

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – MAY 14, 2024

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on May 14, 2024. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: Douglas Krauss, Chair
Michael Brody, Vice Chair (joined meeting in progress)
Kim Rock, Secretary
Rob LaBar, Member (joined meeting in progress)

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director

Absent: Mike Blundi, Park & Recreation Board Member
Dennis Wysocki, Park & Recreation Board Member
Matt Ross, Supervisor Liaison

LIAISON REPORT

There was no one providing a Liaison Report this evening.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Macclesfield Park Master Plan Update

Ms. Tierney announced that JMT will present the Macclesfield Park Master Plan to the Park & Recreation Board on June 11, with opportunities for online feedback. It was discovered that the YMS Lease, designed with exclusivity for YMS, violates DCNR fund requirements, leading the Board of Supervisors to table the discussion. Resident Laurie Grey, part of the Park Study Steering Committee, inquired about the feedback process and was assured by Ms. Tierney that comments will be incorporated into the June 11 presentation, without a prior Steering Committee meeting.

Mr. Brody entered the meeting at this time.

Concerns were raised about the RFP process and whether JMT's final plan should return to the Park & Rec Board before proceeding to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Brody expressed concerns about the plan's alignment with "Play For All" and the removal of a lighted baseball field. Mr. Matt Curtin of PAA voiced opposition to the proposal, citing the loss of a valuable lit field, inadequate parking, and the plan's cost. Ms. Tierney agreed to share these concerns with the consultant.

Mr. LaBar entered the meeting at this time.

Five Mile Woods Update

Ms. Tierney reported a successful workday at the Five Mile Woods, organized by the Friends of the Five Mile Woods. The event included planting 90 plants funded by a Bowman's Hill Plant Grant, and there are plans to apply for the same grant next year.

Summer Programming Update

Ms. Tierney reported the success of Pickleball palooza on May 11 and noted that the Summer Camp is fully booked with hiring nearly complete, including a new Summer Camp Director and two pending Manager roles.

Pool Update

Ms. Tierney reported that pool registrations are significantly behind last year's numbers by 2,141 members and \$168,417 in revenue, partly due to the elimination of the discount period, increased fees, and inclement weather. Despite these challenges, promotional contests, such as premier parking and party starter kit giveaways, have helped close the financial gap to \$92,032. Efforts are being made to facilitate same-day registrations at the pool, with staff at the gate assisting with the process.

Approve Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for SofSurface at the Memorial Park Playground

Ms. Tierney recommended switching from a poured in place rubberized surface to SofSurface tiling at the Memorial Park playground due to durability issues and the original company's closure. The new surface, which allows for easier maintenance and individual tile replacement, has been favorably reviewed by other Municipalities. Although \$330,000 was budgeted for surface replacement and additional shade structures, the higher cost of SofSurface will limit the extent of new shade structures this year.

Mr. Brody moved, Ms. Rock seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the SofSurface at the Memorial Park Playground.

Approval of Pickleball Policies

Ms. Tierney recommended updating the rental rules for the Memorial Park courts, leaving one of four courts open while the others are rented via the CourtReserve application, with schedules accessible online. Township resident Ms. Sue Fawcett voiced strong objections to increased pickleball fees, noting a significant drop in membership and usage, and argued for equal treatment with tennis facilities, suggesting lower fees and additional pickleball court lines. Despite concerns about the impact of fees on usage and fairness, the Park & Recreation Board emphasized the necessity of fees to cover rising costs and ensure facility maintenance.

Mr. Brody moved, Mr. LaBar seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the proposed Pickleball Policies.

Pool Update

Ms. Tierney reported that the lap pool filter will be installed this week, but slide maintenance is delayed due to rain, necessitating a new vendor before full summer operations. Staff training faced challenges due to a broken pool heater, which will be replaced next year, and training is being conducted in partnership with Pennsbury School District.

May 14, 2024

Park & Recreation Board – page 4 of 4

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Brody moved, Ms. Rock seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of April 9, 2024 as written.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p .m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary