

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – JUNE 14, 2022

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on June 14, 2022. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: Douglas Krauss, Chair
Michael Brody, Vice Chair (joined meeting in progress)
Kim Rock, Secretary (joined meeting in progress)
Mike Blundi, Member (joined meeting in progress)
Robert LaBar, Member
David Malinowski, Member
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director

Absent: James McCartney, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. LaBar seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the March 15, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes as written.

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Malinowski seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the April 12, 2022 Minutes as written.

Mr. Blundi and Ms. Rock joined the meeting at this time.

LIAISON REPORT

Mr. George Schlieben, YMS President, stated the spring season is almost done, and they have started to tear down the fields and get the goals to the tree line to make it easy for mowing. He stated they expect the turf repair to start July 6, and they just signed a proposal to fix the fence. He stated he hopes that the fence will be repaired before the season begins.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Krauss stated Ms. Tierney will go through a number of specific issues, and the goal for tonight is to understand and build out timelines. He stated this is a general discussion around each of these topics/projects; and we will not be getting into details as to what is in the projects, and it is more about a timeline about how to best address and engage the public. Ms. Tierney stated as noted by Mr. Krauss this is just a discussion about what is important to the Board and the public and to discuss how we will communicate and engage the public along the way.

Play for All Update

Ms. Tierney stated this was approved by the Board of Supervisors at their June 1, 2022 meeting. She stated this means that we now have some guidelines on things that emerged when the Needs Assessment was done, and we can start to look into the future. She stated the Play For All Plan is on the Township Website, and it includes what Year 1 would look like moving forward.

Discussion – Macclesfield Park Assessment Schedule for Community Involvement
Snipes Schedule for Community Involvement
Partnership with Pennsbury School District

Ms. Tierney stated the main questions are how to communicate with the residents, how we plan to engage the residents in the process, and what are the potential timelines.

Ms. Tierney stated with regard to communication with residents, we have a marketing/community outreach plan and there are tools that will give us guidelines moving forward. She stated that using these tools, we will create a plan which will be made public on the Township Park & Recreation site. She stated Sections will be created on the Park & Recreation Planning Page for everything that is going on. She stated it will all be made available in this way moving forward as soon as possible.

Ms. Tierney stated we are looking to provide notice to the residents via e-mail, the Website, and social media to diversify the way we are communicating. She stated we will also make sure that we are following our Codes with regard to reaching out to neighboring residents moving forward. She stated

we are not at the planning stage at this point. Ms. Tierney stated she will notify everyone via e-mail, the Website, and social media one week prior to a meeting before there is a discussion and at least one month before a Public Workshop so that we can get as many people engaged and involved as possible. She stated she hopes to have a timeline in place so that everyone can be involved and engaged.

Mr. Krauss asked Ms. Tierney to clarify what she means by e-mail. Ms. Tierney stated it is necessary to register for the e-mail notification system, and that is on the Website Main Page. Ms. Tierney stated we also do social media blasts as to how to sign up for that. She stated if you sign up for Park & Recreation notifications or Township notifications, you will get these e-mail communications moving forward. Ms. Tierney stated those who have an issue with this can e-mail her directly at monicat@lmt.org. Ms. Tierney stated as Mr. Lewis had noted at a prior Board of Supervisors meeting our Ordinances have been changed so that there is a lot of notification for neighbors; and moving into actual planning stages, the neighbors will get notification per the Ordinance. Mr. Krauss stated that is for Land Development and Zoning, and Ms. Tierney agreed.

Ms. Tierney stated the Play for All Plan recommends two Workshop Sessions, and for Macclesfield and Snipes she would recommend that we have those two Workshop Sessions as well as for any big plan coming forward. She stated while there could be more Workshops, she would recommend no less than two Public Workshops for any project moving forward. She stated we need the support of the public, and we want to hear what they have to say.

Ms. Tierney stated with regard to the Snipes project, while it is not required, she feels there should be an Open House site visit to give people the opportunity to see what is there ahead of time. She stated this would provide a general view of the site.

Ms. Tierney stated there will be public Park & Recreation Board meetings and public Board of Supervisors' meetings to discuss these things.

Ms. Tierney stated there is no Budget or funding, but we can still start to engage the community and start discussions. She stated there are two Plans for Snipes that had not been seen because the project was ended; and she would like to have a Public Workshop Session with our new Planning Coordinator where the residents can look at those Plans and provide feedback in a Workshop-type setting. She stated this would be a good, early start; and there would then be feedback to provide to the engineer before he gets involved.

Ms. Tierney stated earlier she had discussed a partnership with Pennsbury, and we can start on that. She stated she would like to set up a meeting with Dr. Smith and the surrounding Municipalities to discuss next steps, apply for the \$5,000 to \$10,000 Grant to review the possibilities of a partnership, and see what that would look like. She stated she would advise the Board how this is proceeding.

Mr. LaBar asked who needs to be involved in the dialogue with the Pennsbury School District, and Ms. Tierney stated she was going to reach out to the other Park & Rec Directors and representatives from the other Municipalities. She stated she could include anyone else the Park & Rec Board feels should be involved. She stated for Tullytown and Yardley Borough it would involve a Park & Rec Board member, and members of the Falls Township Park & Rec Board and our Board could be involved as well. Ms. Tierney stated she has already reached out to those other Municipalities and Townships, and they are all excited about this.

Mr. Krauss stated he recalls that the Grant was more about getting an individual who would set up programming, and Ms. Tierney stated that is one potential. She added that there are other potentials such as joint facilities and infrastructure. Mr. Krauss stated that would be separate from the Grant that was discussed which was to hire an individual who would help set up some continuity with programming. Ms. Tierney stated it could be anything, and that is what they are exploring. She stated there are Grants available that could help pay for that person.

Mr. Blundi stated he thought the Grant was just to bring the parties together and then whatever discussions came from that, they would have to apply for other Grants; and Ms. Tierney agreed it is exploratory.

Mr. Blundi asked if there have been any discussions about our Library and establishing partnerships with them, making the facility better, or utilizing it more. Ms. Tierney stated the Library is owned by the County, and pre-COVID we partnered with them frequently; and they came into our Summer Camps and taught lessons, and we went there with Summer Camp. She stated they also came to a lot of our community events. She stated after COVID things changed with the way the Library did programs, so we have seen less of that. She stated she does not feel partnering with them is off the table as we had been doing that in the past.

Mr. Krauss asked what can be done to prepare for the Assessment at Macclesfield since he feels that needs to be completed prior to considering Snipes and getting public opinion. He asked if we need to have funding to do an RFP for an Assessment of Macclesfield. Ms. Tierney stated we would have to have funding to draft an RFP. She added that we could reach out to the Board of Supervisors at a future meeting and discuss potential funding for the Macclesfield Park Study. She stated she feels that some work can be done simultaneously. She stated the Study will give good feedback moving forward with Snipes, and they will have to consider options for Macclesfield. She stated she agrees that the Macclesfield Study would have to be done before a final decision is made with regard to Snipes.

Mr. Wysocki asked Ms. Tierney if she knows about the School properties that are within the boundaries of Lower Makefield and how they got the land that the buildings are on. Ms. Tierney stated the Pennsbury School District owns the land, and she assumes that they bought it from whoever owned it. Ms. Tierney stated we do partner with the School District. She stated we have Community Day on the Edgewood property, and we partner with them on our pavilions, and help them with their Field Days.

Mr. Bill Gaboda, 1230 Ash Lane, stated he is intrigued by the idea of the Public Workshops; and he asked Ms. Tierney to provide more information about that including the number of people who could be accommodated as he feels there will be a lot of people who will be interested. Ms. Tierney stated she wants to engage with the new Planning Coordinator to come up with a Plan. She stated we could have a sign-up; and if there is an overflow of those signing up, we would do a second day or find a larger location to be able to facilitate more people. She stated there is no final plan as to what that would look like at this point.

Mr. Krauss stated they held the Pool Workshops at the Community Center which was well attended; and he agrees with Ms. Tierney that if we find that it is at capacity, we would run a second session, and it could be hybrid as well. Ms. Tierney stated hybrid would be difficult as she does not feel we would get the same kind of feedback. She stated she would prefer having it in person. She stated she would like to see it done differently from the Pool Workshops where it was a presentation and then answering question; and she would like to see those attending the Workshops “digging in.” Mr. Gaboda asked if she envisions prior to the Workshop people submitting questions/topics/and written documents to be part of the process; and Ms. Tierney stated that is possible, but she feels the first Workshop would involve putting “something in front of those attending and giving them the opportunity to dig in.”

She stated a second round could be something where they are taking some preliminary feedback and discussing that based on what we learned from the first Workshop. Mr. Gaboda stated he believes there will be a lot of people with “a lot of stuff to say,” and Ms. Tierney stated she understands that.

Mr. LaBar asked Mr. Gaboda if he has any ideas what would be beneficial to the public. Mr. Gaboda stated he is a naturalist at the Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, and he is engaged in preservation of trees, plants, animals, and birds; and he wants to see as much of that “applied to this process as possible.” He added that trees help with air pollution, floodwater mitigation, and feeding birds and animals; and we need an inventory of what lives at the Snipes Tract. He stated he has made that suggestion previously a number of times. Mr. LaBar stated he agrees with Mr. Gaboda.

Ms. Virginia Lobel, 1396 Heller Drive, stated a community is a group of people living in the same space or with a particular characteristic in common. She stated when they are speaking about Play For All especially with regard to playing fields, that is a certain sector of the community. She stated those who do not have children making use of the fields “are still here because they want to enjoy the community and all it has to offer.”

Ms. Lobel stated stewardship is the conducting, supervising, or managing of something especially the careful responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care. She stated what we leave behind is important. She stated she does not know what Lower Makefield’s plan is with regard to sustainability or a plan for a carbon footprint, but she knows that artificial turf fields contribute negatively in many ways including the manufacturing, the use, the installation, and the disposal. Ms. Lobel stated the Snipes land is precious; and she hopes people will be able to remember a time when there were trees there. She stated at one point people were able to cut down their own Christmas trees on that space, and we are now able to walk in the area and hear birds and not have 80’ lights and parking every day. She stated there should be true open space for the broader community.

Ms. Lobel stated with regard to the quiet enjoyment of one’s space, having your personal property removed because someone does not agree with your opinion is wrong.

Mr. Wysocki stated he was surprised to hear about the negative impact of turf fields, and he believes that is a serious point to be considered. He asked Ms. Lobel if she can provide the information she was referencing in terms of the negative impact which would help the Board understand this. Ms. Lobel stated

she has a document that was produced by Safe Healthy Playing Fields.org. She stated while it is dated, and she understands that things have improved since then, it indicated that each synthetic turf surface creates a heat island. She stated it absorbs and emanates heat and temperature. She stated it also generates carbon dioxide; and the statistic, though old, indicated that a two-acre, artificial turf field generates 55.6 tons of carbon dioxide in addition to greenhouse gases and pollutants. She stated it also increases the carbon footprint by removing natural grass and eliminating the ability of the surface to retain carbon dioxide converting that into oxygen. She stated it contributes to hydrocarbon gassing-off; and as the synthetic breaks down, it releases into the atmosphere. She stated it increases reliance on dirty fossil fuel; and it makes for a “hazardous-waste cocktail” – tire, rubber, metal, zinc, selenium, lead, cadmium, etc. that goes into the rubber that is the underlayment. She stated while she is sure that the technology has improved, the artificial grass basically does not break down. She stated it also degrades water quality because any water that flows onto it and flows into the community is picking up all of the “cocktail.” She stated it also ends up in a landfill where it does not break down. Mr. Wysocki asked Ms. Lobel if she would be able to provide the link to the article, and Ms. Lobel stated it is Safe Healthy Playing Fields.org.

Ms. Laurie Gray, 895 Slate Hill Road, stated she and Ms. Tierney have spoken a number of times, and she is very interested in being involved especially with regard to the Macclesfield project because her property abuts Macclesfield Park. She stated she has already signed up for the e-mail notices. She stated when they discussed the Macclesfield Assessment being done simultaneously and/or before engaging the public she is concerned about that. Ms. Tierney stated she was discussing that was to be done before engaging the public for Snipes. She stated the Macclesfield Study would engage the public in a different way separate from the Snipes discussion; and that would be happening before or simultaneously with the Snipes discussion.

Ms. Gray stated she understands that as far as Macclesfield is concerned, everything will be out in the open; and Ms. Tierney agreed.

Projects and Capital Improvements

Community Trail Update – Ms. Tierney stated this has been ongoing for a number of years, and it is going to get started this summer although she does not have the exact timeline. She stated they have the Notice to Proceed for

the end of this month. She stated this is the Trail in front of the Fred Allan fields and the Community Center all the way to the Pool. She stated there is also some traffic signaling that will happen with this project. She stated she is not sure that it will be done in time for Summer Camp this year, but it will be done in time for Summer Camp next year. Ms. Tierney stated this will go to the existing crosswalk on Edgewood Road and there will also be a crosswalk that will be in front of Fred Allan.

Schuyler Tennis Courts – Ms. Tierney stated at the last Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to consider Sewer proceeds, \$400,000 was allocated toward the tennis courts. She stated these will still be the same size and shape that they are now. It will include sub-water mitigation. She stated they will go down 3” and repair the underneath part that is causing the cracking. She stated there will still be cracking in the future; but at this point they need to address the very bad damage. She stated she will close these tennis courts until the project is done. She stated she will continue to update the Park Board on this. She stated she hopes to bring this to the Board of Supervisors for a Bid at a future meeting.

Mr. Krauss asked if the courts will be shut down immediately, and Ms. Tierney stated they will as they are in very bad shape. She stated she did not want to close them until the Memorial Park courts were opened so that we could offset the load. She stated the Memorial Park courts are now open, and she has been working with YM Tennis to get in between their season. She stated they “switch out in the next two weeks,” and they will move to the Community Park tennis courts temporarily until we complete Schuyler. Ms. Tierney stated the Schuyler courts will stay at the same dimension, and they are just making them safe.

Mr. Krauss stated he knows there was discussion during the June 9 meeting about re-orientation, and he asked if there is any consideration to do an Alternate Bid for that. Ms. Tierney stated we could do an Alternate Bid. She stated while she knows that the orientation is not right, she does not get complaints from the community about that; and she does not feel it is worth spending the extra money to do the re-orientation which could bring the cost up to \$700,000. She stated currently the courts face east/west, and the courts should face north/south so that there is never a time when the sun is in your eyes during the day; however, she does not get complaints about that. Ms. Tierney stated they could consider an Alternate Bid.

Veterans Square/ADA Transition Plan – Ms. Tierney stated as part of the ADA Transition Plan, every park was analyzed; and she wanted to prioritize the Veterans Square piece of the ADA Transition Plan. She stated the estimated cost for this is \$60,000 and includes parking and trying to get to different parts of the site. She stated the Veterans are there on Veterans Day, and they oftentimes have mixed ability. She stated she feels this would be a great project to prioritize, and this was approved by the Board of Supervisors at \$60,000. She stated there was also another item which was repairing the existing tot lot there at an estimated cost of \$100,000; and that was approved by the Board at their June 9 meeting. Ms. Tierney stated she is looking to start moving forward with the Veterans Square ADA project since she feels that is more of a priority than the tot lot. She stated she is hoping to bring that to the Board of Supervisors shortly for approval. She stated the tot lot requires more scrutiny as to what would be included there. She stated she wants to get RFP information on the ADA portion from the Township engineer.

Memorial Park Secret Garden ADA Updates – Ms. Tierney stated the Secret Garden at Memorial Park is our ADA-accessible playground, and it was designed that way from the beginning. She stated the surface has been a problem especially with the seams. She stated it is now at its seven-year lifespan so it is time to budget money towards that. She stated in addition, part of the ADA Transition Plan was adding shade to that playground so that it is safe to play there in the summer. She stated shade and the surface were also approved by the Board of Supervisors to be funded at the June 9 meeting. She stated she hopes to move forward with those projects shortly. She stated they have to be done simultaneously. She stated when the shade is put up, the flooring needs to be replaced. She stated some design work needs to be done regarding the shade.

Mr. Krauss asked about the equipment; and Ms. Tierney stated the equipment has not reached its lifespan which fifteen-years, and we are at seven years now. She stated the next time the flooring is up would be the time to re-evaluate the playground equipment.

Heacock Tot Lot – Ms. Tierney stated she has no clear date as to when that was installed other than it was “established in 1979.” She stated it is very old equipment. She stated similar to Veterans Square, there is chipping paint on the equipment.

Mr. Krauss asked if this is near the Cardinal tennis courts, and Ms. Tierney agreed. Mr. Krauss stated he has brought up numerous times if we are going to get pathway “up there.” Ms. Tierney stated that is part of the ADA Transition Plan for the future, but was not necessarily part of repairing the tot lot. Mr. Krauss stated he understands that that was not approved as part of the Heacock tot lot improvements. Ms. Tierney stated technically the court is ADA-accessible from the other side as there is a path that leads to it if you park on that side so that it is not really in violation; although we did analyze that as part of the ADA Transition Plan as to finding a better way to get up there. She stated that would be a “hefty” project. Mr. Krauss stated it is ADA-compliant the other way, but he asked if there is a way to put something in as currently it is just dirt and grass. Ms. Tierney stated she could look into it, but it was not approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Caiola Lights – Ms. Tierney stated the Board of Supervisors approved this. She stated it is for the one field furthest back from the road, and is the last field before you can cut through the Community Center and Fred Allan. She stated it is what PAA asked for when she discussed this project with them as it is their most-heavily used field and is the hardest one for them to schedule. She stated this would give them a little more time on the field and would help them offset some of their scheduling that they have to do at other locations. She stated it is for the 10 to 12 age group. Mr. Krauss stated this is the 50/70 field in the back corner not the one near the water tower.

Mr. LaBar stated he understands that the Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of money for the projects that Ms. Tierney outlined, and she now has to get Bids. Ms. Tierney stated they will not be able to do all of the projects at once, and the two that she is looking to prioritize are Schuyler which is a safety concern and Veterans Square ADA. She stated as she moves forward with the process, she will be going to the Board with other updates.

Mr. LaBar stated in prioritizing of the projects, he agrees with Ms. Tierney; and he asked if the Park & Recreation Board needs to vote on this. Ms. Tierney stated the Board does not have to vote on it although that would help.

Mr. Krauss stated that would be dependent on when the Bids go out and come back as the Bids may not come back at the expected price. Mr. LaBar asked if Bids will go out for all of the projects; and Ms. Tierney stated that they will all have to have an RFP, and there is some design work that will be needed by the engineers before it goes out to an RFP. She stated they may be able to get

some from the Consortium Bid sites, and they will look at the different options for each of the projects. She stated there are other things going on as well, and we have to work on them at a reasonable schedule as everything cannot be done all at once.

Ms. Catherine Beath, 1049 Countess Drive, stated she is about one block away from the ballfields and she “hates lights.” She stated she had discussions with Ms. Tierney when the Community Center was built. She stated given lights will be going in, she asked if there is a reason why the lights cannot be turned off when the fields are not being used. She stated this Township has a “habit of keeping lights on all night.” Ms. Tierney stated the new technology for lighting is much easier to control than with some of the older lights. Mr. Krauss stated they are key-based like at Macclesfield, and someone has to physically turn them on and turn them off. Ms. Beath stated currently they are on all night. Mr. Krauss stated they automatically go off at a certain time. Ms. Beath stated if they are not using the fields, she does not feel they need lights; and Ms. Tierney stated she agrees. Mr. Krauss stated the lights will not go on automatically.

Ms. Beath stated she is a volunteer at Bowman’s Hill, and the environment matters. She stated certain animals hunt at night including owls, which she no longer hears because of the Community Center. She stated it also costs money to use the lights, and she does not feel we should use the lights when we do not need them. She stated if they are using them during a game, they should be turned off by a certain hour, “and no one should be playing baseball at 2:00 a.m.” Mr. Krauss stated they do not stay on past a certain time.

Ms. Tierney stated there have been some issues, and she noted that if there is a lightning storm, the timers can get thrown off. She stated with these new lights, they have assigned users, and they know who has turned them on and who may not have turned them off so they can keep better track of things. Ms. Tierney stated if she hears that the lights are still on, she can turn them off remotely. She stated that the intent is for the lights not to be on when they are not being used. Ms. Tierney stated she would like to get notified if the lights are on.

Ms. Beath stated lights also bring in additional traffic when normally it is a very quiet area, and this is another reason she hates lights.

Mr. Mark Diretto, 599 Saxony Lane, stated he backs up against Oxford Valley, and he feels that for anything that is done within a certain distance from a house, there needs to be public notification to the homeowners. He stated he had not seen anything, and was advised by a neighbor about the lights. He asked if there is any reason why those who are most effected by the lights were not notified. Ms. Tierney stated we are not close to installing the lights, and it was just allocation of funds for the project. Mr. Diretto stated that is first step. Ms. Tierney stated that was just for funding, and it still has to go through an RFP, the design, and Land Development so there will be a lot more steps. She stated she reached out to Mr. Majewski and asked him about the Ordinance requirements for notification, and she will be clear with the public about what is going on. Mr. Diretto stated while that is making them aware of what is going on, he asked if there is an approval step that needs to take place. Ms. Tierney stated she is still finding out about the planning process, but there will be approval, an RFP process, approval by the Board of Supervisors, and a number of steps that have to happen. She stated this project is not part of re-development of a park, rather it is adding lights to an existing park so it is not as much as a re-development as is Snipes or Macclesfield Park so it is different in the way that it is approached. She stated she will be sure to notify and communicate with neighbors.

CAPRA Update

Timeline – Ms. Tierney stated she included in the Park & Recreation Board's packet the initial submission. She stated the Review Committee reviewed it and provided the Township thirty-three pages of feedback. She stated we had fifteen days to respond, and the deadline is tomorrow. She stated the responses will be submitted to the CAPRA Accreditation Team tomorrow providing supplemental information and more explanations about certain things. She stated the week of the 24th will be the virtual visit. She stated they may want to meet with one or two of the Board members if they are available. She stated it will then be determined if we have met all of the requirements. She stated we will find out in August if we are approved. She stated the National Conference will be in Arizona, and the Board can participate virtually if they wish. She stated she feels good about the submission. She stated this has been a huge learning process, and she feels the Park & Recreation Department is better for it.

Pool Update

Registration – Ms. Tierney stated Registration was a little slow this year as it was cold, and a lot of people waited to Register until the first hot day. She stated that the Park & Rec Board was provided with a number of reports. She stated looking at the Registration trend, last year we were higher at this time because people were afraid that we were going to cut off Registration, and they wanted to get in earlier. She stated at this point, we are more in line with other years outside of last year. She stated at this point we are at about 80% year-to-date. She stated we did raise the rates so the dollars may be higher since the Fees are different. She stated there will be another rush with August memberships.

Ms. Tierney stated we are back to normal with regard to swim lessons which have doubled from last year so that will result in more Revenue, and the cost of our Guest Passes has also increased.

Staffing – Ms. Tierney showed the pay rates for the year. She stated there was full training of the staff this year. She stated our Pool Manager, Cat, is a life-guard instructor trainer, which means that she can train people to train lifeguards. She stated after this week, we will have six more lifeguard instructors who will be able to train more lifeguards. She stated we will be able to do all the training internally and those interested in lifeguarding will not have to go anywhere else.

Mr. Krauss noted the increased salaries, and he noted information he heard about the struggle to fill lifeguard positions across the Country. He asked if other local pools are seeing the same struggles as the National trends are or did they solve the problem like we did. Ms. Tierney stated she believes that early on some of the other pools were having difficulty. She stated we did early outreach and held education meetings. She stated we have a very professional staff, and it is a good atmosphere at our Pool. She stated she is going to send a survey out to the staff to see why they wanted to work at our Pool.

Mr. Krauss asked about considering a referral program for next year, and Ms. Tierney stated we could consider that. She stated while a few people might drop out as we go through the summer and we may need to replace someone, at this point we are fully staffed. She stated she believes that we have a great environment, and Cat has brought us to the next level.

American Red Cross – Ms. Tierney stated the American Red Cross tapes their training videos every five to seven years, and we have been selected as a site for them to tape their training videos in the summer. She stated it is prestigious to be selected for this, and Cat is excited about it and will be in the video possibly along with some additional staff. Ms. Tierney stated these videos are seen across the Country.

Camp LMT/Tween Adventures

Staffing – Ms. Tierney stated she has provided information on the staff, the type of training they received, and job descriptions. She stated we have a very professional staff, and there are two teachers and a nursing student on staff this year.

Mr. Brody joined the meeting at this time.

Registration – Ms. Tierney stated for Tween Adventures during the highest week there are about fourteen registered, and she believes that this is going to be a word-of-mouth program. Ms. Tierney stated information on Revenue has been provided to the Park & Recreation Board. She noted the number of people on the wait list for Camp LMT. She stated thirty-eight people withdrew from the wait list, and there are still twenty on the wait list. She stated Camp is in high demand, and we cannot accommodate the numbers. She stated this year we are adding an air-conditioned tent outside of the Community Center in order to be able to expand the Camp. She stated the numbers show that some weeks there are about eighty campers. She stated we need to consider in the future where we could expand to accommodate the families.

Mr. Krauss stated he would encourage discussing this as part of the outreach to the Pennsbury School District. He stated Pennsbury previously had Summer Camps of their own. Ms. Tierney stated she did reach out to the School District this year, but there were conflicts. She stated they also tried a number of other locations including the Masonic Hall, and the small Church building next to Veterans Square. Ms. Tierney stated she is willing to try anything since we are turning away a lot of people.

Schedule – Ms. Tierney stated she included in the Board’s packet the Schedule for both Summer Camp and Tween Adventures including all the trips. She noted the theme days that will be held and the presenters that will be coming in.

Special Events and Programs

Program Report – Ms. Tierney stated she included the Program Guide in the Board’s packet. She stated there is Fitness and Wellness programming and Art programs. She stated the numbers of those involved in the various programs including swim lessons were included in the Board’s packet.

Mr. Krauss asked if we offer adult swim lessons for non-Pool members as part of our community classes. Ms. Tierney stated you have to be a Pool member to get swim lessons. She stated at one point adult swim lessons were offered, but they are not at this time. Ms. Tierney stated they do offer one-on-one lessons or one-on-two. Mr. Krauss stated people may not join the Pool because they do not know how to swim. Ms. Tierney stated our swim lessons are so full with the people we have, it would be hard to accommodate that.

Ms. Tierney stated they made some changes to the Website to make it a little easier to navigate and will probably do some additional “tweaking.” She stated there is now also a Special Events Section on the Website. She stated they will be adding Ticket Sales shortly.

Ticket Sales

Ms. Tierney stated Discount Tickets are back, but they are a little different than they used to be as some require you to come into the Office to pick up the ticket and some have to be done on-line. She stated they will be selling tickets to Disney on Ice shortly which has never been done before. She stated we are doing a hockey game this year through a partnership with the NHL as a fundraiser. She stated we are doing more Ticket Sales, and that will be seen soon on the Website.

Mr. Krauss asked how ticket sales are presented to the Township; and Ms. Tierney stated we are part of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, and they do a lot of the organizing for that. She stated with more local activities like the Flower Show, the Flyers, and Disney on Ice, we often

get approached to sell those at a discounted rate. She stated this is expanding as we learn more. She stated we are also looking into discount movie tickets which were not offered during COVID.

National Recreation and Parks Association Conference

Presentation – Ms. Tierney stated she and Elizabeth will be presenters this year at the Conference, and the “Power of the Post” is the title of their session. They will be talking about how we engage the community with social media and marketing. She stated they were excited to be selected as there are a lot of people who apply. Ms. Tierney stated she has presented in the past at the Pennsylvania Park and Rec Conference, but this is a National stage.

Maintenance

Trees (Tree Planting) – Ms. Tierney stated they have had a number of tree issues this year. She stated she had an assessment done of the area behind the Community Center as a tree fell down into someone’s yard from our property. She stated while the arborist was there to check the site, the arborist noticed several other trees that could be an issue. She stated they found fifty trees that were dead along the row that had to be taken down for a number of reasons. She stated we have had to take a lot of trees down where our land is abutting peoples’ property.

Mr. Krauss asked if this comes out of the Park & Rec Budget, and Ms. Tierney stated it does. Mr. Brody stated he has had to take down a number of trees from his property as well. Ms. Tierney noted a large dead tree at Veterans Square and five dead trees at Kids Kingdom. She noted the arborist’s report which was included in the Board’s packet in which they have indicated the different reasons why the trees died and the types of trees which died.

Mr. Wysocki asked if any of this was attributed to spotted lantern flies; and Ms. Tierney stated while they did not state that specifically, she feels that it could be. Ms. Tierney stated she feels there could be more tree loss because of the spotted lantern flies.

Mr. LaBar asked if there is set plan for times when an arborist goes out to check out all the land that the Township owns. Ms. Tierney stated we own about 600 acres land so that would be “almost impossible.” She stated if someone makes a report about a tree behind their home, we go out and

check it and have an arborist advise us if it is worth trimming or should be cut down. She stated we want to try to save the trees, and would only cut a tree down if we know it is unsafe, dead, or dying. She stated she has the arborist on call. She stated there were a number of trees at Macclesfield which were recognized as potential problems; and while the arborist was there on another project, they did trim some of those trees. She stated they addressed a number of trees at Macclesfield that were issues.

Mr. LaBar asked if the maintenance crews are aware that they should be looking at this when they are at the various sites; and Ms. Tierney stated they are, and the Macclesfield Park project was because a maintenance staff worker reported that there was a tree there that he was concerned about.

Ms. Tierney stated we have a report that is completed if the staff sees anything that could be a future problem so it can be addressed before it becomes a problem. She stated that came out when an incident occurred at the Pool with an umbrella that had flown across the Pool and hit a boy in the head who had to go to the hospital. She stated the staff had advised that had happened with umbrellas, and the report was devised; and everyone is now trained to know when to fill out a report.

Mr. Wysocki asked if there is a program to replant trees to maintain the same carbon footprint. Ms. Tierney stated there is an Ordinance for developers where there a certain number of trees that have to be replanted if a tree is removed. She stated we also have the Tree Bank Fund, and the developers can pay a Fee-In-Lieu of that so that the Township can use it for mass plantings. Ms. Tierney stated we have been doing mass plantings for the last few years, and they have been paid for out of the Tree Bank Fund. Ms. Tierney stated sometimes contractors will plant trees on site, and sometimes they will be planted at the parks, and they are given some locations that are in our Tree Plan. Ms. Tierney stated if we cut down a tree because it is dead, there is no plan in place to replace that tree.

Mr. LaBar asked what happens to the trees that are cut down; and Ms. Tierney stated if a tree can be placed safely in the woods, we allow nature to take its course. She stated if a tree needs to be removed, the contractor taking it out removes the tree and disposes of it.

Mr. Brody asked if the tree situation has been reported to the EAC, as this would be a great project for them to take on and research why our trees are failing. Ms. Tierney stated that would be a great idea adding that the EAC does a lot of the organizing with regard to the tree planting projects.

Mr. Krauss asked if the maintenance crew does a quick visual at the beginning of the different seasons, and Ms. Tierney stated they are in the parks every day. Ms. Tierney stated she and Lynn, the Operations Manager, do “Good Neighbor Visits” which are site visits; and they found the tree that was hanging over the house near Macclesfield Park during a Good Neighbor Visit. She asked if any Board member sees something, they should report it.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wysocki asked Ms. Tierney when we replace equipment are we starting to look at electric equipment to avoid the cost of the fuel and the environmental impact of fuel-burning mowers. Ms. Tierney stated with the new Township Fleet Management Plan we are monitoring the maintenance of our machinery in a different way. She stated eventually we will create a Long-Term Replacement Plan. She stated the Fleet Management Plan is through Enterprise, but the Contract has not yet been finalized. She stated this is also for Police and Public Works. She stated this will provide a rotation of vehicles. She added at this time, she does not know if it includes mowers or just vehicles, and the logistics will be worked out moving forward.

Ms. Tierney stated it is her intent to create a long-term plan for everything, and she hopes to bring these to the Park & Recreation Board sometime soon.

Mr. Wysocki asked if that would include electric equipment if the technology is available and decent, and Ms. Tierney agreed. She reviewed the long-term plans she is considering.

There being no further business, Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. LaBar seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary

