

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2019

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on December 10, 2019. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Gordon, Chair
 Michael Brody, Member
 Patricia Bunn, Member
 Bryan McNamara, Member

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

Absent: David Malinowski, Park & Rec Vice Chair
 Douglas Krauss, Secretary
 Dennis Wysocki, Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Brody moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of November 12, 2019 as written.

RECREATION DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Fee Schedule Discussion and Motion

Ms. Tierney stated the Park & Rec Board needs to review the Fee Schedule and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. She stated the only thing that will change this year are some of the Pool Fees. She stated one of the biggest requests they had at the Pool this year was for a non-Resident, August Membership. She stated this is a time when attendance at the Pool is low, and it is a good way to bring additional people in. She stated they are also looking to have a “Tween” Camp and the fees for that are shown. She stated this would be a Camp that runs Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. She stated they will have one trip a week which will be included in the fee. She stated you must have a Pool Membership to go to the Pool Tween Camp.

Mr. Gordon stated the other Camp that is run is not associated with the Pool, and Ms. Tierney stated they do swim once a week at the Pool with that Camp. She stated the one she is discussing this evening will be a Pool Camp and will be part of the Pool Budget. Ms. Tierney stated there was a demand in the Township for Tweens to be able to ride their bikes to the Pool, and there were some legal issues with that which put the Township at risk. She stated they contacted the Insurance Company to see if they could have a Tween Camp at the Pool where there would be counselors present, and they would have different activities including use of the Pool and other activities in the area of the Pool such as tennis and basketball.

Ms. Bunn asked about the legal issues that were being encountered, and she asked how old you need to be to be able to go to the Pool unsupervised. Ms. Tierney stated previously it was eleven; and for the summer of 2019, it was raised to fourteen. Ms. Bunn asked what would be the ages of those attending the Tween Camp, and Ms. Tierney stated it would be eleven to fourteen. Ms. Bunn asked if they go to play basketball or tennis would they be supervised, and Ms. Tierney agreed they would. Ms. Tierney stated if they are signed up for Camp and they do not show up at the Pool within a half hour of the start time, they would call the house and advise the parents that they did not show up so that there would be accountability.

Mr. Gordon asked if this will be the only Camp for those who are eleven to fourteen years old since the other Camp maxes out at ten. Ms. Tierney stated the other Camp goes to twelve. She stated this year there were four twelve-year olds at that Camp.

Mr. Brody asked if you have to be a Pool Member to go to the Tween Camp, and Ms. Tierney agreed. The fee shown would be in addition to the Pool Membership. Ms. Tierney stated the fee pays for the extra staff and the weekly trip.

Ms. Bunn asked how those attending the Tween Camp would get to the Pool, and Ms. Tierney stated they could come themselves or their parents would have to drop them off. Ms. Bunn stated most parents are working and they would not be able to drop them off at 12. Ms. Tierney stated that is correct, and they would have to get themselves there or have someone drive them. Ms. Bunn stated possibly they should consider what could be done for those interested who would have to drop off at 9 a.m. Ms. Tierney stated possibly they could have a CIT Program at the other Camp, and then have them go to the Pool at 12. Ms. Bunn stated she feels they should consider this since some parents may want to have a supervised place for their children prior to 12 p.m. since they would all not be able to ride their bikes to

the Pool. Ms. Tierney stated the Pool opens at 12 so previously when they were riding their bikes to the Pool they were in the house until 12. Ms. Tierney stated they could look into this to see if there is a demand for it. Ms. Bunn stated while they may decide not to offer this immediately, Ms. Tierney may want to consider this if they start to get questions.

Ms. Tierney stated they did have to make some adjustments to the regular Camp since initially they proposed it as either a four or eight-week option, and many people wanted a six-week option so they adjusted the pricing to accommodate those families that wanted six weeks.

Ms. Tierney stated while this does not relate to the Pool fees, they discussed some upgrades at the Pool which have been included in the Board's packet which they could discuss at this time.

Mr. Brody asked how much the Pool pavilion is used, and Ms. Tierney stated it is used a lot. Mr. Brody asked if it is felt that the fee is high enough for the pavilion. Ms. Tierney stated those using it are paying a Pool Membership, and she feels the \$10 is a nominal fee that is paid. She stated they could possibly provide more in the future where certain additional services are provided as add-ons. Ms. Tierney stated they may want to consider higher fees for the outside pavilions; however, for the Pool pavilion she feels the \$10 fee is appropriate. She stated she sees this as a benefit for being a Pool member to be able to use the Pool pavilion for \$10 an hour.

Mr. Brody asked if approving the Fee Schedule has anything to do with "explicit outlining" of what the Leagues are getting and what the Township is getting, and Ms. Tierney stated that would be something separate; however, if the Leagues sign an Agreement with the Township, these fees would be put into the Agreement.

Ms. Bunn asked about Field Reservation. She stated she understands currently there is a Special Event Fee of \$250 a field. She stated her son's team ran into a situation this year when they needed a lighted field, and they could not afford to pay the \$250 since it was just for one game. She asked if there could be a separate fee for just a one-time use. She stated it was not really a Special Event, and the Team was not making money off of it. She stated her son's team just needed to find a place to hold the Championship Game because a lot of the fields in the area were under water, but they could not find a place for a reasonable fee. Mr. Gordon asked Ms. Bunn if her son plays for PAA, and Ms. Bunn stated he does not – and it was Levittown Continental. Mr. Gordon stated that group is not paying User Fees in our Township; and Ms. Bunn stated while that is correct, there were four players on the Team who are Township residents.

Mr. Brody stated while \$250 does seem like a lot of money, he recently rented a basketball court at Pennsbury Racquet and Fitness Club for \$80 an hour. He stated for baseball with twenty players, that would be \$10 per player to play on the field for a couple of hours. Ms. Bunn stated their Team would have had to put out the money, but the Team did not have that amount of money and they could not tell the other Team to pay them \$100. Mr. McNamara asked if since PAA has the rights to the fields, could that Team not have just contacted PAA and asked them if they could use the field; however, Ms. Tierney stated that is not how it operates, and the Township would need their insurance paperwork, etc.

Ms. Tierney stated the \$250 fee is really for an all-day activity. Mr. Gordon stated it is not really set up for a Team from the outside coming in to borrow the field. Ms. Bunn stated this is not something that would happen all of the time, and it was because there was a situation where they were fighting the weather; and they wanted to get the game in before November. Ms. Tierney stated maybe they could consider an hourly fee if it is under four hours. Mr. McNamara stated they would have to pay for the lights in addition to that fee as well. Mr. Brody stated he feels Ms. Tierney should have the authority that if she was contacted and the fields were not being used by PAA, she could authorize its use. He stated he is not sure that it should be written out since it could seem that the intention would be that if people knew that the fields were available for their use, it could create issues. He stated he would prefer that it be handled individually by Ms. Tierney. Ms. Tierney stated her concern is that if she lets one Team do it, it opens it up to others; and that is where they could run into issues. She stated these would be non-Taxpayers when others are paying User Fees which is why she feels a fee is fair, although she recognizes that \$250 may be a little high for a couple of hours and that they would have to pay light fees on top of that.

Mr. Gordon stated he does not feel they need to alter the fees as he feels this was a unique situation that could be addressed some other way at some other time. Mr. Gordon and other Board members stated they would be comfortable with Ms. Tierney using her discretion in these situations.

Ms. Tierney stated she has highlighted in red the Program Guide Advertising Fee. She stated there is a chance that they will be using a company that does all the advertising so that the Township would not be paying anything for the Guide, so this cost might go away after this year.

Ms. Bunn asked if they are considering increasing the Dog Park fee, and Ms. Tierney stated she feels the fee is fine at this time. She stated they may want to re-evaluate it next year. She stated it was increased last year. She stated it was \$35 with a second dog, and now they charge \$15 per each additional dog.

Mr. Brody moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the 2020 Fee Schedule as provided to the Park & Rec Board.

Memorial Park Update

Ms. Tierney stated the Bids came in very high for the tennis courts, playground, and pickle ball courts. She stated they are going to some other Bid sites that the Township uses to look at different options. She stated the Township engineer is looking into this, and she will keep the Board advised. She stated the Township has one more year to get this project done.

CAPRA Accreditation

Ms. Tierney stated she provided the Board a packet on CAPRA. Ms. Tierney stated she has applied for this, and it is currently free as they have waived the fee at this time. She stated it is a two-year process. She stated she is in favor of this since it holds the Township to a higher standard. She stated the packet shows that it includes some things that she has been planning to do, and it is in line with the Comprehensive Master Plan. She stated some of these things she has been doing already to bring the Township up to the next level.

Ms. Tierney showed a short video on this program.

Mr. Gordon asked Ms. Tierney how she heard about this program; and Ms. Tierney stated she is a member of the National Recreation and Park Society and she has seen more and more Townships that are CAPRA Accredited, and she started looking into it. She showed the manual to the Board this evening. She stated the requirements include updated Mission/Vision/Goals, and it holds the Township to a much higher standard. She stated there is not one park agency in Pennsylvania that has this yet so Lower Makefield could be the first. She stated they evaluate you based on your size and your Budget. She stated we have a lot going for us in that we have Leagues that draw National attention, the award-winning Golf Course, and other great assets in the community. She stated by going through this process and formalizing the way

we do things, it could bring us to the next level and make people want to move here and feel proud to live here. She stated it also allows you opportunities to get more Grants.

Ms. Tierney stated it is a significant, two-year process. Mr. Gordon asked if there is a financial commitment, and Ms. Tierney stated we are already committed to a lot of it. She stated she would have to go to a training and at the end of the two-year period attend the NRPA Conference (National Recreation and Park Association) to present. She stated we already have most of the Plans, although she may have to expand them a little bit. She stated they already have the Comprehensive Plan that is required as well as some of the Park Inventories that are required. She stated Policies may have to be adjusted. She stated we also do not have the best Park Maintenance Plan so that could be upgraded and updated.

Ms. Bunn asked if there is a cost to being a member, and Ms. Tierney stated we are already paying the Membership Fee for NRPA.

Mr. Gordon asked if there would be any advantage to the Certification with regard to insurance costs, and Ms. Tierney stated she would have to look into that.

Mr. McNamara asked the cost; and Ms. Tierney stated it was \$100, but that fee has been waived at this time. Mr. McNamara asked if they would have to do any upgrades to meet CAPRA standards. Ms. Tierney stated if they maintain the parks better in the long run, they would not have a larger cost although she does feel they will have to repair the tennis courts which is something they were considering. She stated other than that, she feels the Township is in good condition although she feels there should be a better Maintenance Plan in general. She stated there may need to be some additions to the Field Inventory that was done, and we might have to do more of an expansive inventory. She stated she does not feel the cost will be tremendous. Mr. McNamara asked if it is possible that they would find that they have to add bathrooms at Macclesfield, and Ms. Tierney stated she did not see that on the list although it could be. She stated that could make for a better long-term plan as part of this is finding what is wrong and having a plan to address it. She stated she does not feel they would have to install everything in order to get the Accreditation.

Mr. McNamara asked if they were to build Snipes to CAPRA standards would that change anything, and Ms. Tierney stated she does not believe it would. She stated in reviewing the handbook it is more having the appropriate tools in place to maintain what you have and keep it to a higher-level standard. Mr. Gordon stated most of this

is being done already. Ms. Tierney stated this is more about the big picture, having a plan in place to provide the best services with what we have and to create a long-term plan to meet the needs of the growing population.

Ms. Tierney stated we do have some things that need to be maintained better. She stated as part of the Budget, they have created a three-year Trail Maintenance Plan. She stated we are also getting more sophisticated in the way we operate. Ms. Tierney stated she feels we are looking more at what we have, whether we have quality facilities, and what is the plan for future population growth.

Ms. Bunn stated she does not feel there will be a lot of population growth. Ms. Tierney stated they will look at our trends and our Comprehensive Plan that shows what our population growth is projected to be.

Ms. Tierney stated she feels this accreditation is attainable; and if it is not done in two years, she could apply for an extension. She feels this is something that the Township can work towards. She stated she feels this will take the Township to the next level, and she encouraged the Board members to look at their Website or call CAPRA if they have any questions.

Ms. Tierney stated ahead of CAPRA she had already been working on structuring the Park & Recreation Department better.

Ms. Tierney provided the Park & Rec Board with a copy of the Ordinance that created the Park & Recreation Board in 1967, which is Ordinance No. 76. She stated she does not necessarily feel they need to change the Ordinance as it is generic as to what are the expectations of the Board, and what she is proposing has nothing specific to do with the Park & Recreation Board as it is more about the Park & Recreation Department.

Ms. Tierney provided the Board with a copy of an Organization Chart with the gray being other Departments. She noted what falls underneath Park & Recreation. She noted that Ms. Holmes also does Administrative work, but is primarily Park & Recreation. Ms. Tierney stated she would like to take the names out and then post this on-line so that people can see the structure of the Department.

Mr. McNamara asked if Mr. Heilferty is paid, and Ms. Tierney stated he is. He is the part-time Naturalist at the Five Mile Woods.

Ms. Tierney stated this is one of the requirements for CAPRA, and she was already working on this.

Mission/Vision/Goals Discussion

Ms. Tierney provided a timeline of things that have happened in Park & Recreation. She noted those items in red are facilities, and those in blue are events.

Ms. Tierney read the previous Mission of the Park & Recreation Board as follows: “It is the mission of the Park & Recreation Board to plan the orderly development and use of the Township parks and recreation facilities for Lower Makefield Township sanctioned organizations and individuals for non-profit recreational purposes. The use of these public facilities will be made in a non-discriminatory fashion with the intention of promoting participation for all residents of Lower Makefield Township subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the Park & Recreation policy statement.”

Ms. Tierney stated what she is proposing is a new Vision statement looking into the future to be “Cultivating health, happiness, and community.” She stated the proposed new Mission Statement will be a three-pillar statement which goes along with the Comprehensive Master Plan and the NRPA standards which are the National standards for Park & Recreation. She stated the proposed Mission Statement is for health – “Improve physical health, mental health, and overall quality of life by offering safe and accessible facilities and open space.” She stated the next is for environment – “Act as environmental stewards through responsible use of the natural environment and protect and maintain Park and Recreation Assets.” She stated the third is for the community – “Create opportunities for the community to connect through a wide variety of partnerships, programs, events, and classes.”

Ms. Bunn noted when they dedicated the Softball Complex in 2000 it was not called Fred Allan. It was noted that it was called the Roelofs Complex at that time. Ms. Bunn stated in 2012 it was dedicated as the Fred Allan Complex.

Ms. Tierney stated she believes that what she is proposing is the direction we are going and everything we do meets what she is proposing and what we do moving forward will fit in as well. She stated she and Mr. Ferguson had extensive discussions about this and she also brought the entire staff in and discussed everything they do. She stated originally they had considered a Vision Statement of “connecting the community;” however, they did not feel that looked into the future, and they felt what is now proposed was a good vision based on all the things they do.

Ms. Tierney provided a hand-out showing the Goals. She stated most of the goals will be more annual goals but some will be longer term. She stated they tried to make measurable goals which would be reported on quarterly. Ms. Tierney stated the staff was very excited to go through this process, and she felt it gave them buy-in into what we could be doing in the future. She stated she asked the staff to consider what they need to do to reach these goals.

There was discussion about the “End dates” for the Goals, and Ms. Tierney stated most of them are by the end of 2020 other than the last two. She stated with regard to the goal of increasing athletic field space by three multi-use fields to accommodate growing Leagues by the end of 2023, this does not necessarily mean Snipes; and it is just to determine something by 2023. Mr. McNamara asked if that means something would be built by 2023, and Ms. Tierney stated if they are going to build Snipes it is going to take some time.

Ms. Bunn noted the goal of establishing at least three annual volunteer opportunities, and she asked if that would be Scout projects, and Ms. Tierney stated what she is referring to in this goal would be something bigger similar to the tree-planting. Ms. Bunn stated she would like there to be a list of opportunities for Scouts since often they do not know what the community needs, and Ms. Bunn stated she does have a list.

Mr. McNamara asked about the goal of a Recycling Ordinance, and Ms. Tierney stated she feels that within the Park system we could do a better job of making recycling opportunities more available so that everywhere there is a trash receptacle, there would also be a recycling receptacle. She stated she would like this to be more Park specific. She stated there is a Recycling Ordinance for the Township, but she feels the Parks should do better as they know that the Leagues are using a significant amount of bottles; and if they can make it more available for the people at the fields, they could do a better job to help the environment.

Mr. McNamara asked again about the 2023 end date for the fields, and he asked if Ms. Tierney is just proposing that there be a plan by 2023. Ms. Tierney stated she wants them to be “moving forward” by 2023. Mr. McNamara asked if it would be accomplished by 2023, and Ms. Tierney stated they want to be moving forward on something by 2023. She stated it might not be completed because it takes some time for construction, but they want to be actively working on whatever it is.

Mr. McNamara asked for an explanation of “program cancellation rate of less than 10%.” Ms. Tierney stated when they originally opened the Community Center, they were offering a significant amount of programs; but now they want to be more thoughtful in their process so that they are not cancelling programs that have only one or two people registered for a program. She stated they want to offer things that are more meaningful and thought out. She stated if there would be a new vendor, they would only allow them to offer one program at a time until they see if there is more of a demand. Ms. Tierney stated she does not feel it is good service to cancel a class.

Mr. Brody asked Ms. Tierney if she feels they can accomplish these goals with the number of staff currently in place, and Ms. Tierney stated that she feels they can. She stated if they were to build fields at a park other than at an existing park, she feels they may need more staff.

Ms. Tierney asked that the Board advise her if they have any other goals they would like to be considered.

Mr. McNamara stated he would like the 2023 goal for the fields to be built and not just to have a plan in place. Ms. Tierney stated she does not feel that is realistic unless they were to use fields that they already have.

Mr. Brody noted the goal of increasing Pool membership revenue to \$1 million, and he asked how far they are from that goal. Ms. Tierney stated it would be approximately a \$150,000 increase from what was made this year which was \$832,265.

Mr. Brody stated his only issue with the goals is that it is about new things, and there is nothing about replenishing and rehabbing existing things. He stated there is nothing that would tie into what he feels should be done at all the bathrooms at all the parks except for Memorial Park. He stated it also does not tie into any of the things they have agreed need to get done at the Pool. He stated he would not want that to be overlooked in order to accomplish these new goals, and he would like to reinvest in current assets.

Ms. Tierney stated they are doing some of that work; however, she agrees that it should be written down. She asked Mr. Brody to write down whatever he can think of so that it can be included. Ms. Tierney stated that could be brought back to the Park Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Lewis stated some of that would follow from what they were discussing earlier with regard to accreditation including implementing a comprehensive master strategy for maintenance for all Park assets. Mr. Brody stated that was the sense of what he was referring to, and he feels that would be a good goal to add. Ms. Tierney stated she could look at some of the items for the accreditation and create goals from those to add to the Goals form so it is made a more expansive document. She stated she will provide that to the Park Board at the next meeting.

Ms. Tierney noted the Park and Recreation Dashboard which she created that was provided to the Park and Recreation Board. She stated this would be viewable to the public so they can see how many people are using the facilities at any given time. Ms. Bunn stated she noticed the PAA was last, and she feels it should be listed as the Seniors, YMS, PAA, etc. Ms. Tierney suggested that she put it in alphabetical order, and this was acceptable to Ms. Bunn.

Mr. Brody asked why first year T-Ball was broken out, and Ms. Tierney stated that is because it is free.

Ms. Tierney stated she does not have the YMS fall numbers shown because she is still waiting for YMS to provide them.

Mr. Lewis stated it seems that 10% of the Township population is “Pool active,” and they are the people paying for the Pool. He stated there are also a number of families that are members of the Pool as well as being members of some of the Athletic organizations. He stated it would be interesting to know what percent of the total residents are engaged in Park & Rec functions since this would provide more buy-in to show that the fields are not just for a few players. Ms. Tierney stated she could provide statistics on this as they know how many families are in the Township because they have the Comprehensive Plan, and they know the number of families that are participating so she could show those percentages. Mr. Lewis stated it would also be interesting to show how many people visit the Pool in a given year. He stated he feels with this Dashboard they should be selling the fact that there is very high utilization and that it involves many residents of the community.

Ms. Bunn asked if they could show a monthly average of attendance at the Pool. Ms. Tierney stated she was just providing annual information, but she could pick out different metrics. Ms. Bunn stated it would be interesting to see the utilization at the Pool throughout the different months. Ms. Tierney stated she can provide that at any time. She stated with the posting for the residents, she did not want to give so much information that they would not look at it, and she was looking to provide the residents an annual snapshot of use. Ms. Tierney stated she can add percentages to this document

if that is what the Board wants. She stated she would like to get the rest of the information from YMS before she posts anything. She stated with regard to the information provided on Community Center usage, this means that at any given time someone is at the Community Center during usable hours. Mr. Lewis asked the usable hours, and Ms. Tierney stated it is eleven hours a day, six days a week.

Mr. Brody stated he feels if they are going to show resident and non-resident usage for those paying User Fees, he feels they should also show it for Community Center usage and the Camp. Ms. Tierney stated she can break that out.

Mr. Brody stated LMFA has more non-residents than residents, and YMS is only 60% residents. Mr. Brody stated he also feels they should include the number of fields/courts used by each organization. Ms. Bunn asked if that should include School fields used, but Ms. Tierney stated she feels this should just be the Township. Mr. Brody stated they could add a note that this does not include the School fields that are used.

Ms. Tierney agreed to include numbers for residents and non-residents in all categories. Ms. Tierney stated there is also a chart in the Facility Report which she could post which is comprehensive as far as field usage.

Ms. Tierney noted the Canvas done for the Pool which the staff enjoyed as she asked that they think outside the box. She stated those items they came up with which she feels are achievable have been highlighted in red. She stated they used the knowledge of population growth/patterns in the Township from the Comprehensive Plan. She stated they have found that one third of the population is 65 and older, another third is 55 and older, and School age is one sixth of the population. She stated the Pool is really family oriented, but they may need to put more focus on individuals.

Pool Discussion

Ms. Tierney stated this next year they want to improve the Wi-Fi user experience at the Pool as the Wi-Fi goes out all the time, and they want to improve that service since it is something that they promote.

Ms. Tierney stated she does not know about providing concierge service at the Pool. She stated that this would mean that a waitress/waiter would bring your food to you. Ms. Bunn was not in favor of providing this service; however, Ms. Tierney stated she feels the members would find value in this. Mr. Lewis stated there could also be a mobile app to order.

Ms. Tierney stated they also discussed having a League Day at the Pool. She stated she has been contacted by the Leagues in the past about whether they could have a day when their families could come in and have an event. Ms. Tierney stated she was hesitant to do that to the paying members by bringing in a large number of children and “changing the landscape of an expected day at the Pool.” She stated they will be opening the Pool for training the staff about one week early, and she felt there could be one night when all the Leagues could come in for \$5 per person if you are not a Pool member, and free if you are a Pool member. She stated they could offer applying that \$5 toward a Membership as a discount on that night. She stated this would provide an opportunity for the staff to practice for the season. She stated it would also be the end of the season for some of the Leagues, and would be a good time for them to gather. Ms. Tierney stated \$5 per person is already the amount of the Special Event Guest Fee.

Ms. Bunn asked if this would be on a Friday or Saturday night, and Ms. Tierney stated they were considering doing it mid-week. Ms. Bunn stated she feels that would be difficult for families during the School week. Ms. Tierney stated she does not feel they would be able to do it on a weekend as the staff uses the weekends to get work done at the Pool prior to the Pool opening. She stated they also do trainings on the weekends that they need to cover before the season starts. Ms. Bunn stated she is in favor of the idea but does not feel they should do it mid week. Ms. Tierney stated they could consider this further about having it on the weekend. She added she feels this is a good way to get people into the Pool who are not members. Ms. Bunn stated possibly they could have \$1 hot dogs as well that night.

Ms. Tierney stated another idea was to have a Refer-A-Friend Program; and if you refer a friend, you could get a Pool Guest pass or be entered into a drawing for a prize.

Ms. Tierney stated there was discussion about advertising on the Middletown “M;” however, Ms. Tierney and other Park & Recreation Board members stated they were not in favor of that.

Ms. Tierney stated they also discussed Text Message Marketing.

Ms. Tierney stated someone also mentioned bringing in synchronized swimming, although she is not sure that is doable or if there would be a coach.

Mr. Brody suggested having an event when the High School divers could come in and put on a diving show.

Ms. Tierney stated there is an aging population and a lot of people want just specific adult time. She stated they do have Teen Nights, but possibly they could have two Adult Nights as well, and they could have a special dinner.

Budget Highlights

Ms. Tierney stated they are going to install the bushes at Memorial Park with Fee-In-Lieu funds which is not taxpayer money, rather these are Fees that developers pay in lieu of putting in recreation. Ms. Bunn asked if there is money reserved for that or if this would be future Fee-In-Lieu funds, and Ms. Tierney stated there are funds already available. Ms. Tierney stated they are also creating a Capital Reserve in the Park Budget so that for all of the projects that were in line for this year that did not get done, that money will get placed in the Capital Reserve Fund.

Ms. Tierney stated she adjusted some items in the Pool. She stated there was a very large miscellaneous Budget, and she is not in favor of that so she allocated everything out into different line items.

Ms. Tierney stated they are also working on a Trail Maintenance Plan, and she showed this to the Park & Recreation Board this evening. She noted the three-year Bike Path Maintenance Plan. She stated the staff went out and rated all of the bike paths. She stated while she wishes that there was more that they could do, they are creating a plan which they will constantly be reviewing. She showed the paths that will be done in 2020 including a portion of Big Oak Road and a portion of Heacock Road. Since some of this information was not able to be read, Ms. Tierney agreed to send a better map to the Board members.

Mr. Brody asked if there is a concern about the possibility of the Board of Supervisors eliminating the .24 millage increase from last year. Ms. Tierney stated there are projects that they have to do in the future. Mr. Brody asked if the Park Board should make a Motion recommending that the Board not eliminate that millage. He stated last year they approved a .24 millage increase, and Ms. Bunn stated she feels the Park & Recreation Board could send a statement indicating their support for keeping this tax. Mr. Lewis reviewed the history of why the .24 millage was agreed to. He stated he feels an approach that combines a modest millage increase with bank loans and Grants is the best approach to get “shovels in the ground” in 2023. Mr. Brody stated at this point the Board of Supervisors is considering eliminating that .24 millage.

Mr. Brody moved and Ms. Bunn seconded to suggest to the Board of Supervisors keeping the .24 millage increase from last year to put into the Future Project funding for Park & Recreation Capital Projects.

Mr. Brody stated the Park & Recreation Board is in support of previously-approved projects based on the Bucks County Need Assessment for the Township. Mr. Lewis stated he understands that the Park & Rec Board feels that keeping that increase is a constructive method to allow for long-term Capital Improvements in Park & Rec assets, and they support its continued use for the Capital projects that are allocated. Mr. Brody asked that Mr. Lewis express that point to the rest of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. McNamara stated it should be noted that they feel they do not have enough to be self-sufficient within the Park & Rec system.

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Ms. Bunn moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Gordon, Chair