will be seen this evening. She stated the public had the opportunity to provide feedback. She stated Mr. Brent Boyer, from Aquatic Facility Design, is present to re-present the initial concept, get feedback from the Boards, and then come back with a final plan. Ms. Tierney stated Mr. Boyer will make the presentation, and they will then open it up for questions from the Boards.

Mr. Boyer stated at the initial presentation, there were four different versions, and the one that had the most support at the public meeting was Concept #1. He stated tonight he will focus more on that Concept and condense the others.

A slide presentation of Aquatic Facility's Design was shown. Mr. Boyer stated they did a lot of study of the existing facility including mapping out the site. He stated at the existing facility there are four bodies of water – the all-competition pool, the competition and dual use pool, the intermediate pool, and the wading pool. Mr. Boyer stated the wading pool can handle 96 users, the intermediate pool can handle 225, the 50 meter pool can handle 662, and the lap pool can handle 515 for a total of 1,498 users.

Mr. Boyer stated there is currently not a cohesive plan at the Pool. He stated it was felt that the pools were built in a “chaotic fashion” over time. He stated at the swimming facilities there are groups of users – children, parents with children, the “tweens” and teens, adults, and Seniors. He stated they will all cross use different amenities, but they all have preferences, features, and lay-outs that are more amenable to each group. Mr. Boyer stated they tried to think of that and re-imagine the complex to make it more useful and more ADA-accessible. He stated currently none of the bodies of water are accessible on their own.

Mr. Boyer stated because of the size of the complex and how many people use it, they were concerned that if there was growth, whether there would be enough usage area for people. He stated in the presentation it will be seen that they have expanded the user load capacity, but they also tried to re-use as much of the complex as they could so that it would not be too expensive.

Mr. Boyer stated at the public meeting, they had large printed versions of the slides which were easier to see, and they could send those again to anyone who would like to have them. He showed a slide of the color palette proposed which they tried to keep tasteful but bright.

Mr. Boyer showed a slide which breaks the complex out into zones of use. He noted the yellow portion in the bottom left corner which are the competition areas with the competition pool on the left and the competition/diving pool on the right. He stated they propose changing the upper end of the L-shaped pool into a more intermediate play area/youth area. He stated the blue area will be a wading zone. He noted the new adult pool closer to the concession area.

A slide was shown with the separate adult pool at the top right corner.

Mr. Boyer stated this would be an elevated area with amenities for adult patrons. It is separated by a landscaped wall. He stated this is not meant to be a children-inclusive area, and it is for adults/Seniors. He stated this location was chosen so that those users would have better visibility of the area below so that if you are there with children, you can watch them. He stated they have kept this close to the main bathrooms, to the concessions, and to the entry area taking into account its use by Seniors. Mr. Boyer stated it is an ADA accessible entry into 3'6" of water. He noted the ADA ramp on the right-hand side and stated that there are also ADA stairs in the center. Mr. Boyer stated there are shade sails on the corners shown as black triangles on the slide. He stated there is also a lounge shelf in the water, which are reclining or upright chairs which are in 9" of water.

Mr. Boyer stated they have provided a lot of shade around the complex since people will leave if it is too hot at a pool.

Mr. Boyer stated also at the adult pool there are deck sprays for water movement which makes a soothing sound, and they are entertaining. He stated there are no toy features in this pool as it is an adult area.

Mr. Boyer showed a slide of the wading pool. He stated it is a large, tiled beach entry which is shown in gray at the bottom of the slide. He stated there are splash pad features at the entry to that pool. He stated there is also a tot slide and in-water benches. He stated there are shade sails over that pool. He stated at the end of the pool shown in red squares are in-water seating that is upright for use by the caregivers. He stated at the lower left corner of the pool there is a family slide and caregivers can hold toddlers as they go down. He stated the depth is a maximum of 1' 6".

Mr. Boyer showed a slide of the intermediate pool addition. He stated they kept the basic footprint of the L-shaped pool and put an addition on the end of it. He stated at the top end of the pool, there is a gray area on the slide and that is beach entry. He stated this is a tween/teen area. He stated you would walk down beach entry into a depth of 3' to 3'6" of water. He stated there are features in the pool that are tall sprays that are geared toward that age group. He stated there is also a handicapped ramp down the side which are the red rails on the slide. Mr. Boyer stated there is a peninsula which is shown in red, and that is where the existing pool ends now. He stated there

are also floatables in this pool, and these are shown on the features page in more detail. He stated they are floatable features that you can climb on, and they are tethered to the floor with stainless steel chains, and are very popular.

Mr. Boyer stated one of the problems at the Pool now is where the large slides enter, you cannot do too much. He stated they propose taking the one large slide away and moving it off into its own spill zone. He stated where the large slide currently enters the water, you are not able to use that area so much because of the slide entry; and what they are proposing is a slide which is just as large but it enters into its own tub of water on the deck so it has its own discharge point. Mr. Boyer stated next to that they have another slides which is 23' wide. He stated they would still have four long lap lanes. He showed on a slide an area of green going across the pool which is a water walk. He stated it is netting across the pool which you walk across. He stated that can be moved if there is a competition. He stated he can show pictures of this feature later. He stated next to the water walk, they added two more sets of stairs to the pool. Mr. Boyer noted the competition area which would be undisturbed.

Mr. Boyer stated with regard to the adult pool and the wading pool, those are brand new pools, as what is currently there is not convertible.

Mr. Boyer noted the competition pool, adding they have added 25 yard lanes in the opposite direction. He stated they also changed where the bleachers and seating are. He stated there is a lot of seating around all of the pools, and in between all the areas there will be handicap access. He stated they had to recontour somewhat on the Site Plans.

Mr. Boyer stated with regard to site considerations, they have a concession extension and pergola and they added some café seating, a retaining wall, landscaping, and the addition of a second pavilion. He stated they have placed an entry into the complex for food trucks if that was ever desired and a secondary small concession storage near the lower filter building.

Mr. Boyer stated what is proposed would provide much more to do for each age group and a better utilization of the space. He stated they have increased the user load to 1,983 patrons up from 1,498.

Mr. Boyer stated if they were to do everything proposed it would cost \$2.5 to \$3 million. He stated it could potentially be done in phases. He stated while that is a lot of money, particularly at this time, they would be getting a lot for that money. He stated the Township does have a very large, nice complex.

Mr. Boyer showed a slide of Concept #2, and what is shown in peach are the areas that are new. He stated an addition has been added to the L-shaped pool at the upper end. He noted in the middle of the slide a miniature “L” which is the new children’s’ pool.

Mr. Boyer also showed where the adult pool would be located. He stated with this Plan, they are staying inside the existing perimeter, but they are re-allocating what is used and how it is used. He stated they would be retaining quite a bit of the existing infrastructure.

Mr. Boyer stated Concepts #2 through #4 are variations of the same plan. He noted a slide showing a different lay-out of the adult pool where you come into it from a different angle, and instead of steps to walk down, there is a beach entry and a ramp instead of steps and a ramp. He stated there is also somewhat more lounge seating. He noted the wading pool has a beach entry into the 1’6” pool, and the main difference is that at the end of it, which is at the top shown in gray, that is a larger splash pad area. He stated at the main pool, it is largely the same except they left the slides in place and moved some of the features around. Mr. Boyer stated leaving the two slides where they are now would save \$250,000 to \$400,000.

Mr. Boyer stated looking at the four different adult pools, the four different wading pools, or the four different L-shaped pools you could have any of them for any concept. He stated in-house they liked the Concept #1 lay-out the best.

A slide of Concept #3 was shown which has different lay-out changes. He stated the features do not change radically, but they did eliminate the large slide on the main pool, and there is only the 23’ wide slide.

A slide of Concept #4 was shown, and Mr. Boyer stated the difference here is on the L-shaped pool, and they do not have the addition. He noted a blue box which is a wave pool which is a separate wave rider pool where you ride a surfboard. He stated that feature alone is \$1 million. He stated they showed this since they were charged with showing all the options.

A slide of shown of the different types of shade sails. He stated these would be throughout the complex, and they could be added all at once or one at a time. He stated they wanted to provide more shade than there is currently. Mr. Boyer noted that the seating areas where you sit on lounges in the water are optional as well, but they are very popular. He stated some of these features are resort-style features that they have placed in community pool complexes, and they were very well received.

A slide was shown of a typical beach entry. He stated they are typically tiled, and there are water features in them. Different types of handrails were also shown. He stated at the L-shaped pool you would walk down from zero to 3' using the hand rail. A picture was also shown of the type of separating walls used when there is a peninsula divider. He stated these are made to get wet as they are made out of stainless steel.

A slide was shown of the chairs he discussed. He stated in the wading pool they would sit more upright rather than recline so those using them can watch the children, but in the adult pool is it more typical to have them reclining.

A slide was shown of some of the features that could be in the wading pool. He noted the different slides, spray features, and toys which are soft-skinned features which spray. He stated they are hard to damage. He stated in the teen area, there are taller features that are more suitable for that age group. A picture was shown of the wide slide which he had discussed earlier. He stated more than one person can go down at the same time. A picture was also shown of a large green slide which is the type he discussed previously which has its own run-out and does not take up so much space in the pool. The themed floatables were shown which are tethered to the floor by a stainless steel cable. He stated they are somewhat of a challenge to get on which is part of the fun, and they are very popular.

A slide was shown of the water walk proposed for the main pool. He stated that is a removable feature. A picture was also shown of a climbing wall, and that is an option as well for the larger pool. A slide was shown of the wave rider pool. He stated it is very expensive. He stated that would be its own stand-alone pool.

Mr. Boyer stated they also considered an expansion to the concession area. He stated the existing concession stand is one of the nicest ones he has ever been to at a public pool. He stated they tried to make some modifications to provide a little more room and a better flow in that work environment. He stated this would also help with the increase in the user load.

Mr. Boyer showed a slide of a pergola-type structure over part of the café area which is site consideration. He stated the café area would be next to the existing dining area. He stated in between the area is the option for planters, plants, and grasses; but if that is not desired there could just be retaining walls. He stated there are a lot of changes in elevation there so they have to do something to border them.

Mr. Blundi stated he is in favor of the shade which he feels is needed at the Pool. He stated the proposed size of the intermediate pool looks to be smaller than it is now. He stated that is a heavily-used pool for young children and parents. He stated it does not indicate the dimensions. Mr. Boyer stated for this meeting he does not have available all of the square footages which he showed at the last meeting, but he can provide that information. He stated they are increasing the user load so it may not be as small as it seems. Mr. Boyer stated that would make the space smaller since there would be more people. Mr. Boyer stated to have more people, they would have to have more water space. Mr. Blundi asked the size of the intermediate pool now, and he asked if it goes from 2' to 4'. Ms. Tierney stated it does go from 2' to 4'. She added the size of the intermediate pool was a concern of the public as well at the open public meeting. Mr. Boyer stated it is easy to get stuck on how it was used previously, and not fully see how it would be used now. He stated there was a concentration of people in that pool before, and he idea is that they are breaking people up.

A slide was shown of the Overlay. Mr. Boyer stated if they look at the square footage of the intermediate pool, it may be slightly smaller; however, it is not all for the same group, and they would be taking people from the pools and redistributing them.

Mr. Blundi asked for the ages of each area that they expect to use each area. Mr. Boyer stated the adult pool is for those aged thirty and up. He stated the children's' pool is for children up to age eight along with all of their care-givers. Mr. Blundi stated currently the kiddie pool is for up to age five, and Ms. Tierney stated they have a tendency to track up to age five.

She stated that does depend on siblings, since a lot of the five-year-olds want to be with the older kids so they go to the other pool. Mr. Blundi stated the depth of the proposed kiddie pool is 1' 6", and Mr. Boyer agreed. Mr. Blundi stated he believes that is what they have now, and Mr. Boyer agreed. Mr. Blundi stated from his experience the kiddie pool is never really full. Ms. Tierney stated that depends on the time of day as there are times when it is very full. Mr. Boyer stated they are amenity-light in that pool, and Mr. Blundi stated he agrees. Mr. Blundi stated his experience is that there are younger kids who want to go to the intermediate pool with their older siblings as well as parents who want to watch their kids as they are not quite comfortable in the water yet which is why that pool is the most used. He stated he feels that pool needs to be bigger rather than smaller especially if this is going to attract more people. Mr. Boyer stated that would be easy to do. He stated it is proposed to be beach entry and there would be a varying depth in the pool so more people will use that pool.

Ms. Tierney stated the slides take up a lot of room so there is a lot of play area that is missing. She stated if the slides are moved as proposed, they would gain additional play area. Mr. Blundi stated he feels that they need to keep the competition pool the way it is and he would not want to take space from there to add to the intermediate pool. Ms. Tierney noted an area on the plan where they could see if they could add to the pool in that area, and Mr. Boyer agreed that it would be easy to widen it at that location.

Mr. Boyer stated currently there are six lanes in the pool, and by putting in the "neck," they would open up that end a little bit. He stated there would be four lanes. He stated it had been believed previously that was adequate; however, they may have a different opinion now. Mr. Blundi stated he is not familiar with the competition that takes place. He asked if it could be lined with rope if there was a competition so that they could add more lanes. Ms. Tierney stated currently they do not compete at that length, and it is more for training. She stated they will swim the full length for training, but there is no competition that runs that way.

Mr. Blundi stated they may therefore be able to take space from that pool; however, Ms. Tierney stated she would not take the length away because they do train that length. Mr. Boyer stated taking away that length would cost more to do that than it does to add on.

Mr. Blundi stated he likes the shade as well as the features that are proposed for the water including the walkway and the floatables.

Mr. Boyer stated the sized addition to the pool is estimated to cost approximately \$550,000. He stated the larger they would go, it would increase that number. He stated since that is a popular area, whatever they can afford would get used.

Mr. Blundi asked Ms. Tierney the amount of lifeguards they would need with this scenario, and Ms. Tierney stated they would need more lifeguards on duty. Mr. Boyer stated he would be able to provide what that number would be. Ms. Tierney stated she believes it would be at least four more lifeguards at a minimum not including some at the blind spots where they may need guards as well. Mr. Blundi asked if the water features need a lifeguard as well, and Ms. Tierney showed areas on the Plan where guards would be needed. She stated while there is one guard now at the baby pool, because of the added features, they would need a second guard.

Mr. Blundi stated Mr. Boyer indicated that this could be done in stages, and he asked how that would work. Mr. Boyer stated the all-competition pool shown on the left of the Plan involves minor changes, and that would be easy to do. He stated the children's pool and the adult pool are in the same general area, and they could be done one at a time, but they would have to decide what would be done with the landscaping/division around them. He stated it might be easier to do both of those at the same time as they are re-sculpting the areas around them as well.

Mr. Blundi stated he assumes the Pool would be able to function over the summer, and then the work would be done in the fall and the spring. Mr. Boyer stated if they wanted to do everything at one time, it would be a risk depending on the weather; and it could get close to the start of the season. He stated he would be concerned if they did it all at one time.

Mr. Wysocki asked what would be duration of the construction if they did it all at one time. Mr. Boyer stated they need a full nine months, and there could be problems with the weather since they would never be under roof. Mr. Boyer stated in this area of the Country, aquatics contractors are not very large companies, and there may be more than one company joining forces.

Mr. Wysocki stated he was surprised about the allocation of space to a Senior/ adult pool. He stated that does not really look like a swimming pool, and it is more like a wading area. Mr. Boyer stated it goes from zero to 3 ½'. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels it is unusual in terms of tank usage. He asked if

they decided on this based on survey response and was there enough of a population indicating that they wanted a dedicated adult pool. Mr. Boyer stated what was conveyed to them was how many Seniors they have now that congregate in an area by the competition pool in an attempt to get away from everybody. He stated there was a lot of feedback at the prior meeting that they wanted to keep their own segregated space, and this is to give that population that space.

Mr. Wysocki asked if this is the only segregated area on the property, and Mr. Boyer stated it is designed for the adults/Seniors as a segregated area. Mr. Wysocki stated while he is in favor of making the Pool attractive for Seniors, he feels this would be a waste of opportunity since he assumes Seniors would be there earlier in the day and then leave for the rest of the day when it gets too hot so that the pool would be unused for most of the day because it is restricted to adults. Mr. Boyer stated they were told that this is happening as an impromptu occurrence in the other area he noted and they are taking up an area where normally there could be play. He stated this Plan gives them a new place to congregate.

Ms. Tierney stated there is a whole group of people whose children have aged out and can play on their own who like to “hang out here.” She stated they get a lot of complaints that where they are now trying to relax they are being impacted by ball playing, etc. She stated there are people who come to the Pool to relax or use the Wi-Fi as they work. She stated there a lot of people who just come to the Pool to sit in the shade and she noted on the Plan where those people are usually sitting next to the slide. She stated this proposal would give them the space they want. Mr. Wysocki stated if that is the case, they could move them to a different area and make the place they are hanging out now as a dedicated play area. Mr. Wysocki stated the adult area could be up on the hill. Mr. Boyer stated what they were trying to do was put them up on that hill.

Mr. Wysocki stated he feels it would be a somewhat lower utilized area because the Senior population is not as large a part of the membership and does not stay as long at the Pool.

Ms. Rock stated she did not feel that this area was just focused on Seniors. She stated she feels it would be used by parents who have older children at the Pool, and they do not have to be in the same area as their children. She stated she also has friends in their 30's and 40's who do not have children, and they do not want to be around other people's children. She stated she

feels there would be a good amount of people using that pool. Mr. Boyer stated that was the intention; and while the Township would make up the rules for its use, it was intended for those 30 and up who want a more-relaxed atmosphere.

Mr. Wysocki asked if they have designed this Plan around the typical make-up of the Pool membership. Ms. Tierney stated Mr. Boyer came up with the design based on our numbers, the feedback that was received, and interviews with key stakeholders including staff. She stated they are targeting toward a lot of people who are already attending the Pool and trying to make it appealing to even more people. Mr. Boyer stated this is a heavily-used facility, and they were looking to improve how people could use the Pool. Mr. Boyer stated also factored into the user load is the size of the deck and it is not just all net gains in the water area.

Mr. Wysocki stated with regard to the lanes in the 50 meter pool, he understood that it “was special in some way, and probably best not to tamper with because it was such a special thing in the area, and there were not a lot of pools of that nature.” Mr. Wysocki stated he also recalls that this is where people swim laps, and he felt that there were “battles over space in the lap pool.” He stated if they are going from six to four lanes, that would create an even bigger issue.

Ms. Tierney stated the issue is in the lap pool, and not the 50 meter pool as not everyone wants to swim 50 meters. Ms. Tierney stated if they were to provide the features that have been discussed, they would have to set times for lap swimming since the features would have to be removed in order for people to swim laps. Ms. Tierney stated there was a lot of discussion about the direction of the lap lanes, and the model that Mr. Boyer is suggesting is not just to have it this way but to provide as an option the ability to go in the opposite direction. She stated this is a heavily-used space, and we would have to get creative with the way that we use that space. Mr. Boyer stated that pool was actually built to go both directions, but the lines were never put down. He stated the infrastructure is there for it.

Mr. Wysocki asked if there was any consideration to winterizing one of the large pools with a bubble to allow some of the teams to swim in the winter. Mr. Boyer stated that was not raised. Mr. Wysocki stated someone brought this request to the Board years ago. He felt if they were re-doing the area to make it attractive to a broader number of users, they could consider this. Mr. Wysocki stated swimming is now year round, and if it is feasible to have an indoor facility, they may want to consider that. Mr. Boyer stated the two main types of complexes are all outdoor like the Township has, or if

you have an indoor facility it is in more of a Community Center type pool. Mr. Boyer asked Mr. Wysocki if the bubble would be kept over the pool all year. Mr. Wysocki stated he understands that some are inflatable domes, and in the summer it would be taken down. Mr. Boyer stated while that is possible, the cost would be very high; but they could look into that if that was something that they were interested in.

Mr. Wysocki stated he also feels that the wave pool was interesting; and even though it is \$1 million, he feels it would be an attractive feature. Mr. Boyer stated the wave pool could be added in addition to what has been proposed; however, when the interviews were done, some of those in charge were concerned about the cost. Mr. Wysocki stated he assumes that if there are surfboards, there would probably be a very small number of people that could use that at one time so it probably does not make sense economically.

Mr. Malinowski asked given the lack of money that we have had since Mr. Fedorchak left, how practical is it that we could do any of this in the near future. Ms. Tierney stated it is even less practical since COVID-19. She added that it will probably not happen in the next few years; but if money becomes available or there are Grant opportunities, by having this Plan in place which has been discussed at the community level, by the Board, and heavily vetted, it would be easy to submit a Grant quickly. She stated if we do not have something like this readily available, it would be harder to move forward with any kind of planning. She stated if we were to just proceed with a certain piece, it would be much easier if we have the Plan. She stated she felt that they should finish up what was started so that it is ready to go for when we can do things. Mr. Malinowski stated he feels a lot of great things have been proposed which would attract a significant number of people but first we have to re-open the Pool and then proceed from there.

Ms. Rock stated she thinks the shade sails, in-water seating, baby slide, food truck access, bucket sprays, and rope walk are all great. She stated she likes the adult area and, as she noted previously, does not feel it would be just for Seniors. She stated she has adult friends who avoid the Pool because they do not want to be around kids, and this would be a great space for them. She stated feels the surf pool would be an expensive waste of space that could be better utilized for something that everyone could use as opposed to just a few people at one time. Ms. Rock stated she does have concerns with the climbing wall which could result in kids falling on top of each other in the

water. She asked if that would be regulated as to how many people could climb at one time. Mr. Boyer stated it would be one at a time, or it could be more depending on how wide it is. He stated this was included in concept form, and they are available at different widths. He stated if there was a wide wall, there could be one person using it at each end, and they would have a guard there to regulate that. Mr. Boyer stated any of these features could be deleted. Ms. Rock stated she feels that is it a good option as it does not seem that it would take up a lot of space since it is a vertical wall provided someone is regulating how many people are on it at once.

Ms. Rock asked, while she is not sure that this would be possible, if they considered a lazy river adding she has been at pools that have this, and it is a nice option. She stated she also assumes there would not be an option to have alcohol, but if they did she feels it should be limited to the adult area and would be a nice attraction for the people who are in that adult area. Mr. Boyer stated the decision with regard to alcohol is up to the Township as they are the owners. He stated with regard to the lazy river, they always consider that; but they found that to be very hard to work into this site with everything else they have. He stated they were trying to re-use as much as they could to keep the cost down. Mr. Boyer stated he understands that the estimate is a lot of money; however, for a complex like this, that cost is on the low-end.

Ms. Rock stated she also likes the splash area for the little kids as that is something that a lot of people have been asking to have for a long time.

Mr. Brody stated he was at the public meeting and prior to that he was interviewed by Mr. Boyer as a member of the Pool who has young children. Mr. Brody stated when he was at the meeting when this was presented to the public, at least an hour and a half to two hours was dedicated to the direction of the lap pool. He stated there were many proponents for keeping the lap pool at 25 meters, and that changing it to 25 yards “would make people dizzy” because of the extra turns due to the shorter distance. He stated almost everyone there raised this as an issue. He stated the last person to speak was the High School Coach who stated that U. S. High School and Colleges swim at 25 yards, which was what was being presented width-wise. Mr. Brody stated someone had indicated that 25 yards is approximately 90% of 25 meters, so it would be one extra lap every ten laps.

Mr. Brody stated another big concern was with regard to the floatables; and while everyone loved the idea of the floatables, the concern was the re-movability and then having to put them back in. He stated they were asking if they would be easy to remove and get back in.

Mr. Brody stated he agrees with Ms. Rock that a lot of people like the idea of the adult pool. He stated people that were at the public meeting predominantly liked Concept #1 as presented.

Mr. Brody stated the other complaint was how this would be financed, and whether they should be doing this.

Mr. Brody asked if they considered going smaller at all since he feels if they are doing a comprehensive Pool Study, they should look into that as well. He asked if they considered whether we are running too big of a Pool complex. Mr. Boyer stated given what he saw of the numbers, in discussions with the staff, and seeing the Pool in person, he feels they are borderline small as it is; and he does not feel they could go smaller. He stated this is a very successful complex. He stated while it may be harder because of the financial situation at this time to carry through with this for a while, he feels they would be making a mistake if there were to try to downsize. Mr. Boyer stated there are some communities they work with where they do recommend downsizing, but he does not believe that is the case here.

Mr. Brody stated he has a five and an eight-year-old, and it is a challenge of having a child that cannot swim and one that can; and he feels the concept of a pool that would be for babies through age eight would be underutilized. He stated as soon as they can swim, the children want to get over to the bigger pools. He stated if they remove the slide from the area so that can be a play area, that would be very deep for younger children to play in. He stated his son is currently 4' 2", and he cannot stand in that area. He stated even though he can swim, he cannot play there for any extended period of time because that area is too deep for him. He stated if they are contemplating using the slide run-off area a play area for more people, it has to be made less deep so they can reach a bigger audience. Mr. Brody stated he feels they need more area for four to eight-year-olds who would be able to swim but do not have the vertical height to be able to stand. Mr. Boyer noted an area on the Plan where the depth could be changed. He stated currently it goes from beach entry to about 3' to 3' 6". Mr. Boyer stated they could make the new addition 2' deep, and Mr. Brody stated for that new area, they would not want to entice children who were too small

to that area. He stated there is a huge audience of those up to ten-years-old, and he wants them to be cognizant of the height of those children, and to insure that there is enough pool space so that they cannot only swim but that it is a low enough depth of water so that they can also stand.

Mr. Boyer stated widening that area as was discussed would definitely take care of some of that concern. He also stated beach entry gives a varying depth to play in, and the beach area proposed is pretty long so they could work their way out to the depth where they are comfortable. He stated if they feel it is too deep, it could be shallowed, and where the neck adjoins the existing pool, the pitch could change there.

Mr. Brody stated he understood that they were going to do a lot more leveling. He noted the area from the intermediate pool to the diving area is sloped grass, and they were going to make that more concrete with a wall down to another level. Mr. Boyer noted on the Plan where they removed the grass area and provided more deck space with a retaining wall between the two. He stated that relates to the user load as well. He stated the gain in the user load is not just related to water area, and it is how deck space is increased as well. Mr. Boyer stated the idea is that people will come and want to stay longer, and they are looking to have something for everyone to do as well as space and shade for everyone. He stated he feels they will attract more people who will want to stay longer than they do now.

Ms. Huchler stated when she was a member most adults did hang out by the competition pool. She stated adults would still be there to swim laps. She asked how else that competition pool will be used. She asked the depth of that pool. Ms. Tierney stated she imagines that they could use it more for swim lessons. She stated there are always lap swimmers. Mr. Boyer stated they were not trying to take the adults away from using that pool, but they had expressed that other than swimming laps, they did not have a body of water to relax in. Ms. Huchler stated she agrees that once her children were older, she did not really know where to stay and usually it was by the trees for the shade. Ms. Huchler stated she was thinking that pool might be under-utilized if the adults were pulled from there. Mr. Boyer stated they did not want to put other amenities there because they would be in the way of what that pool is to be used for.

Ms. Huchler stated she agrees with everyone that the area they were discussing where the slide enters was even difficult for her at times to be in there because she is short. She stated the kiddie pool is used for a very

short time, and her family spent a lot of time in the intermediate pool which was very crowded because the parents are in that pool with their children when their children are five to eight-years old. She stated she is no longer a member, but she does not feel that the kiddie pool which has a lot of space will be as crowded, and the intermediate pool should be able to handle the overload. She stated with a beach entry, she feels kids who are four years old will want to be there as well with their older siblings so it will get even more crowded. Mr. Boyer stated as they would increase the addition to the L-shaped pool, they could simultaneously reduce the wading area.

Ms. Tierney stated it may be best not to have a beach-entry and just start at 2' and go to 4' at the pool she noted on the Plan. Mr. Boyer stated it is possible that they could eliminate the beach entry, but still keep the ramp.

Ms. Huchler asked where are steps with respect to all of the grounds. She stated she understood that the adult pool would have an elevation, and they would be sitting higher. She asked if there are steps associated with that. Mr. Boyer showed the location of the ramp. He added that there is ramp access to every level. He stated below the wading pool, there is also a very large ramp. Ms. Huchler asked if all the different levels are accessed by ramps, and Mr. Boyer agreed. He also noted where there are stairs. He stated some areas have both ramps and stairs to provide better flow.

Ms. Huchler stated smaller children may be playing at the beach access in the kiddie pool, and she stated we should make sure that there is shade in the more shallow areas of the pool. Mr. Boyer stated they can install as much shade as they like.

Ms. Huchler asked if any of the pools have lifts. Mr. Boyer stated the competition pool has a lift, and there are no ramps. Ms. Tierney noted a location on the Plan where there is another lift. Ms. Huchler stated there is therefore one in the intermediate pool and one in the competition pool, and they are not shared; and Mr. Boyer agreed.

Ms. Huchler asked if the restrooms and locker areas are being modified. Mr. Boyer stated he understands Ms. Tierney was working on that. Ms. Tierney stated they had already started a project in the bathrooms. She stated in the summer they improved the HVAC. She stated we know that there are some accessibility issue, and she particularly noted the sinks, lockers, and the showers. Ms. Tierney stated she would be glad to meet with the Disability Advisory Board members at the Pool to discuss this. Ms. Huchler

asked about the timeframe for those improvements, and Ms. Tierney stated it would not be this year since the quotes came back very high, and they could only do the HVAC project. Ms. Huchler stated she feels that should be worked on prior to the Plan presented being done.

Ms. Tierney stated they all agree that work needs to be done in the bathrooms. She added they are making small modifications this year, but are not doing everything that really needs to be done.

Ms. Huchler stated she assumes with regard to the concession area, they kept in mind having ADA-compliant tables and access to the counter. Mr. Boyer stated that is correct. He stated this is only the Concept Phase, but in general all accesses are considered. He stated they are not at full design. He stated they find that implementing accessibility works well for everyone as many people prefer ramps instead of the stairs. Ms. Huchler stated she understands they do not have to have the ADA-compliant ramps in the kiddie pool as long as it is sloped into the deepest end. Mr. Boyer stated the beach entry goes from zero to 18" water depth. Ms. Huchler stated they would not therefore need handrails because of that slope. Mr. Boyer stated from their interpretation, they do not feel ADA wants hand rails in a wading pool, and Ms. Huchler agreed provided the wading pool has the proper slope. Ms. Huchler stated they find that handrails are dangerous for younger children as they tend to play on them.

Mr. Boyer asked when they were discussing taking the ramp away from the addition on the main pool, would they replace that with a wall that drops in or steps down that end, like there are currently at the intermediate pool. Mr. Blundi and Mr. Brody stated they would like there to be steps.

Mr. Rogers stated he is impressed with the Plan. He stated Ms. Huchler covered the majority of questions he had with regard to elevations, etc. He stated provided it is "overall ramped" at the proper slope, that takes away a lot of the problems. He stated he understands that they still have to go through detailed design, and the Disability Advisory Board will review that. He stated he agrees with Ms. Huchler that the restrooms need to be done sooner rather than later since that is an issue throughout the Park & Rec environment.

Mr. Mann stated he used the pool when he was growing up; and while that was some time ago, he agrees with others who have spoken that the intermediate pool is used by a lot of people. He stated the first time he used the

big pool, while he could swim, he was not able to stand. He stated he does not feel the upper end of the existing L-shaped pool is going to take the place of the intermediate pool as it is too deep. Mr. Mann stated it seems that they are making the intermediate pool smaller which he does not feel is wise given how big of a draw it is.

Mr. Boyer asked Mr. Mann if he agrees with the suggested changes to increase the size and to eliminate the ramp. Mr. Mann stated he feels the intermediate pool is still too small. He stated in looking at the Overlay, it seems that the peach-colored portion shown of the new intermediate pool compared to the footprint of the original intermediate pool it looks smaller visually. Mr. Boyer stated they subsequently discussed increasing that, and Mr. Mann stated he feels that it would be a good idea to make it bigger. He stated they need to realize that the upper part of the L-shaped pool is not going to be used as an extension of the intermediate pool because it is too deep to serve that function.

Mr. Boyer asked what depth they would recommend the pool be. Ms. Tierney stated she would go the same depth as the current intermediate pool. Mr. Blundi stated he feels it should be 2 ½ feet to 4 feet. Mr. Brody asked the depth of the current baby pool, and Ms. Tierney stated she believes it goes to 18". Mr. Brody asked if it is possible that it is less than 1', and Mr. Blundi stated he believes it is 1'. Mr. Brody stated if the new intermediate pool is 18", they are cutting out a lot of people who are going to swim in that pool. He stated that is also a major lesson pool.

Mr. Mann stated he feels it is important if they are going to have the accessible ramps, that they should consider purchasing pool-access wheelchairs. He stated he does not feel those needing this should be expected to supply the wheelchair on their own. He stated there are different types of wheelchairs for people with different levels of disability – both physical and cognitive.

Mr. Mann stated with regard to the wading pool for children up to age eight and their caregivers, it seems that would meet the ADA standards. He stated he feels they should consider if there are ways that the features that will be there are inclusive for children with disabilities. He stated the Township has inclusive playgrounds, and he feels that should be extended to this setting as well. Mr. Boyer asked that he forward to Ms. Tierney or the Park & Rec Board information on those types of features. Mr. Mann stated he feels his Board could do some research and get back to Ms. Tierney on this. Mr. Boyer stated

he will do some research as well. Mr. Mann stated it would not have to be something that is exclusively for those with disabilities rather it should be inclusive of people with disabilities.

Ms. Tierney thanked the Disability Advisory Board members for attending since she realizes they already had an earlier meeting. Ms. Huchler and Mr. Mann left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Brody stated they will meet on this at some point in the future, and he asked if that will be a joint meeting again; and Ms. Tierney stated she feels it would just be the Park & Recreation Board since they have gotten the feedback from the Disability Advisory Board. Mr. Brody asked if Park & Rec would be voting to recommend this Plan to the Board of Supervisors at the next meeting when they consider this Plan again. Ms. Tierney stated she feels they should pare it down to the one Concept they want to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for them to adopt. Ms. Tierney stated after that they would file the Plan with the State so that everything they did in the process would be on the Record so that they could apply for Grants. Mr. Brody asked if they need to make the adjustments they discussed before it is entered as a Master Plan. Mr. Boyer stated the Plan provided to the State is supposed to give shape, sizes, depths, and dimensions. He stated in the narrative it will discuss the ages the pools would be used by. He stated while the State wants to see all of that now to approve the Plan and consider funding, the Study would be good for a number of years. Mr. Boyer stated if the Township decides they want to implement the Plan in a few years the State would have the Plan; however, the Township would be able to change the Plan if they wanted to.

Ms. Tierney stated she feels this is similar to Memorial Park where they had a Plan, and while they were in the middle of the Grant process, they made a modification to provide more pickleball courts. She stated you can make modifications to a point.

Mr. Brody stated for the next meeting, he would like know the amount of water space we have from the baby pool to the 5' pool currently and what it would be with the new Plan. Mr. Boyer stated he can provide that. Mr. Brody stated if the new intermediate pool is only going to go to 18", they are really making a huge baby pool. Mr. Brody stated he believes the 2 ½' in the current intermediate pool gets to 3' to 3 ½' by the line, and the line is "not halfway through." He stated he feels it very quickly starts sloping into a deeper section. He stated he believes the current intermediate pool is mostly a 3' and deeper

pool. Mr. Brody stated he does not want to reduce the footprint of water. Mr. Brody stated he feels half or more of the swim lessons are in that pool, and Ms. Tierney agreed that is the swim lesson pool.

Mr. Brody stated if they make the concession stand bigger he assumes they are going to want to charge more. He stated if they are opening the Pool up to food trucks, they would be opening it up to competition. Mr. Boyer stated they were only considering that for special events, and not that they were going to replace the concession at all as he feels it is “fantastic.” He stated what was shown was just an option if there was to be an event. Ms. Tierney stated she fees it would be for events if they wanted to bring in something special.

There was no one in the public wishing to speak on this matter.

There being no further business, Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. Blundi seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Brody, Park & Rec Secretary

Lisa Huchler, Disability Advisory Board Secretary

