

## **Park and Recreation Board September 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

The September 10, 2012 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order by Chair Randy Reardon at 7:33 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Park and Recreation Board: Chair Randy Reardon, Vice Chair Dawn Wyatt, Member Donna DeSimone, Member Bill Hofer, Member Tom Kovalcik, Member Jim Pearsall and Member Eileen Sichel. Also in attendance were Supervisor Liaison Tom Cino and members of the public.

### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Ms. Sichel and was seconded by Ms. Wyatt to approve the August 13, 2012 minutes. Motion carried by a 6-0 vote. Ms. DeSimone was not present for this motion.

### **Turf Management Consultant Report**

The Brownsburg Park Site Evaluation and Recommendation Report prepared by Jones Turf Management was discussed extensively. Consensus was that although the options provided in the report for improving two fields provided valuable information, the costs were prohibitive for both the club and the township. A smaller, working group comprised of members of both the Park and Recreation Board and the soccer club volunteered to meet before the next meeting to further discuss the suggestions in the report, to brainstorm alternative ideas to achieve improvement on a test field (for example, alternative water sources, sod, donated materials, grass seed variety), to develop a list of potential questions for the turf consultant and to define what success means and what is expected. Further review and discussion will take place at the next meeting.

UMNSC confirmed their commitment to utilize Brownsburg Park as their main facility and their intention to commit to a long-term plan for overall park improvement, including but not limited to turf improvement if their resources and manpower could be better utilized for other cooperative capital park projects. Their registrants are predominantly from the Upper Makefield-Newtown area and building a sense of community is one goal of moving resources to a centralized location.

UMNSC requested moving their test field from Fields 1 and 2 to Field 3, a smaller area with easier access to the existing waterlines to allow for watering during the initial growth and establishment stage. A long-term prioritized plan for the remaining fields would be developed after evaluation of the test field.

### **2013 Budget Requests**

There was lengthy discussion about field maintenance for both 2012 and 2013 and the best way to proceed since the recommendations in the turf consultant's report are not fiscally prudent at this time. At soccer's request, the club assumed responsibility for maintenance of Fields 1 and 2 (other than mowing) in lieu of a 2012 Field Use Fee of \$5,000. Their hope was that those fields would be re-installed by Fall 2012 based on the turf consultant's report and that the consultant's maintenance recommendation would then be assumed by the club. Since they will not be re-installed at this time, discussion followed about how best to proceed on Fields 1 and 2, whether to spend the money on seeding/aeration treatments now or to hold the 2012 fee and combine it with the 2013 fee for possible future field reinstallation. Concern was expressed that a year of maintenance would be lost on those fields if the end result was not to reinstall 1 and 2. The steering committee will discuss the options and provide a recommendation at the next meeting.

The township would continue to provide all maintenance on Fields 3, 4, 5 and 6 in 2012.

The 2013 budget recommendation was postponed until the next meeting.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Ms. DeSimone and was seconded by Ms. Sichel to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approved: October 8, 2012