

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

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on September 10, 2019. Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wysocki moved and Ms. Bunn seconded to approve the Minutes of May 14, 2019 as amended. Motion carried with Mr. Brody abstained.

DISC GOLF PROPOSAL FROM JOSH’S SQUAD HOUSE

Mr. Scott Goldinger, 505 Brook Bend Court, and Mr. Mike Attara were present. Mr. Goldinger stated he believes that everyone knows that about two years ago their son Josh passed; and they formulated Josh’s Squad House in his honor. He stated their son Josh had formed his own Squad House where his friends came, and one of the things they did was to play Frisbee, and he had hoped to play on the JV Squad; but he passed right before Ninth Grade. Mr. Goldinger stated he took Josh to Tyler State Park where they would play Frisbee Golf. Mr. Goldinger stated Ms. Tierney has been very kind and helped them with their first event and has been involved with their Foundation. Mr. Goldinger stated Mr. Attara is a long-time friend, and golf is his passion. They felt that Disc Golf would be something that emulated Josh and could be community based with an opportunity to have it within walking distance of their home; and Josh walked that route and enjoyed things in the neighborhood like Kids Kingdom, Edgewood, and the Community Pool.

Mr. Goldinger stated the proceeds from their fundraiser are going to go toward funding a nine-hole disc golf course. He stated they try to do activities that include Josh's friends so that his Squad is still together. He stated with Mr. Attara's and the Bucks Technical School's help they designed and built "Wall Jam" which was a great event in keeping with the Frisbee theme and disc golf.

Mr. Attara stated they feel building this disc golf course is a good opportunity to bring young people together. He stated they have walked the proposed property which is around the back of the Community Center where there is open space and space that is also in the trees. He stated for disc golf you want to be able to play in both of those areas so that there are different opportunities to play the game. He stated they discussed the costs, and there is enough money to support it through the Foundation.

Ms. Tierney stated she found out about Innova Disc Golf at the last Pennsylvania Recreation Society Conference. She stated she had discussions with the company as to location, and they can really put it anywhere; but she feels they would want to be conscious of our neighbors so they would need to communicate with PA American Water and those living in some of the nearby houses. Ms. Tierney stated if the Park & Recreation Board is interested in the idea, they would come up with a plan with the full support of the Squad House, and the Board could then make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. She stated she feels the location is doable, and there are plenty of users of the Community Center who would use it.

Mr. Gordon stated he would be concerned about neighbors and any "danger spots." He stated he has played this in Tyler previously, and he knows that some of the spaces are steep. He stated he wants to make sure that it is safe.

Mr. McNamara stated they were planning on doing this at Memorial Park, and he asked why they would not do it there. Ms. Tierney stated she is not opposed to that either, but the location at the Community Center would be closer to the Goldinger's home. Mr. Krauss stated Memorial Park would be all open as opposed to the location at the Community Center that would have some woods. Mr. Gordon stated having this at the Community Center would not preclude having another disc golf course at Memorial Park at some point, and there could be multiple locations. Ms. Bunn asked if it would be more appropriate at Memorial Park; and Ms. Tierney stated she feels it would be fine at either location, and she stated maybe the nine-hole course could be a beginner course, and they could at some point build a full eighteen-hole course at Memorial Park.

Mr. Malinowski asked how far an errant shot could go, and it was noted it could go twenty yards. It was noted that the discs are weighted differently as they are meant for different distances on the course. It was noted that the average length hole is approximately 200’.

Mr. McNamara noted the area at the Community Center which is used for overflow parking when there are Softball Tournaments. Ms. Tierney stated the course would not have to go in the middle of the field, and they could keep the field open for parking when necessary. Mr. Wysocki asked if they were considering this space at the Community Center for anything else; and Ms. Tierney stated originally it was to be bocce, but the space was not laid out appropriately for bocce and they had corn hole added last year as a Boy Scout project.

Mr. Gordon stated he assumes that at this point Ms. Tierney is just looking to see if the Park & Recreation Board is comfortable with recommending the concept and further vetting of an appropriate space for it; and Ms. Tierney agreed adding she feels the next step would be to contact the company to see if they could look at the space and determine feasibility.

Mr. Krauss noted the hand-out provided from Innova and stated he assumes we would get everything that is on the hand-out. Mr. Krauss stated he assumes the equipment would be kept at the Community Center although most people who play carry their own discs. Mr. Attara stated it would make sense to have the course at the Community Center so that the community would have access to the equipment. It was noted this could also be added as a Township activity.

