

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – APRIL 9, 2024

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on April 9, 2024. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: Douglas Krauss, Chair
Michael Brody, Vice Chair
Kim Rock, Secretary
Mike Blundi, Member
David Malinowski, Member
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director
Matt Ross, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Rob LaBar, Park & Recreation Board Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Blundi moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of February 13, 2024 as written.

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Malinowski seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of March 12, 2024 as written.

YOUTH COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Ms. Anna Radzinski, President and Ms. Amelia Sutherland, Co-Secretary, were present. Ms. Radzinski stated she has been a member of the Youth Committee Board for three years, and she joined because she was interested in learning more about her community. She stated through the Committee she has been involved in volunteer opportunities, event planning, and getting her friends and classmates to help out in the community. She stated she has learned how good it feels to make a positive contribution, and she hopes that in the future the

Youth Committee will be able to become more involved with the other groups in the Township and continue to encourage the youth in Lower Makefield to lend a helping hand.

Ms. Sutherland stated their mission is to organize leadership, community service, and opportunity for and by the youth within our community and to make recommendations to the Park & Recreation Board. She stated their objective is also to involve the youth within the Township in volunteering activities and to increase communication between youth community service organizations in Lower Makefield with the goal of encouraging community involvement. She stated it is also to organize events to bring people of younger ages together.

Ms. Sutherland stated they hosted a Halloween Bash which was a big success. She stated they also did a 5K and 10K where all ages could come, and this was a good opportunity for volunteers to contribute.

Ms. Radzinski stated they are also working on a collaboration with the LMT Senior community. She stated they are trying to plan an event where people from Pennsbury Drama come and perform for the Seniors as they have an interest in performances, but a lot of them are unable to attend shows.

Mr. Krauss thanked Ms. Radzinski and Ms. Sutherland for their presentation and the work they have done. Ms. Rock also thanked them for the work they are doing.

Mr. Wysocki asked for an estimate of the number of people in total they engaged across all of the events. Ms. Radzinski stated they had a Halloween Party and a Christmas Party, and they got about twenty High-School volunteers from the National Honor Society to help and about two hundred family members attend. Ms. Tierney stated each event ranges from two hundred to three hundred participants. Ms. Tierney stated they also help at the Veterans Day Parade and have helped with races. She stated the Township is very grateful to have this group.

Mr. Krauss asked if they have anything they would like to ask of the Township. Ms. Radzinski stated teenagers are willing to help a lot more than people think, and they do want to make a difference.

Ms. Tierney stated the Youth Committee was also involved as part of the Macclesfield Park Study, and they provided great input as part of that project.

Mr. Krauss asked that the Youth Committee come before the Park & Recreation Board more frequently so that the public is aware of what they are doing and to consider what else can be done.

LIAISON REPORT

Mr. George Schlieben, YMS President, was present. He stated YMS does a lot of community service; and a lot of students who need service hours come to YMS to ask what kind of projects they are running.

Mr. Schlieben stated the one-way at Macclesfield Park is working out great although some drivers still need some direction. He stated people have been very responsive once the safety aspects are explained to them.

Mr. Brody asked about the two lanes which seem to have been created; and Mr. Schlieben stated they have sent out e-mails reminding that it is one lane since sometimes drivers are passing a little fast on one side. He stated he tells people to ride down the middle. Mr. Brody stated the road had arrows going in both directions; and to improve on that, they painted over that so that the arrows all go in the same direction, but it creates a double-width arrow.

Ms. Tierney stated that was not intended, and they will have to correct that.

Mr. Schlieben stated another suggestion to be considered at some point is that because it is one-way now, the next time they need to paint, the slots should be slanted.

Mr. Schlieben stated this Saturday they moved all of the younger players out of Macclesfield Park to Quarry Hill and Aspen, and that worked out great. He stated they also have them practicing there in the spring during the week, and it probably takes 840 cars out of Macclesfield during the week. He stated for the fall that projects to about 1,062 cars out of Macclesfield. He stated the parents are happy with this, and they are able to split the fields between the two schools and you can park near the fields. He stated by the fall he does not feel they will be the biggest user at Macclesfield on Saturday mornings any more. He stated this evening, even with some other non-YMS groups in Macclesfield playing soccer, there were still sixty to eighty spots empty in the back which are usually full.

Mr. Schlieben thanked Ms. Tierney and Robert from Park & Rec since there was a light issue over the weekend at the turf field and they had to cancel a game because of a blown fuse; and Ms. Tierney took quick action to get someone there, and they did not have to cancel anything Saturday night. He also thanked Mr. Curtin from PAA who allowed them to put down an emergency field on Field H even though it was not needed.

Mr. Blundi stated with regard to the one-way at Macclesfield, he feels it is very important that the arrows get blacked out and that there be just one arrow so people know that it is one lane and that they cannot pass. Ms. Tierney stated they will do that as soon as they can get out there.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Andrew Moignard, 1700 Yardley-Langhorne Road, stated he and Ms. Tierney have been corresponding over the last several months. He stated his group is aware that a skatepark project of the magnitude that had been discussed is a significant endeavor and takes time, and they are willing to put in the time required for that. He stated they are also open to any other options such as something of a smaller scale that would be more affordable and more versatile. He stated there could also be a small slab in Macclesfield Park that could be adjusted so that Corporations or other donors could sponsor small objects which skaters could use, and that would be a low-cost solution. He stated they may not need a large regional skatepark in Lower Makefield.

Mr. Moignard stated they have a Petition with over 575 signatures collected over the last four months and several businesses have signed off supporting them as well. He stated his group is passionate about this. He stated using Middletown Township Community Skatepark as an example, most of that Park was funded through a Grant that was received from the DCNR; and they would not have received that if it were not for his group's hard work doing fundraising over the course of three to four years. He stated he is in contact with them on an on-going basis. He asked that the Board consider their request for something to be considered in Lower Makefield.

Mr. Richard Van Horn stated he is a local skateboard advocate and grew up in Lower Makefield Township. He stated the Township has great recreational options, and he feels what they are advocating for would be a great fit.

Mr. John Liebel stated he is an Air Force Vet and lifelong skateboarder. He stated skateboarding is an individualistic sport and sometimes gets a “bad rap,” but there is a lot of passion involved. He stated the youth are not socializing as much, and skateboarding helps them find friends. He stated it is a very diverse community which offers great aspects of socializing. He stated he has been skateboarding his whole life, and feels it is worth the time and money to consider a skatepark or any plans that are in production.

Mr. Matt Schneider, 330 Crown Street, Morrisville, stated when he moved to the area when he was eleven/twelve he could not connect with anyone on a personal level; but when he went to the skatepark he immediately made life-long friends, and this is why they want this skatepark.

Dr. Andrew Brodyn, stated he is a resident of Yardley and is the owner of Landmark Family Chiropractic with a practice in Heston Hall. He stated he just recently got back into skateboarding through meeting those present this evening and getting back into a good fitness routine and reconnecting with his children. He stated this group is incredibly welcoming, and he appreciates all that they have offered. He stated he hopes that we are able to go forward with this.

Mr. Liebel stated skateboarding is an activity that builds longevity and physical activity. He stated the process of learning something new promotes focus and trains you mentally and physically.

Mr. Bill Hoehne, 15 Riverdale Road, stated he has lived in the community his whole life and he and his two children skate. He stated he understands why skateboarding is discouraged on private property, but other active sports have places where they can play. He stated the community needs someplace where people can skateboard.

Mr. Eric Renavich stated he is a new resident of Lower Makefield at 409 Big Oak Road. He stated he previously lived in Middletown Township and worked on getting that skatepark renovated. He stated it is important to have a place to skateboard. He stated he has been skateboarding since he was eight years old. He stated there is a strong demand for a safe place where they can skateboard. He stated skateboarding is popular with all ages and backgrounds just like bike riding. He stated they skateboard for fitness, fun, and community.

Mr. Brody stated he has been a long boarder for twenty-seven years. He stated he does not feel Macclesfield would be a good location for a skate park as it is not accessible, and he would not want anyone skateboarding on River Road to get to it.

Mr. Wysocki stated he does not feel they are committed to Macclesfield and they just want to have something somewhere. He commended them for the passion that they are displaying and speaking to the need in the community for something like this. Mr. Wysocki stated there was a skateboard park in the plan for Snipes, but he does not know where that stands. He asked Ms. Tierney if there are any plans for a skateboard park in any of our parks.

Mr. Wysocki asked if skateboarding and roller skating can share a facility. Mr. Moignard stated four-wheeled roller skating is currently very popular, and can be seen in Philadelphia skate parks and some at Middletown.

Mr. Moignard stated with regard to a skatepark at Macclesfield, he feels it is a good location for visibility so that people can see that skateboarding is a good activity for people. He stated as to the location, it is within a reasonable distance from Morrisville and that area and is accessible to those from Falls Township as well as people across the River in Ewing and Trenton where there is a huge demand for skateboarding. Mr. Moignard stated using the Canal and the spur path that takes you to Macclesfield would be a good access for those from Yardley Borough. He stated it is also a carbon-neutral way to get there. He stated he would love to be able to ride a bike on the trail to get to a skatepark. Mr. Moignard stated he understands that Macclesfield is a busy park, but he feels that there is room for something for skateboarders there.

Mr. Liebel stated with regard to the question about crossover at the skateparks for rollerblading, etc., sometimes skateparks have rules for skateboarding only but there are often people using them rollerblading, biking, etc. and they find comradery among others.

Mr. Van Horn stated there will need to be rules as it is dangerous to have large bikes in the same area where children are on scooters. He stated with rules it can be worked out. He stated generally everyone is welcome if everyone is respectful. Mr. Moignard stated there are always ways to diplomatically handle those situations. He stated bikers and skateboarders use parks differently. He stated today there were BMX riders at Middletown Park, but we all know

each other so it is a non-issue. He stated sometimes parents will drop off their children with scooters and he does not feel that is acceptable; although you can educate them how to use the park safely.

Mr. Renavich stated it should be kept in mind the type of terrain and the size of the park. He stated bikes work in Middletown because of the size and the layout. He stated if there is a smaller park, we would need to consider what type of vehicles would be let into the park.

