

Participants

Neighbors: Gregory Eggert, Matthew Matter, Bill Kearney, Joan Kearney, Deb Corey, Ron Corey, Michele Putnam, Ed Putnam, Valerie McKiernan, Ed Kowzun, Allyson Reed, and Sally Lamb

Township: Monica Tierney, CPRE, MBA, Director, Lower Makefield Parks and Recreation Department

Consultants: Andrew Mears, PLA, Johnson, Mirmiran and Thompson (JMT, and Ann Toole, CPRP, Toole Recreation Planning

1. Welcome by Monica Tierney, CPRE, MBA, Director, Lower Makefield Parks and Recreation Department
2. Andrew Mears presented the Overview. Outreach to date.

Discussion

- **Team:** Andrew Mears, PLA, is a registered landscape architect. Ann Toole is Certified Parks and Recreation Professional. The team also includes Neil Beach, PE, a transportation engineer, Mark Shrift, a sports field specialist, and JMT's environmental specialists.
- Process: Interviews. Questionnaire of sports groups. Focus groups. We have visited the site at all days and times. The site has issues with traffic, parking, pedestrians and safety.
- Nothing getting done right away.
- We know there are inherent problems here and planning for other parks underway.
- Good Plan: specific, implementable, meets community needs.
- **Advisory Committee: Provide List of Advisory members to the neighbors. Attach to meeting minutes???**
- Question: Do you think of Macclesfield as a community park or an athletic complex?
 - 3 think of it as a community park, one of who referred to its original intent not present scenario. 9 think it's a sports complex.
- History of the development in the area with park taking shape in the 1990's. We examined the ownership and parcel configuration with funding to see if there are any restrictions.
- Question: What does the "Deed Restriction" from PA DCNR funding under RIRA mean? Land must stay in recreation since it has state funding. There are no specific restrictions beyond the site being for recreation.
- What are the restrictions for YMS and use of the site? The park must be available to the public. User groups can reserve time.

- Question: Will the signs be removed about YMS ownership? That is an important issue that the plan should address.
- The students said that the restrooms are terrible, along with other issues that include the lights, structures, playground, issues of people being kicked off fields by YMS.
- Andrew Mears presented the park configuration as it is now with an analysis of conditions.
- Comment: Lights are a problem as they are too bright. The park goes from the bright to dark instantly and that is dangerous for drivers.
- Comment: Water goes right to the drain and is not constructed properly.
- Comment: Traffic going in and out is congested and people get angry. Will there be a light? Andrew Mears said that we are looking at everything.
- Comment: People park across one participant's driveway.
- Comment: Who does the scheduling? Monica Tierney said that groups get permits and they schedule within their permitted time.
- Comment: People park on Keswick Drive, parking across his driveway. They have called the police who cited about 60 vehicles.
- Comment: YMS places a person at Rivergate on their big tournament day.
- Comments: Enforcement is difficult.
- Comments: Signs that say no parking for Macclesfield. Police cannot enforce this because it's a public street. They can only ticket if they are blocking driveways.
- Comment: Man parked on her street in Rivergate and cut through her yard. She said there is a cut through. Dogs running off leash. People play on her play equipment. Dogs off leash and people cutting through her yards.
- Comment: Park users public urinating. Dogs off leash running into development yards.
- Comment: What is the Township doing about noise? The neighbors want the Township to comply with the noise ordinances. There are different decibel levels for different times. The generator runs late. The lights are on all the time and on until 2:00 AM. Monica Tierney explained the problem the Township has with the timers which she is are working on. Andrew Mears reiterated that we are looking into all of this.
- Comment: "Temporary" lights and generators need to be controlled. They run when the fields are not in use. Who is responsible for that kind of stuff? Monica Tierney replied that the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintenance. The Township works in partnership with YMS with an effort to have them take action on items.
- Comment: Park hours? Everyone needs to be about by 10:00.
- Comment: Problem with fireworks. Fireworks land on their roofs. They have called the police who come an hour later to do a drive by. People go into the woods but the police don't deal with those in the woods. MT doesn't know their patrol schedule. Police patrolling is an issue that people perceive the patrolling being done in the morning but not when people are there.
- Comment: Lack of sidewalks creates a safety issue in the neighborhood.
- Comment: Trash cans will be reduced. Special event permitting will have large waste cans.

- Comment: Do non-residents use the fields? Monica Tierney has asked people to leave. A lot of NJ residents come here. We should not be thinking about putting in more fields especially if they are-for non-residents. Ann Toole explained that people play sports regionally and that Lower Makefield residents use facilities in other municipalities. Sharing of fields makes optimum use of all resources.
- Comment: There's talk that YMS wants three more turf fields.
- Comment: Turf fields are not environmentally friendly.
- Comment: Not enough trees in the park.
- Andrew Mears asked what they like:
 - Walking
 - Open Space
 - Like looking out
 - Like hearing the kids play
 - Opportunity for unstructured play
 - Really like as they walk their dog there – but the athletic people push them out so it is not a community park. It's not a good feeling.
 - People play volleyball here. The courts are busy.
 - Other uses are in the park beside organized sports.
- Andrew Mears: Park planning is all about balance. We are here to understand the problem.
- Old dump was there. Andrew Mears said that we'll show wetlands etc. along with a Phase 1 assessment.
- Comment: We own up to the fence.
- Comment: Do we have a survey of the land? Our slide shows the park boundaries.
- Comment: What does the team want to do here? We do not have that now as we are collecting information. We'll digest it, summarize it, here are some concept options with pros and cons of each option. We'll take this to the Advisory Committee for discussion. We'll create the preferred concept to put out to the BOS and the public.
- Comment: Why are we doing this now? It's a recommendation of the Play for All Plan. We'll figure out how to address the problem, at what cost, and strategies to solve problems and make things work better for everyone.
- Opportunities
 - Loop path
 - Make Macclesfield look more like a park.
 - Better playground
 - Opportunities for kids to go here especially for teenagers.
 - More trees
 - Add signs for what you can and can't do – once had signs like that.
 - Better signage
 - Better control of lights AM: we will be looking into this because it is a huge investment. The leagues pay for electricity. It does break even.
 - Paths that bring us to areas in the park to environmental areas with boardwalks
 - Consider flood control.

- What is the one most important thing that you want the Township to do?
 - Better scheduling
 - Green it up
 - Keep it like it is.
 - Expand the walking path.
 - Like it the way it is
 - Shut down two fields in the center and build more parking.
 - Get rid of the fields behind residents house and put multiple users on fewer fields.
 - Control the lights better.
 - Flip the soccer and baseball fields. Put soccer as far away from residential as possible
 - Make the park better for more uses not just soccer.
 - Update the playground.
 - Concentrate on the sports complex and make it more parklike. Add trees and beautiful walkways. Kids playing with moms. Make it an actual park with a nice playground. They can still have their sports complex if it's a nice park.
 - Make it a real park as it's just a bunch of soccer fields.
 - No lights, diesel generators by the houses.
- Comment: How do you get the word out? For bigger meetings, we will widely promote including emailing them. She has a bulletin board and puts that on the Macclesfield website.