Mr. Goldinger stated he would like to have it at the Community Center as young people could ride their bikes to this location. It was noted that it could also be used for the Summer Camp.

Ms. Bunn asked if the company will do all the master planning, and Ms. Tierney stated they do everything.

Mr. Lewis asked where they would like to locate this behind the Community Center adding there is an L-shaped parcel of open space. Ms. Tierney stated they would want to put some of it in the open area and some of it in the trees. Mr. Lewis suggested that Mr. Pockl look at the site to make sure there are no wetlands issues, etc. Mr. Wysocki stated the first step would be to have the company look at it to see if they feel that area could fit this in, and then have Mr. Pockl look at it.

Mr. McNamara again noted his concern about parking in this area for baseball/softball tournaments. Mr. Brody stated they close baseball fields for soccer tournaments so he feels they could close this for a baseball tournament. Mr. Gordon stated it would just be a basket, so they could park around it.

Mr. Wysocki asked if they put the tees in concrete like they do at Tyler, and Mr. Attara stated that is not required and some places just use pressure-treated wood or a mat. Mr. Wysocki asked about the timeframe, and Mr. Attara stated he feels they should contact the company to see when they could come out and have them do a schematic of the area, and then see if Mr. Pockl could be there at that time.

Ms. Tierney asked if they should do fact finding before they make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors; and Mr. Lewis stated he feels the Park & Recreation Board could make a Motion to contact Innova Disc Golf and to have Mr. Pockl put together a Preliminary Sketch Plan as to how this would work behind the Community Center.

Mr. Lewis asked the total cost and asked if that includes installation, and Ms. Tierney stated it is \$9,999 including installation. Mr. Attara stated the equipment is only approximately \$2,500 so you are paying for their expertise to come out and the installation.

Mr. Brody noted he has a personal relationship with the Goldingers, but he does intend to vote on this; and it was noted Mr. Brody would not have to recuse himself.

Mr. Wysocki moved and Mr. Brody seconded to contact Innova to do a fact finding and schematic of the area at the Community Center to check the feasibility of putting in a nine-hole course there.

Ms. Bunn asked if they have to include the Township engineer at this point as she feels that would be an unnecessary expense to the Township, and she feels Innova would know what to look for. Mr. Lewis stated while he does not know what Mr. Pockl's retainer is, there could be issues with wetlands or property lines. Ms. Bunn stated the Township should have all of that information from when the Community Center was built. Ms. Tierney stated the initial walk-through could be with Mr. Majewski, and Mr. Lewis stated that would work as well. Ms. Tierney stated in that way they would be using Township staff.

Mr. Krauss asked if there is Plan B for an alternative location if it does not work at the Community Center; and Mr. Goldinger stated while they had not discussed that, they would entertain it. Mr. Gordon stated they could go to the Pennsbury School District and ask to use some of the field behind Edgewood. It was also noted

there could be an area near the Pool. Mr. Lewis discussed the area of the silt pile and stated not all of the silt pile is subject to the Conservation Easement, and he believes there are approximately three acres that are not subject to the Conservation Easement. He stated this would be near the Railroad. Ms. Bunn expressed concern that the area is near the gun range.

Ms. Tierney stated they could look at a number of options to determine what would be best. Ms. Bunn stated she feels at this point they should just consider the Community Center location. Ms. Tierney stated if Innova comes out she would want them to look at the Community Center; however, if it is determined that would not be the best location, they could then show them other locations.

After further discussion it was agreed to amend the Motion as follows: Moved to contact Innova to do a fact-finding and schematic of putting in a dis golf course and determine A, B, and C location options. Motion carried unanimously.

#### LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Steve Beede, YMS President, was present. He reviewed YMS' spring season. He stated YMS is doing well on the Travel side, and the In-House program was very strong this spring with numbers over 700. He stated this fall they capped out at 804. He discussed the number of hours their volunteers are putting in.

Mr. Beede stated they have been discussing some improvements they would like to do at Macclesfield and had initiated a discussion with Ms. Tierney about four months ago. He stated initially they had a list of five different projects. He stated they were looking to see if they could tap off of the fire hydrant that is in the back of the Park to create irrigation or a water source to water the back fields, but ultimately PA American would not approve that.

Mr. Beede stated they are looking to extend the roof that is at the current shed to provide coverage for some of the equipment that is currently stored outside; however, they are not ready to present that at this time. Mr. Beede stated they are pursuing a sports camera system for the turf field and Field D to be able to film the training sessions, livestream the games, and provide an additional coaching resource; however, they are also not ready for that at this time.

Mr. Beede there are two which he is ready to discuss one of which is signage to put at Macclesfield to recognize the achievements the Club has had in National Championships over the years. Mr. Beede provided a hand-out and stated they are looking to add a sign at the entrance next to the Macclesfield map, and the sign would say, "Proud Home of Yardley Makefield Soccer Two-Time National Champions" and they would recognize the two years the National Championships were won. He stated the sign would probably be 3' by 4', and they feel that would be at a good location when you come into the Park. He stated they are the predominant user of Macclesfield, and they want to recognize that achievement has happened twice in this community.

Mr. Wysocki asked what would happen when they win the next National Championship, and Mr. Beede stated they would replace the sign and add another year. Mr. Wysocki asked what the material would be, and Mr. Beede stated it would be wood.

Mr. Wysocki asked if there are any sign restrictions, and Ms. Tierney stated it would have to go to Mr. Majewski for approval.

Ms. Tierney stated the Motion would be to have her write a letter of approval from the Board so that they can continue with this project.

Ms. Bunn stated while she does not have a problem with this proposal, she is concerned that there may be community backlash saying "proud home" since they do not really have a "home complex;" and she is afraid that it will be misinterpreted. She stated it is not really an exclusive home because football and baseball also play there. She asked if there is a better way to word this. Mr. Gordon stated they could take out "Proud Home of" and center the other words. Mr. Beede stated he would be fine with that. Mr. Brody stated he would argue that they should have "Proud Home of" since he feels the Leagues provide value to the neighbors and speaks to the community they are from although he would be fine with either.

Mr. Krauss stated he does feel there should be consistency, and they should realize that every time someone wins something they may also want to have a sign. Ms. Tierney asked if they should consider setting a standard for the future as to how this is done and where they would allow it.

No one on the Park & Recreation Board was opposed to a sign as proposed.

Ms. Tierney asked about the location, and the Board had no issue with location proposed by Mr. Beede pending approval by Mr. Majewski. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels the sign should be visible by everyone coming into Macclesfield Park.

Ms. Bunn moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the sign as discussed taking off the words “Proud Home Of” and having it state, “Two Time National Champions” and the years below.

Ms. Tierney advised Mr. Beede that she had put something on Social Media about the 8-U Team recognizing their recent accomplishment, and that was because PAA reached out to her. She stated if something significant happens at YMS, they can advise her, and she will share that on Social Media. Mr. Beede stated YMS has hired a marketing/communications person part-time for their YMS Facebook page.

Mr. Beede stated they need to store a lot of equipment and gear at Macclesfield much of which needs to be moved around the fields. He stated one of the issues they have is that they do not have storage for all of the equipment; and it is suffering from the impacts of weather, misuse, and theft. He stated they would like permission to put what is essentially a Conex shipping container as a storage unit on the back side of the turf field. He provided a picture of the container and where they would like to locate the Conex box which is off the back goal where there is a small rectangle on the hand-out.

Mr. Beede stated they would be adding a gate and putting down a gravel base. He stated they would do all of this according to Code and Permitting as necessary. He stated there would be a gravel path going to the double gate so that they can move equipment in and out of the storage unit.

Mr. McNamara asked how much it will cost, and Mr. Beede stated he does not know but YMS will be paying for it. Mr. McNamara asked if they could not have something that is more aesthetically pleasing similar to the large shed that LMFA Football has. Mr. Beede stated they discussed painting it dark blue and putting their logo on the side. He stated he believes that they found that the Conex box would cost significantly less than building a shed. Mr. Beede stated it is approximately 20’ long, 8’ high, and 8’ wide.

Mr. Krauss asked if there would be any benefit to moving it closer to the end corner and use the existing gate as opposed to putting in a new gate. Mr. Krauss stated that gate is a single gate, so they would have to take it up and put in a double gate anyway. He stated that area is where a lot of the drainage is built in that goes to the drainage basin. Mr. Beede stated putting in a gate is not a significant project. Mr. Beede stated the location could be up for discussion.

Mr. Gordon stated he feels this will be an “eyesore in this beautiful Park,” and the C and D area is the prime spot of the Park. He asked about the area as you are driving around with C on the left where they have the shed on the right. He asked about putting this on the grass area to the right of the shed. Mr. Beede stated their goal was to have it directly accessible to the turf since they are moving a lot of equipment. Mr. Gordon stated what he is proposing would not be as convenient from a location standpoint, but it would not be an eyesore since it would not be in a prime location. Ms. Bunn suggested a different location, and Mr. Wysocki stated they are concerned about convenience. Ms. Bunn stated she feels people will complain if they put this structure in the proposed location. She stated if they are not willing to change it to a shed-like structure, she feels the structure they are proposing would have to be better located so it is not an eyesore for the rest of the Park. Mr. Beede stated he would be willing to investigate a shed-like structure. Mr. Gordon stated he does not feel an “ugly storage container” should be right next to the turf field, but he would not have a problem if it were on the other side next to the shed. He stated if it is something more aesthetically-pleasing, he would not have a problem with it being closer to the field. Mr. Wysocki stated the idea is to have an economical storage unit; and if it is visually lacking, they could plant shrubs around it to hide it. Ms. Bunn stated she would like to look into this further to see if there is a better option. Mr. Gordon asked that they find the right balance between convenience and aesthetics.

Mr. Lewis asked how much they have budgeted for this; and Mr. Beede stated he believes they budgeted \$5,000, and YMS will pay for it. The proposed size is 20’ by 8’ by 8’. Mr. Lewis stated he was able to find on-line a 12’ by 20’ metal garage shed for \$2,500. This shed was shown to others present who felt it was more attractive than the Conex container that Mr. Beede was considering. Mr. Gordon stated they are not opposed to the concept, and they could take it to the next step.

Mr. Beede stated there has been a lot of discussion about field usage. He stated YMS has tried to pursue more space including YMS pursuing a second turf field as a way to alleviate some of the capacity issues. He stated they have investigated almost every open area of land whether it is Township-owned, School District-owned, or outside of the Township including in Bristol which was selling their Schools off. He stated they brought on a Commercial Real Estate agent to try to help them identify opportunities. He stated last spring they pursued moving a large portion of their in-house program over to Edgewood, and they presented to the School District for their approval a complete map of exactly how YMS wanted to do. He stated the School District approved it, and YMS moved approximately twelve fields there only to find out that the School District had “not matched A and B up,” and YMS had encroached on baseball so they had to move out. He stated since then they have begun more constructive meetings with the School District to see if there is



space at the Pennsbury Complex and have looked at different ways of Permitting the times and the fields that are at Pennwood as well. He stated YMS is trying to mitigate the situation they all knew was coming if Snipes did not go through.

Mr. Beede asked what discussions the Board has had regarding new fields or how the fields are used. Mr. Gordon stated the Park & Recreation Board does not buy or approve land, and they only make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Wysocki stated they do recognize and support the need of YMS for additional space. Ms. Bunn stated that is true for all the Leagues – not just YMS.

Mr. Wysocki asked Mr. Lewis what is happening with Snipes. Mr. Lewis stated he does not believe the Board of Supervisors has had any public discussion about Snipes since last year. He stated he has not broached this with the other Supervisors, although he has been thinking about some options to expedite the creation of additional fields that may or may not include the Snipes Tract as there are other opportunities to build fields on Township-owned property that may be less expensive.

Mr. Lewis stated when they brought on a new Township Manager he went through the finances, and he was concerned that there were negative balances in a few of the accounts; and he wanted to make sure that all of those were immediately funded. He stated there were other issues that happened around that same time including the impact of weather at the Golf Course. He stated a community group sued the Township with regard to Snipes in 2017, and the Settlement indicated that the Board of Supervisors could bring it back up again at their discretion. He stated in 2018 when he was Chair he gave two of the Supervisors the opportunity to work with the Township engineer to develop a plan as to options for field placement and process that would meet the legal requirements from the Judge; and that process took a long time. He stated the new Township Manager then came in and recommended a Budget that zeroed out all of the negative accounts. He stated many people were very concerned about financials; but when they brought in a new auditor he indicated at the last meeting of the Board of Supervisors that the debt to equity ratio was favorable compared to typical Municipalities, and there was nothing wrong with the finances.

Mr. Lewis stated if they want to build fields, they need to find a way to fund them; and there are a couple funding sources they can look at. He stated they could raise the Park & Rec millage, and he would not have a problem doing that if necessary. He stated there are also blended options that could include bank loans and millage and potentially State Grants. He stated the Board of Supervisors has not actively gone after Grants this year at all in this area.

Mr. Wysocki asked Mr. Lewis if there is anything the Park & Recreation Board could do to make the Supervisors aware of this increasing need for the space to be created to satisfy our community. Mr. Lewis asked if the Park & Recreation Board would be willing to consider a proposal he would write recognizing that he could not specify where the fields would be at this time although he could indicate that they would need three and a half fields. Mr. Beede stated that was what was being proposed for Snipes, but YMS is also open to other solutions as well.

Mr. Lewis asked if they would be looking for less than three and a half fields, and Mr. Beede stated they would be open to turf. Mr. Lewis stated three and half fields would free up Macclesfield so that it could be almost exclusively for use by YMS. Mr. Krauss stated it would also give them the flexibility to rest fields which was also one of the reasons to have the additional fields. Mr. Beede stated with Ms. Tierney's help they are resting large sections of Macclesfield Park and planning a rotation which is also creating an additional strain since resting a section of the Park means that another section of the Park gets twice as much wear.

Mr. Krauss stated since they are going into the Budget season, they would not want to miss the Budget season for 2020 since if that Budget goes through without anything in there for fields, it would be another year. Ms. Tierney stated with regard to Grants, they need to have a clear plan and have money allocated in the Budget to be able to even apply for Grants. She stated they would have to identify a Grant and determine if they have the funds to match adding Snipes was a \$3 million project.

Mr. Lewis stated what they did with the Woodside bike path was that they raised the millage a very small amount which allowed them to have matching money for Grants and to store that as a legitimate fund over time. He stated that same model with potentially a line of credit could solve the problem with the fields, although he feels many people who support the fields want it done in a way where they do not have to have a discreet tax increase associated with it. He stated raising the millage would give a fixed amount of money that could be banked year after year and also allow them to go after State Grants showing that they have already raised taxes for this. Mr. Lewis stated while he was previously criticized for this, it is an effective way of showing transparency and the means to do it at potentially the lowest total cost recognizing that State grants cost us as State taxpayers but not as Lower Makefield taxpayers. Mr. Lewis stated he has thought about putting together a proposal like this, but the challenge is whether it would be something that would be acceptable to the community.

Mr. Lewis stated some of the opponents of the fields are cost-driven, and some just do not want fields in their back yard. Mr. Gordon stated Snipes would not have been in anyone's back yard. Mr. McNamara stated that was the argument.

Mr. Wysocki again asked what the Park & Recreation Board can do to help the Supervisors deal with this issue. Mr. Lewis stated while he does not believe there will be a draft Budget until mid-October, he does not feel there will be money in there for fields. Ms. Tierney agreed, and she stated there are other pressing issues but nothing that would be close to the cost of fields.

Ms. Bunn asked if they were raising taxes and putting the money aside, how would it be safe from being used for other purposes. Ms. Bunn stated in the past money was taken from one account and put into other accounts. She stated money was raised for Snipes, but when they needed money for roads, the money for Snipes was no longer there. Mr. Lewis stated that is a fair point, and there are no guarantees. He stated what stopped Snipes last time was the Court Order that stated the previous process was not run correctly. He stated the response to that was the Township wrote a new Ordinance that gave us the most aggressive notification procedures for land use of any Municipality in Bucks County.

Mr. Wysocki stated the project has been left open for the Supervisors to reconsider, and Mr. Lewis agreed. Mr. Lewis stated in January they had started a process and the engineers had looked at Snipes and other potential properties for fields so that there would be options.

Mr. Lewis was asked about bonds, and Mr. Lewis stated the change in the most recent Tax Law has made bonds a little less appealing. He stated if they were to borrow from a bank, the rates would be relatively low; and if it were a short-term loan backed by a tax associated with it, that would give confirmation that the money would be locked in and the line of credit with the bank could state that the money is allocated to a specific project. Mr. Lewis stated he is not sure that there are the votes on the Board of Supervisors for this.

Mr. McNamara asked if putting fields at Memorial Park would take less time. Mr. Lewis stated if they were to choose Memorial Park for active recreation, that has been costed out. Ms. Bunn stated Memorial Park was not built for Permitted fields, and it was supposed to be used as open space for any Township resident to use. She added that is the only Park that any Township resident can go to at any time and use. Mr. Lewis stated this is only one of the options that was considered by the Township engineer and costed out approximately one and a half years ago.

Mr. McNamara asked what other locations in the Township were looked at, and Mr. Lewis stated he would have to research that. Ms. Bunn asked if the intent was to have the three fields at one location, and Mr. Lewis agreed. It was noted that Patterson Farm was one of the locations.

Mr. Brody stated he would be interested in discussing about having the younger players use the Memorial Park which could help to free up some space. He stated he would not want full Permitting at Memorial Park, but he would be open to a discussion of how some portion of Memorial Park could be utilized to help with field shortage.

Mr. Beede stated YMS would like to get back involved in the discussions as to how they can solve the field issue whether it is more fields, existing fields used in a different way, or turf. He stated YMS has had discussions about YMS funding a second turf field and how that could help with usage of Macclesfield and potentially free up space. He stated YMS is the largest user of Macclesfield because it is grass; however, the challenge is that grass wears and the drainage there is poor. He stated there are a lot of times that the fields are shut down, and they are looking at other options that would allow YMS to more efficiently use some of the space.

Mr. Gordon stated the Park & Recreation Board had spent years planning the details of Snipes, but they were not able to get it through. He stated they would be happy to have a meeting calling in all of the user groups to discuss this. Mr. Krauss stated they already have the survey that indicated that they were in need of additional fields; and as they approach the Budget season, he feels they should recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they budget money for fields. He stated there was a lot of work done for Snipes including having the balloon test, research was done, and they have now changed the protocol for the mailings.

Mr. Lewis stated some may look at this as the Board of Supervisors is being asked to spend over \$3 million for Snipes when they do not have the funds. He stated the Township will be at Safe Harbor by the end of this year, but the Board had to make some difficult financial decisions. He stated the community is not too excited either way for additional tax increases or any other borrowing, and the challenge is how to show the benefit to help this process get through. Mr. Lewis stated people have a lot of different concerns, and getting people to be interested and wanting to support fields is not necessarily an easy task.

Mr. Krauss stated it would not have to be the full \$3 million, and they could do \$1.5 million and then another \$1.5 million in the future. Mr. Lewis stated this is why the combination of a modest millage and a bank line of credit and potentially Grant; while not guaranteeing an immediate start date, would give them a path forward. Ms. Bunn stated there are not always Grants available for this type of use. Mr. Lewis stated the scope of the project can also hurt you, and they need to make sure the scope is well positioned. He also stated he feels our elected Officials would also be very helpful in this process as they have been in the past including our current and former State Senator and our current and former Stated Representative.

Mr. Wysocki asked if Snipes is not going to be developed for what the Plan had proposed, what would it be used for. Mr. Lewis stated the Farmland Preservation Corporation owns tracts of land as a 501C3 sponsored by the Township, and they Lease property to farmers. He stated he is the Liaison to the Farmland Preservation Corporation, and they had expressed interest in the Snipes Tract in exchange for possibly the Clearview property which is next to 95 and Taylorsville Road. There was discussion about the potential of a turf farm, and Mr. Lewis stated their Leases are long-term Leases and set to rotate crops.

There was discussion about the Patterson Farm, and Mr. Lewis stated Patterson Farm has a Conservation Easement on a significant portion of the property, but there are forty acres that are not in a Conservation Easement.

## RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

### Community Center Sign Proposal

Ms. Tierney stated she provided to the Park & Rec Board two sign options for the Community Center. She stated \$4,000 had been budgeted for this. She stated she had looked at some monument signs, but they were very expensive ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000. She stated the only difference from what is shown for the sign is they would add something about Park & Rec being in the building as well as the actual address. She stated they tried to make this in keeping with the Dog Park and Township Building signs. She stated there is a Boy Scout interested in doing some masonry work, and he would be adding a stone garden around the edge; and once a decision is made as to which sign they choose, he will come in with a proposal.

It was the consensus of the Park & Recreation Board that they were in favor of Option 1 which is the sign on the left. Ms. Tierney stated it will be a double-sided sign like the Fred Allan sign. She stated it will not be made of wood so it should last longer.

There was a question as to whether there would be lighting; and Ms. Tierney stated this sign will cost less than \$2,000 so that there will be money left to add lighting and to help the Boy Scout out if he does not raise enough funds. Ms. Tierney stated with regard to the lighting she feels a spotlight up would be the best.

Ms. Bunn stated she feels the Township should donate materials if any Scout is doing a project for the Township. Ms. Tierney stated they have done that in the past. She stated a lot of times the Scouts are able to raise all the funds needed. Ms. Tierney stated if the Township does not support them financially, they have dug holes, etc.

Mr. Malinowski moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of Sign 1 for the Community Center with the addition of the words, "Park & Rec Department."

### Event Updates

Ms. Tierney stated Community Day was very successful with great weather and great attendance. She stated they had food available until the fireworks. She stated it was brought to their attention that there was no way to make announcements which could be heard by all of those at the event, so they are going to look into having speakers put around next year. She stated there were also a number of sound issues this year for the bands.

Ms. Tierney stated tomorrow is 9-11, and the Veterans Day event will be coming up. She stated there will be a Howl-O-Ween event at the Dog Park with awards. She stated they will have a "Monster Mash" at the Community Center which will be sponsored by Capital Health, and they will have a DJ and events for children. She stated they are starting to get more sponsors for activities and events, and they had a number of sponsors this year for Community Day. She stated Manor Care will be helping with Veterans Day, and Bertucci's is talking about providing food for Veterans at the Community Center on the day of the Veteran's Day Parade.

Mr. Brody asked about the Fees being collected from the sponsors, and Ms. Tierney stated people have offered to sponsor events including Community Day. She stated she gives them the costs if they want sponsor a DJ or a band, etc. She stated in exchange she provides the sponsors with a significant amount of marketing.

### Summer Activities Report

Ms. Tierney stated Summer Camp was “fantastic.” She stated they had 83 total children participate in Summer Camp, and they had 60 campers a week with a waiting list. She stated they made close to \$82,000, and they exceeded their expenses so that they can do more in the future for Summer Camp. She stated next year they will hire more staff to cover staff going on vacation. Ms. Tierney stated they went on a lot of great trips, and they had protocols in place to keep the children safe.

Ms. Bunn stated her daughter was one of the Camp Counselors, and she had a great experience.

### Pool Discussion

Ms. Tierney stated with regard to expenses, they saved a significant amount in water expenses because of the repairs that were done. She stated from May to July in 2018, they spent \$34,200 at the Pool; and from May to July in 2019, they spent \$12,900.

Ms. Bunn asked if there was a lot of backlash about the delayed opening of the Pool, and Ms. Tierney stated there was. She stated this year was difficult, and there were a lot of breakdowns that they needed to address. She stated they will address these issues in the off season, and will be budgeting for items in the Pool Budget.

Mr. Gordon asked about the management team, and Ms. Tierney stated they had some “growing pains;” but they are getting better every day. She stated she feels they did a good job given the stressful year. She stated the Snack Bar did well although she does not know his final revenues. Mr. Lewis stated he feels people are very happy with the food quality and cleanliness at the Snack Bar. Ms. Tierney stated it is a higher quality than you ordinarily see at a Pool.

Ms. Tierney stated Safe Slide did the slide restoration, but they were not able to get done the edges and tops of the slides so they will be coming back to do that. She stated the Board of Supervisors approved a four-year Maintenance Contract with Safe Slide which will be a big costs savings. She stated previously they were spending \$15,000 a year for an auto body shop to do the work on the slides, and now they will be spending \$5,600 a year.

Ms. Tierney stated they started the initial piece of the Feasibility Study at the Pool when they came out to the Pool while it was in operation. She stated in early October, they will have a workshop which will be open to the Township residents, and she would like the members of the Park & Rec Board to be present if possible to engage with residents about their concerns at the Pool. She would like the residents to come up with ideas and what would be feasible. She stated they will have a sign-up; and if the Registration numbers are so high that they fill up, they will run a second workshop. She stated she is looking at doing this the first week in October in the evening during the week when those doing the Feasibility Study are available.

Ms. Tierney stated there was discussion as to how they should handle the fact that the Pool contractor did not complete the work at the Pool on time. She stated the Board of Supervisors recently approved a five-year Maintenance Contract with the Pool contractor to offset some of the costs of the delayed opening.

Ms. Tierney stated Pool revenues were not what they wanted this year, but she does feel the Pool will be cash positive at the end of the year. She stated if they can do it, she would like to work on bathroom renovations this year; and they are trying to determine how that could be funded. She stated the main bathrooms alone will be a \$90,000 project, and she feels that project will have to be done in phases. There was discussion as to when the bathrooms had last been renovated. Ms. Tierney stated the idea would be to remove the tile stalls because they take up a lot of room, and then put in regular bathroom stalls as well as update some of the fixtures. She stated the sink is new, and they will try to re-use what they can. She stated the lockers are rusted out. Ms. Tierney stated the main problem is the ventilation system which needs to be fixed as there is no ventilation, and it is hard to keep the bathrooms clean.

Ms. Tierney stated there were issues with cleanliness this year which was addressed as soon as she found out about it. She stated she found a local vendor who cleans floors in outdoor facilities, and she would like to add that contractor to work on that at least once a week, with the staff doing it on a regular basis as well. She stated the contractor would do a deep clean. She stated they do rely on young, new employees to work in the restrooms, and they are adding some additional protocols as far as management follow-up as well.



Ms. Tierney stated they also had to start a bee management plan this year because there were issues with bees at the playground and on pool surfaces. She stated this year they brought in someone to deal with the bees, adding you are not able to exterminate bees.

Mr. Krauss stated membership was down 5%, and he asked if there are suggestions or opportunities to see about increasing membership. Ms. Tierney stated she is currently doing a five-year analysis on how many people renew their membership. She stated this is taking her some time because of the software they have. She stated she believes that we can change the way we market the Pool. Ms. Tierney stated looking at the trends with regard to registration month by month; and as soon as they made the announcement that there would be a two-week delay, registrations started to fall off, and they were behind in registrations for the next two months.

Mr. Lewis stated revenue was higher than previously because of the increase in membership fees. Ms. Tierney agreed, but she stated they were not able to bank as much for future renovations. She stated she feels they will be cash positive at the end of the year.

Mr. Krauss asked if the Summer Camp utilized the Pool, and Ms. Tierney stated they went once a week. Mr. Krauss asked if they are in the daily attendance numbers, and Ms. Tierney stated she will look into that.

Mr. Brody asked if we fund \$1 Dog Day, and Ms. Tierney stated we fund a portion of it. Mr. Wysocki asked if it helps, and Ms. Tierney stated they have a lot more visitors on that day. Mr. Krauss stated they may want to consider something else such as half-price pizza which may generate more traffic

Ms. Tierney stated in August there were a lot of non-residents trying to get August memberships, and they had to turn many people away. She stated they may want to consider permitting this in the future. She stated there is only a non-resident option for the full season. Ms. Tierney stated if they had a non-resident option for August, that would have helped with revenue. Mr. Brody stated they could address this in mid-July; and if they see the numbers are down and it would not impede upon the members, they could decide to offer that to non-residents in August. Ms. Tierney stated that would be difficult for continuity as someone may purchase it one year, and the next year they would be expecting to be able to do that again, and then find out it is not being offered. Ms. Tierney stated they need to think creatively to see if there are other ways to make money at the Pool. She stated during the open discussion with the community, she feels people will come up with some ideas.

Mr. Lewis stated he feels the non-resident August membership makes a lot of sense, and he spoke to people who would be interested in a partial membership. He stated one person he spoke to had their own Pool, but they wanted the membership so that their children could play with other children. Mr. Krauss stated the daily numbers in August are low so that would be a good option.

#### Dog Park Discussion

Ms. Tierney stated the Dog Park project is done, and there were some Change Orders that needed to take place. She stated there were some items the contractor indicated he had done which he had not. She provided numbers on the Dog Park to the Board. She stated they started rotating the fields, and the large dogs are currently in the other field; and they will remain there until the October event so that there is good growth in the large dog portion.

#### Garden of Reflection Discussion

Ms. Tierney noted an area where the junipers are dying, and they have been trying to determine what is killing them. She stated it will be in excess of \$50,000 to take them out and replace them. Ms. Bunn stated before they replace them they need to determine what killed them, and Ms. Tierney stated that is what they are looking into now. She stated they did cut them back before the 9-11 Ceremony and added mulch to try to make it look better. Ms. Tierney stated she has been working closely with some of the 9-11 families about some different fundraising opportunities. She stated they are expensive to replace because of the area they are in, and there is wiring that they need to protect as well as the glass casing.

Ms. Tierney stated the 9-11 Ceremonies are being held tomorrow and everyone is in agreement at this point as to how things are operating.

Ms. Tierney stated they are coming up to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021 which will be on a Saturday, and she feels they should create a diverse Committee to run that event and determine how they will fund it. She stated since it is a Saturday and is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, she feels they will need to be ready to accommodate more people. Ms. Bunn stated New York will also be having something, and they need to be mindful of the families and whether they are going to want to be here in Lower Makefield or in New York. Ms. Tierney stated that is why they would include families on the Committee adding that some of the families find it very hard to go to Ground Zero and some have never been there.

Mr. Krauss encouraged Ms. Tierney to include soccer and baseball in the planning and coordinate with them so that they do not schedule a large event then or modify their schedules.

Mr. Brody stated there may be State funds available since we are the State Memorial. Ms. Tierney agreed it would be good to have someone on the Committee who is good at sponsorship and finding funding so that they can have a budget specific to that event.

There being no further business, Mr. Brody moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Krauss, Secretary

