

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – JUNE 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on June 11, 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
Kim Rock, Secretary
Mike Blundi, Member
Rob LaBar, Member

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Brody moved, Mr. LaBar seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of May 14, 2024 as written.

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

The Park & Recreation Board will not meet in July. The Road Tour will be held on August 13, 2024. Members should provide feedback on sites to be visited.

MACCLESFIELD PARK PRESENTATION

Project Presentation and Attendees

On June 11, 2024, Mr. Andrew Mears, Landscape Architect, and Mr. Neil Beach, Transportation and Trail Planner, from Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson Engineering, along with Ms. Anne Toole of Toole Recreation & Planning, presented to the Park & Recreation Board. The project's

primary aim is to address high traffic and safety concerns at Macclesfield Park, and to develop a plan for its future to meet community needs and enhance active recreation capacity.

Project Goals and Plans

Near-Term Plan:

- **Safety and Traffic:** Key focus on safety enhancements and improving vehicular and pedestrian circulation.
- **Infrastructure Changes:** Proposed realignment of the entry drive, separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, creation of drop-off locations, and a pedestrian promenade, resulting in the removal of a lit baseball field.
- **Parking:** Reduction of about 80 permanent parking spaces, with plans for 120 overflow parking spaces for peak events.
- **Trail System:** Introduction of an extensive loop trail system.

Long-Term Vision Plan:

- **Community Park Development:** Transitioning Macclesfield Park into a more community-oriented space rather than just a sports complex.
- **Field Adjustments:** Addressing the displacement of facilities due to the park's reorganization.
- **Additional Amenities:** Proposals include upgraded field lighting, themed playgrounds, skate parks, game courts, pavilions with restrooms, and additional signage.
- **Lighting:** Recommendation to reduce the number of lit fields and use LED lights to minimize glare.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Sports Groups and Neighbors:

- **Feedback from Sports Groups:** Football's needs are met, but soccer requires two additional fields, and baseball needs immediate provision of 70' and 90' fields.
- **Neighbor Concerns:** Focus on traffic, safety, and light pollution, especially in the park's western half.
- **Public Requests:** High demand for a perimeter loop trail, parking improvements, and pedestrian promenade.

Consultations and Adjustments:

- **PennDOT Discussions:** Regarding a potential second access point.

- **School District Cooperation:** Exploring the use of school fields to supplement park facilities.
- **Stakeholder Meetings:** Input gathered from neighbors and various sports groups to tailor the plans.

Community Feedback and Concerns

- **Field Removal Impact:** Concerns over the removal of lit baseball fields and the impact on youth sports programs.
- **Traffic and Safety:** Suggestions for alternative traffic flows, better crosswalks, and maintaining some parking near key fields for accessibility.
- **Environmental and Noise Concerns:** Issues raised about noise levels, light pollution, and adherence to environmental regulations.
- **Maintenance and Costs:** Discussions on increased maintenance needs due to new infrastructure and the importance of managing costs effectively.

Next Steps

- **Finalization of Near-Term Plan Budgets:** Presentation to the Board of Supervisors and completion of the plan by fall 2024.
- **Feedback Integration:** Revisions based on community and board feedback, particularly regarding traffic flow, field locations, and parking efficiency.
- **Special Meeting Consideration:** Potential special meeting in August to review updates before the formal presentation.

Overall, the project aims to improve safety, enhance recreational opportunities, and transform Macclesfield Park into a balanced community space while addressing current infrastructure and usage challenges.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Pool is open and Camp starts in two weeks. Pickleball Palooza was well attended and out of that came requests for more youth programming. The Pool financial gap has closed, but number of members is still down. Weekly reports will be sent to the Park & Rec Board members comparing last year to this year.

June 11, 2024

Park & Recreation Board – page 4 of 4

There being no further business, Mr. Brody moved, Mr. Blundi seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Rock, Secretary