Ms. Rock asked where the bulk of the people are coming from at the Middletown skatepark. Mr. Moignard stated a lot of them come from Lower Makefield, Langhorne, and Bensalem. Ms. Rock stated she would like to see a combination of roller skating and skateboarding with a circle going around so that young children could safely be separated from the skateboarders but also have someplace where they could go since there is really no place to practice roller skating in the area. Mr. Moignard stated he is in favor of full accessibility to skateparks provided everyone is respectful. He stated 5th Pocket Skateparks does a good job of designing skateparks.

Mr. Liebel stated a huge skatepark was built in Quakertown and they accept a lot of different rider types. He stated skateboarding has reached the mainstream in a big way with the Olympics, etc. and he feels the demand for this is going to skyrocket over the next few years.

Mr. Krauss thanked everyone for coming out and all of their passion. He stated we are trying to get as many diverse activities as we can in the Township although some are easier to bring in than others. He stated as part of our Budget and short-term outlook, we are working on a revitalization of Macclesfield. He stated we will consider what will be changed and what are the needs. He stated there is land at Snipes that is yet to be developed. He stated if there are Grants available Ms. Tierney and her team could look into that but we need to determine where something like this could fit into the plans. He stated the Township also has to deal with other needs of the Township in addition to recreation.

Ms. Tierney stated she can provide a link to Mr. Moignard as to what has been done so far on Macclesfield and comments can be made on that page as to their thoughts and ideas. She stated historically there were plans for a skatepark in the Township; but over time it was deleted, and currently there are no plans for a skatepark in any of the parks.

Mr. Moignard asked if Lower Makefield owns Snipes, and Ms. Tierney stated it is not the Snipes Farm, it is a plot of land by the 295 overpass. Ms. Tierney stated currently there is no Budget to do anything at that park. She stated there are also infrastructure needs that we have for our other properties that we own that we have to take care of over time as well.

Mr. Wysocki years ago we did not have a Dog Park, and there were many people who were proponents of having a Dog Park. He stated there was a volunteer group that helped with fundraising to help provide different installations in the Dog Park. He stated the Township did have to provide the land. He stated the skateboard group should keep that in mind.

Mr. Liebel stated Mr. Van Horn runs a lot of events and runs the Skate Shop to help promote the community. He stated there are also third-party foundations that could be reached out to that would possibly donate money to the cause.

Mr. Brody stated there was discussion about the benefits of a stone/cement park as opposed to what Newtown had which was all of the equipment brought in. He stated he assumes if they could get a basketball-sized space they could bring a rail in, etc. He stated he feels that they should consider if there is a more middle line approach.

Mr. Renavich stated a skatepark does not need to be something elaborate, and it could be as simple as a slab of concrete and some brick ledges. He stated they could possibly have multiple smaller skate spots laid out around the community for ten people to use at a time. Mr. Krauss asked if there is anything temporary that can be used. Mr. Renavich stated there are metal ramps that can be moved if needed and disassembled, but they do lay a foundation. Ms. Tierney stated there is a lot of maintenance with the metal “pop-ups.” Mr. Krauss stated when there are parks and amenities, there is then labor an on-going maintenance so they not only need the money to build something, but they also need on-going funds for maintenance. Mr. Krauss stated they will need to know what the on-going maintenance costs will be.

Mr. Moignard stated at Middletown Township, they have their skateboard programming, and those funds usually go toward maintenance. He stated they usually do maintenance once every three years which is resurfacing, crack filling, and some painting. He stated there is no grass to cut. Ms. Tierney stated she can reach out to Middletown to find out about their maintenance plan. Mr. Krauss stated we have cracks at our tennis courts and basketball courts, and Ms. Tierney stated that gets expensive.

Ms. Sue Fawcett stated she is a Township resident. She stated her passion is pickleball and what she has heard is exactly the way her sport is going with the Township. She stated they said that “everybody is in Middletown,” and our pickleball fees in Lower Makefield were raised significantly higher and people are leaving Lower Makefield Pickleball “in droves.” She stated she has a significant drop in the people attending her advanced sessions to the point that she has had to go to other sessions. She stated they are all in Middletown playing because the user fees are “\$42 for residents and \$60.” She stated pickleball is charging \$120/\$150. She stated your fees have to be competitive with Middletown, and you have to have a decent facility to play in. She stated she “will deal with Ms. Tierney with regard to pickleball.”

Ms. Fawcett asked those present if they have a formal organizational structure, because the main thing they have to be concerned about is liability insurance, “which is a negotiation deal with the Township.” She stated for pickleball they sign a Waiver, but there is “pooled liability insurance with the Township.”

Mr. Moignard stated at Middletown there is a sign that states “Use at your own risk.” He stated people who show up do not sign a Waiver, and there is no one watching over the skatepark. Mr. Fawcett stated we have some structure here because the Township is concerned about liability and people getting hurt. She advised them to look at the business aspect.

Ms. Laurie Grey stated she lives on Slate Hill Road. She stated while she appreciates the passion that the skateboarders presented and the comments by the Board and Ms. Tierney, there needs to be a balance; and we have to remember that Macclesfield has residents that are adjoining the property. She stated while we need places for all of these activities, we need to find the appropriate place for them.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Approval of Recommendation of Pickleball Rental Fees to the Board of Supervisors

Ms. Tierney stated there is great demand on the pickleball courts and at times there is conflict. She stated there are a lot of outside groups scheduling during the free time, and they are sometimes very large groups of thirty people at a

time. Sometimes there will be two or three of those groups that do that at the same time so there are conflicts on the courts. She stated this is especially an issue at Memorial Park.

Ms. Tierney stated they are trying to put together a reservation system so that there is more scheduling and adding a fee structure. Ms. Tierney stated at this point, they are only focused on Memorial Park as a trial. She stated there is already software in place that we use for our membership, and we plan to use that same software in order to implement a reservation system. Ms. Tierney stated we plan to leave one court open at all times for public use but reserve the three other courts on the reservation system.

Ms. Tierney showed a slide of the fee structure being proposed. She stated pickleball members would get a discount. She stated the fee is per hour for the court as a whole and the cost could be split among the group. Ms. Tierney showed a slide of the expenses, and she stated we will have to make a modification with Court Reserve in the way that we program with them so that there will be an upcharge to our annual fee of \$252; and on the back end we would need some administrative support to help with this so we are looking at about \$300 in administrative costs so there will be an expense to the Township of \$552.

Ms. Tierney stated they are trying to estimate hours for the remainder of the year that we could potentially book, and at this time they believe they could book about 110 hours with revenue of \$2,620. She stated this is a non-Budget item so it would help with some of our pickleball revenue and potentially help with the upkeep of the court over time.

Ms. Tierney stated they compared this to some of the other facilities which are much nicer, private facilities; and our pricing reflects that, and it is much lower than what you would pay at another facility particularly for our members and residents.

Mr. Brody moved and Mr. Malinowski seconded to support the Pickleball Reservation recommendation.

Mr. Wysocki asked if a resident went to the court and there was no one there and they started to play would that be allowed. Ms. Tierney stated the courts will be unmanned just like our pavilions; and if someone were to show up and showed that they had a reservation on their App, they would ask them to leave or move to another court. Ms. Tierney stated there will be

a live calendar on our Website, and we intend to have a QR Code so that people can either look at our Website from their home to see if there is an open court or come to the court and scan the QR Code and get access to our schedule.

Mr. Wysocki stated if you want to have a guaranteed spot, you should go to the reservation system and pay the fee or you can take a chance by going there to see if there is a free court, although you could get bumped.

Mr. Krauss asked Ms. Tierney if other than the currently-scheduled sessions that are at Memorial Park Is she looking to open up every available slot.

Ms. Tierney stated she is with the exception of one court which would always be left open.

Mr. Blundi asked if this would be seven days a week during daylight hours, and Ms. Tierney agreed.

Ms. Rock asked if any of the other local Municipalities use this type of system. Ms. Tierney stated we talked to Middletown, and they are looking at a similar rental as well, although she is not sure that they will use the same pricing as we are proposing. She stated Falls Township is still building, and they do not have a plan for this yet.

Mr. Wysocki stated for those who pay a fee, they would have the court for a defined time. He asked if there is anything that limits the time that people can play on the open court before they yield it to other people. Ms. Tierney stated with the reservation system we can limit the amount of reservations that someone can make in a day and the amount of time that they can spend on the court in a day. Mr. Wysocki stated he is asking about the court that is being left open for those who cannot afford that but want to play pickleball. He asked if someone can stay indefinitely on the one free court that is not reserved. He stated he feels we need to do something about having posted time limits. Mr. Krauss stated with tennis it is usually one hour. Mr. Wysocki asked if that is posted anywhere. Ms. Tierney stated there are rules posted, but she will need to look to see if it includes a time limit. Mr. Wysocki stated he would not support this unless that is done in combination with what is being proposed.

Ms. Tierney stated there is a problem with people who sign up for many sessions, but with Court Reserve we can limit that somewhat so that there are not people playing four to six times in one day. She stated it also prevents the desire for some to run their own small business such as a coaching business on our courts by limiting the number of reservations that you can make in a day.

Mr. Wysocki asked about how far in advance the reservations can be made and what would the policy be about cancelling. Ms. Tierney stated currently they are considering two weeks in advance to be able to make a reservation for the court. She stated they are also considering what would happen if there was inclement weather, and how it would be handled on the back end. She stated once she knows if there is approval to proceed with this rental structure, they can then finetune the details.

Mr. Krauss stated he would recommend that the members get a preferred timeframe so that they would be able to schedule something fourteen days out, but non-members would only be seven days out. Mr. Brody stated that would be in line with Golf. Mr. Krauss stated this would give the members some benefit, and Ms. Tierney stated members also get a cost benefit as well.

Mr. Krauss stated he knows that there are issues, but he is not sure about booking all the times other than just for the one court. Mr. Krauss asked if they could leave the weekends open or one day a week. Ms. Tierney stated whatever is left open is getting booked by the groups; and it appears to the residents that they are being booked by the Township, which is not the case. She stated residents are calling that there are people there all the time, and she must explain to them that those are not Township groups but are other groups that are scheduling time on their own and booking on top of each other.

Mr. Wysocki asked if people pay at the time of the reservation. Mr. Krauss stated for Court Reserve you have a credit card on file, you make a reservation, and your card is charged. He stated if you cancel, depending on the Club, they could issue a refund or put a credit on your account. Mr. Wysocki stated he wants to make sure that someone could not just make a reservation and block the court from someone else and then decide that you are not going to play.

Mr. Wysocki stated he feels you should be liable for the court time you reserve up to a certain point in time that you cancel such as within forty-eight hours so that it could be re-booked by some other party.

Ms. Sue Fawcett stated she “is in shock that this is even proposed.” She stated as a person “who manages the advanced group,” she met privately with Ms. Tierney and asked what she should do about people who show up who are not part of the reservation. She stated if anyone comes on the court and wants to play, she lets them. She stated she will not enforce anything if someone is a member or not. She stated if people can play at her level, and

they want to play, she will let them play. She stated the Agenda for tonight's meeting showed up this morning, and she discussed it with a few players this morning, and "it is outrage and shock." She stated they are paying \$120 a year and on top of that "you want to rent."

Ms. Tierney stated as part of the membership for \$120 they have a lot of access as part of that membership. Ms. Fawcett stated she can play for free any time of the day and not pay the Township. She stated there is no enforcement by the Township like they have at the Pool where there are wristbands and there are people at the gate. She stated none of that exists at pickleball or the tennis courts. She stated she will not enforce this. She stated if she has room, and there is a place to play, she will let them. She stated she is outraged about this.

Mr. Brody asked Ms. Fawcett how she is being a partner with the Township. Ms. Fawcett stated she is helping Ms. Gannon. Mr. Brody stated Ms. Fawcett has come to the Township and said she is trying to expand her organization on the Township facilities, but she is also saying she does not care about what the Township has to do. He stated Ms. Fawcett has told them that the facilities are not good but she plays here every day of the year for only \$120. He stated we have indicated that we have a problem with too many people accessing the facilities, and Ms. Fawcett's initial reaction is that she does not care. He stated he does not feel Ms. Fawcett is a partner with the Park Board as to what they are trying to do for the Township at large. He stated they are trying to manage all of the park needs across all of our user bases. He stated Ms. Fawcett continues to "bash" their efforts. He stated there has not been a single sport in the Township that has grown as quickly as pickleball. He asked the last time the Township got YMS a new field although they did take one away for a Dog Park, and they are contemplating taking another field away and also contemplating taking away the equivalent of two baseball fields.

Mr. Brody stated he is sorry that the facilities we built for pickleball are not 100% top-notch pickleball facilities but he wishes there was the ability for his children to play sports on the Township facilities are much as Ms. Fawcett has told them that she does. He asked Ms. Fawcett to have a little bit more respect for our efforts to provide for everyone in the Township and not just the advanced pickleball people that she represents.

Ms. Fawcett stated people are leaving, and she asked that they please drop the fees. She stated while she will be more respectful, she is expressing the opinions of what she hears daily. She stated she lets people in when they

want to play because when she met with Ms. Tierney, that is what she was told to do. She stated she asked how she is supposed to enforce what is being proposed.

Mr. Brody stated no one ever put that on Ms. Fawcett to enforce. Mr. Brody stated he respects how much Ms. Fawcett puts into pickleball and her passion, but he wants her to work with the Township and not so much against us.

Mr. Brody asked Ms. Tierney how much time she and Chief Coluzzi are spending on this. Ms. Tierney stated currently there is no control over it. She stated we spend countless hours on pickleball in general although she cannot provide an exact calculation.

Mr. Krauss asked if this is going to add more work than what the Revenue is worth. He stated he understands that there are people playing on the courts now that may be keeping some people off the courts. He stated he is not opposed to implementing this as a test to see if it will work or if it will create more work for the Township. He stated he does not feel the Fees are excessive although they may want to give the resident members a bigger discount. He stated he does not feel it is really about the money, it is whether it solves a problem that we have.

Ms. Rock asked if there is a commitment on the part of the Township with regard to the software for a certain period of time, given that this is just a trial. Ms. Tierney stated since we are already signed up as member, if we want to reduce or add, it would be a lot easier. She stated we would still be keeping Court Reserve to help with the pickleball program. Mr. Krauss stated his concern was more phone calls, etc. that the Township may start getting versus what they get currently. Ms. Tierney stated she accounted for Ms. Gannon's time in the cost as part of this, and that was shown as "administration."

Mr. Blundi stated we do not have to charge a fee, and we could just have the Court Reserve program without a fee. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels that the groups that are going there now with the "rogue reservations" would start going there anyway because there would be no cost to them. He stated while he understands that the money is not that important from a revenue-generating perspective, in terms of a deterrent from blanket reservations, he feels that it does have a purpose. Mr. Krauss stated there is also usually a limit; and if you rent a court you might top out at six people, and you would not have a group of a hundred people. He stated usually with Team Reach there might be one hundred fifty people in a group, but knowing the limit, you would only get

probably no more than twenty people on four courts. He suggested that they limit each court to six people so that you do not get a group of twenty for one court.

Ms. Tierney stated they could max out the reservation to six people and the fee would be divided for those six people. Mr. Krauss stated the six people would rotate out, and this also possibly helps curtail some of the other issues where someone may try to block all three courts. Mr. Krauss stated he feels they could test this and give the pickleball members a better discount. He stated while it could be run for free, he feels there would probably be more cancellations and no-shows, if there is not a fee.

Mr. Blundi asked why there must be a fee. Mr. Krauss stated you go on the Court Reserve app, and you would select a court and a time which would cost \$40 for a two-hour reservation if you are a pickleball club resident member. He stated your credit card is on file and you would be charged. He stated if there were no fee, they could sign up and not go and that stops anyone else from being able to rent it.

Ms. Rock asked if people are not showing up currently; and Ms. Tierney stated they are not booking it through the Township, and they are making their own reservations through their own Application. Mr. Krauss stated this is not really a reservation, and they are just rogue groups of people who know that Memorial Park does not have dedicated sessions at certain times, so they schedule something on their Team Reach and tell people to come to Memorial Park on a certain date and time.

Mr. Malinowski asked what would happen if he was already playing there when those from that group show up. Mr. Krauss stated they would have no right to force him off the court; however, Ms. Tierney stated they think they do have that right because they booked it with Team Reach. Ms. Tierney stated they will come and push people off the court. Mr. Krauss stated they do not have any rights to the court. Ms. Rock stated they are showing that they reserved it, but they did not reserve it through the Township; however, the person already on the court feels they need to leave because they did not reserve anything. Ms. Tierney stated that can happen. Mr. Krauss stated he has been playing on courts where people show up from Team Reach indicating that they have the courts, and he tells them that they do not because his group did the same thing, and they were there first.

Mr. Brody asked if it is possible to check the Township Website to see if someone actually has a reservation through the Township, and Ms. Tierney stated you can see that. Ms. Tierney stated it would also be on the person's app that they had a reservation through the Township. Ms. Tierney stated we use Court Reserve for reservations, and we could put up signage indicating that.

Ms. Rock asked how much people are paying to be a club member. Ms. Tierney stated it is \$120 a year for a resident and \$60 for a half-season. Ms. Rock asked what else they get for being a club member. Ms. Tierney stated there are bulk hours with reservations already for the club, and the club has organized groups that meet. She stated they also get discounts for all the programming offered. Ms. Tierney stated if the proposal being discussed is approved, it will go before the Board of Supervisors as a fee change; and the members would get a discounted rate on any additional hours that they want to reserve at the courts.

Mr. Blundi asked if it has to be \$20, \$24, \$28, and \$32; and he asked if it could be \$10, \$12, \$14, and \$16. Ms. Tierney stated it can be whatever the Board chooses. She added that the fee would generally be divided by four people. Mr. Blundi stated he would like it to be free, but he agreed that there needs to be some kind of economic penalty or people could just reserve one or reserve multiple courts and then not show up. Ms. Rock stated she agrees that there should be a fee, but she feels the fee should be just enough to cover the expense to the Township and a little buffer beyond that. Mr. Blundi stated it seems that what is being said is that in order to police it, there has to be a financial consequence. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels that there needs to be some kind of deterrent since if there is no penalty of any sort, financial or otherwise, someone could just make multiple reservations and not show up which deprives other people from being able to play.

Mr. Blundi asked if there is no other way to police this since there is no one at the courts, and Mr. Wysocki agreed there is no one policing this at the courts. Mr. Wysocki stated he does not feel policing it would be a practical solution so there needs to be some kind of financial penalty. He added that he agrees that the fee should be the minimum that would mean something. He stated it needs to be enough to dissuade blanket reservations from happening.

Mr. Blundi asked Ms. Tierney how she knows if someone is a club member, resident, or non-resident when they make a reservation. Ms. Tierney stated club members are in the system, and non-members would be new registrants.

She stated residents/non-residents would have to give their address, and Ms. Gannon confirms if they are a resident or not.

Mr. Blundi stated he would be in favor of \$10, \$12, \$14, and \$16 if it cannot be free. Ms. Rock stated she would agree since it would cover the Township's expenses and would deter people from making multiple reservations and not showing up. Mr. Wysocki stated the fee would then be half of what has been proposed. Mr. Wysocki stated if the expected hours do not change that would bring in about \$1,300 in Revenue which would more than cover the expense to the Township. Mr. Brody asked Ms. Tierney if she feels those rates would accomplish what she is looking for; and Ms. Tierney stated this is a test, and she would agree to whatever the Board chooses.

Mr. Brody asked Ms. Fawcett how she feels we could solve this problem. Ms. Fawcett stated this is the same problem that was in existence when we were on Meetup. She stated another alternative is to penalize the account of someone after three "no-shows," and their account could be suspended for a month and prevent them from playing. Mr. Blundi asked how we would know if they did not show up since there is no one there monitoring it. Ms. Fawcett agreed that if there was no one to monitor it, it could not be enforced. Mr. Krauss stated this is different from the advanced, intermediate, and beginning sessions; and this is a situation where an individual is meeting up with their friends and wants to rent a court. He stated this is the same as someone calling up Pennsbury Racquet Club to rent a court; and if you cancel at the last minute there is a penalty since they would not be able to rent the court out on short notice. He stated if someone cancels within the time parameters put in place, a credit could be given. Ms. Fawcett stated if someone does not show at Pennsbury, there is someone at the door who knows that.

Ms. Fawcett stated there are people who will still double book, but it might work as people are generally honest. She stated if there is no one controlling access, there is no way to know whether this is a success. Ms. Tierney stated the only way she will know if this is working is if we cut down on the rogue groups who are booking on their own and start using our booking system instead. She stated whether they show up or not, they will have paid for the court, and it would be their financial loss. She stated we could have a policy that cancellations have to happen twenty-four hours in advance or you lose your payment.

Ms. Fawcett stated she reviewed the “Code of Ordinances” and it says for groups of fifteen or more, they need a Permit for play. She stated the Township could point to this and advise Team Reach that they are a group and need someone in the Township to take care of that. She stated someone from the Township needs to go out when these rogue groups are there and show them the Code of Ordinances; and since they are a group of more than fifteen and do not have a Permit, they would need to vacate. Ms. Tierney stated the staff did discuss whether we should go with the proposed reservation system or whether we go after each one of those groups and make them become a sanctioned group, but then we would have four to five leagues competing for space. Ms. Fawcett stated it would not matter whether there were four, five or ten Leagues; however, Ms. Tierney stated logistically it does matter to the staff.

Mr. Brody asked if the reservation system tracks the number of cancellations per member, and Ms. Tierney stated we would be able to see cancellations but we would not know if they were no-shows. Ms. Fawcett stated she helps with the software, and there is an audit log. She stated she runs a report and she knows who cancels.

Ms. Tierney stated another option would be to do it like the Dog Park which is gated in and you would have a membership and you would scan in. She stated that would be an easier way to monitor it. She stated they would also have to consider that for tennis as well. Ms. Fawcett stated that would solve the problem she was discussing, because she is the one who must deal with these issues. She stated she is a small person and “big guys” would come in who wanted to play, and she could not enforce it. Ms. Tierney stated no one was asking her to enforce it, and all Ms. Fawcett was doing was volunteering for her group. Ms. Fawcett stated a controlled access would solve a lot of issues.

Mr. Brody stated if there was an eight-person group, and a ninth person shows up who was not signed up for that time, they would probably let them play. Ms. Tierney stated that happens at the Dog Park, but there are cameras there; and people will tell if someone comes in that should not be there because they paid and they do not want that happening.

Mr. Wysocki stated he does not feel we can penalize anyone for no-shows since we cannot monitor that; but he feels it is common to have a twenty-four-hour cancellation policy, and he would be in favor of that. He stated if you cancel after that, you will forfeit your fee. Mr. Wysocki stated he feels they need to consider what they would do about inclement weather, and he feels they should be able to apply for credit for that. Ms. Tierney

stated we would probably do that the way we do it for the pavilions, and we allow them to re-schedule, but there are no refunds. Ms. Fawcett stated she feels the cancellation should be eight hours before rather than twenty-four hours.

Mr. Wysocki moved and Mr. Blundi seconded to amend the Motion by halving the fees.

Mr. Brody suggested meeting in the middle at \$15, \$18, \$21, and \$24. He stated while he is concerned that the lower fee will not be a deterrent he would support it.

Mr. Krauss stated if there is a high demand, we have the ability to increase the fees; but if there is no demand, we could cut the fees. Ms. Tierney stated she will bring this back at the time all the fees are considered, and we can discuss this further.

Mr. Ross stated this is the first time he is seeing the fee structure that was proposed and feels it was probably too high, but he would need to check what neighboring areas are doing.

Mr. Wysocki suggested \$16, \$20, \$24 and \$28 so it could be easily divided if there are four people on the court, and Mr. Brody stated he would be in favor of that. Mr. Blundi stated he feels that is too much. Mr. Wysocki stated this would give us latitude to go either way depending on how this works out. Ms. Fawcett stated Pennsbury Racquet Club charges \$12 per person for two hours for a Meetup session. Mr. Krauss stated that is not an individual private session for your own court. Ms. Tierney stated she looked at Pennsbury's hourly rate, and it is much higher. Mr. Krauss stated for a non-member to rent a court at Mercer Bucks, it costs \$28 for ninety minutes per person so for four people that would be \$92. Mr. Krauss stated he feels what Mr. Wysocki has proposed is fair for this test period.

Mr. Wysocki moved to amend his Amendment to charge \$16, \$20, \$24, and \$28.

Mr. Brody stated we will be looking at the Budget in October, so this will be a six-month trial. Mr. Blundi stated he wanted it to be free; but he understands that making it free creates the problem of people reserving multiple courts and not showing up. He stated we built these courts as a public amenity, and he does not know that we should be charging for them, although he understands that there needs to be a consequence that is fair. Mr. Wysocki stated you can go play on the courts for free if no one is there.

Mr. Brody seconded the amendment, and the Motion as amended carried with Mr. Blundi opposed.

Macclesfield Park Master Plan Update

Ms. Tierney stated the meeting was held on March 26 and about twenty residents were present, and she wished that more residents had shown up. She stated we will take feedback on the Zencity page, and she asked the Board to help her get the word out about the Zencity site and also to make their own comments. Ms. Tierney stated this is the first time we have used Zencity so they did have to work through some issues. She stated it is a great tool for people to provide feedback. Ms. Tierney stated there will also be a future meeting and the Steering Committee will come meet with the Park Board and there will be a presentation from JMT. She stated she hopes the planning piece will be done in the fall.

Five Mile Woods Update

Mr. John Heilferty, Five Mile Woods Naturalist, was present. Ms. Tierney stated we had a lot of volunteers helping with the Five Mile Woods project which took about one month. She stated some of the volunteers were there every day even in the rain working on the project. She stated there were about fifty to sixty people who contributed. She stated there is some clean-up still to be done.

Mr. Heilferty stated the trail is not yet open as there is clean-up, signage, and other final touches that need to be done although the bulk of the construction was completed today. He thanked all the volunteers who came out, and for the support of the Township. He stated there is 675' that is completely accessible, and there is another 46' of new boardwalk that connects to some older boardwalk which he does not feel is in a condition that he feels is accessible. He stated the 675' that is accessible is a huge distance that goes through the woods past some very interesting features. He stated there will also be a 12' by 12' platform area that will be in front of a wildflower meadow that we are in the process of creating with the help of some Eagle Scouts and others. Mr. Heilferty stated the boardwalk will be officially opened when we do the ribbon cutting at the Earth Day Open House which has been scheduled for Sunday, April 21 from 12 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Tierney stated the project was very well organized. She stated a number of people with mobility issues were in attendance so it could be seen that there was a need for this in the community. She stated she also learned a lot about the Woods from Mr. Heilferty.

Mr. Krauss thanked everyone for all their efforts on this project which was much needed.

Summer Programming Update

Ms. Tierney stated we have hired a new Programmer, Rob Vandegrift, who comes with a lot of experience. She stated he has connected with all of the programs, and pickleball will ultimately fall under he and Ms. Gannon. Ms. Tierney stated we were a little slow with Programming in the beginning of the year because we did not have anyone dedicating all of their time to that so we are a little behind with Registrations. She stated with time she feels that we will be seeing additional programs that we have not seen previously, diversifying some of the programs that we offer. Programming numbers were provided to the Board.

Summer Camp

Ms. Tierney stated Summer Camp is mostly full. Mr. Vandegrift is working with the busing companies, Registrations, and the wait list. She stated he already knows how to use our system and needed no training on that. She stated he has also made some recommendations as to how we could use the system better. She stated we have done Camp interviews for staff, and hopefully we will have a full staff. She stated we are still lacking some leadership positions, and we are looking for a Director and a Manager.

Pool Update

Ms. Tierney stated we are still behind with Registrations which she feels is primarily due to the fact that there was no early-bird discount; however, it is now picking up. She stated we are fully staffed at the Pool. She stated Opening Day is the Saturday before Memorial Day.

Memorial Park Basketball Court Update

Ms. Tierney stated the Board voted on a Contract which she included in the Park Board's packet. She stated the first phase will be testing the ground because of the significance of the cracking in the court to determine how bad the work will be, and we will then see if we can move forward with the next phase. She stated it is under Budget at this point, and hopefully any additional remediation needed will stay within the Budget range.

Park & Recreation Board Comments

Mr. Brody asked the Board members to watch the Macclesfield Park meeting if they have not done so. He stated he understands that they are proposing getting rid of a lit baseball field and a soccer field in the initial steps without any contemplation of replacement of those. He stated he is very concerned about that; and when he voted to approve Play for All, he thought that it would be not just be taking out athletic fields and converting them into Play for All fields, but that it would be insuring that our overall Park system is equally diversified. He stated he would not want to take down trees in Five Mile Woods and turn it into a skatepark, and he feels that there is a need for athletic fields.

Mr. Brody stated he tried to participate in the questionnaires and the chat rooms, but it was not user-friendly. He stated there have only been about three people who have commented in each chat so there has not been a lot of response. Mr. Brody stated he is very concerned about what is being proposed.

Ms. Tierney stated the questionnaire is available on the Zencity page, and we will be doing more promoting. She stated she had a meeting with Zencity, and they can send out each individual discussion as separate marketing, and she will start working on that.

Mr. Krauss asked with regard to the basketball court, once they do the survey, is there a Plan B for an alternative site for a basketball court if it is deemed that the current location is inappropriate. Ms. Tierney stated we do not at this time.

Mr. Blundi asked if the survey will be definitive, and Ms. Tierney stated they are doing core boring testing. Mr. Blundi asked if they will go into enough sites to know if the area is appropriate or not, and Ms. Tierney agreed that

she understands that testing the six sites will give a good sampling. Mr. Brody stated it is not just a surface test and it goes below the surface. Ms. Tierney reviewed what is in the Contract that will be done. Ms. Tierney stated there will be a pre-meeting to come up with a date when the testing will be done depending on the weather.

FAREWELL TO DAVID MALINOWSKI

Mr. Krauss recognized Mr. Malinowski for his years of service not only on the Park & Recreation Board but also on the Zoning Hearing Board. Other Board members thanked him for his service. Mr. Malinowski stated he held elected office in another Township and in total has been involved in public service for over thirty years. He stated it has been worth it, and he recommended that everyone be involved in public service to make a difference in the life of their community. He thanked everyone for their kind words and support.

There being no further business, Mr. Malinowski moved, Mr. Brody seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary