

Park and Recreation Board December 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The December 16, 2024 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order by Chair Robert Rupp at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Park and Recreation Board: Chair Robert Rupp, Vice Chair Debbie Stasolla, Member Kathryn Benson, Member Andy Reiss, and Member Melissa Carpenter. Also in attendance were Assistant Manager Judy Caporiccio and Supervisor Liaison Tom Cino.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

Public Comment

Jaco de Waal, 12 Goldney Drive, shared that he discovered pickleball after retiring and has since developed a strong passion for the sport. He highlighted its positive impact on his social life, fitness, and overall well-being. Mr. de Waal expressed support for the addition of pickleball courts at Brownsburg Park and presented a Change.org petition signed by other supporters, noting that existing courts in neighboring townships require longer commutes and may impose restrictions on non-residents.

Mary Jane Costa, 122 Beaumont Drive, stated that she also discovered pickleball during retirement and stressed how beneficial it has been for her in developing social networks and engaging in other activities.

Jack Brode, resident of Newtown Township, shared his introduction to pickleball and the benefits sport has provided him. He relayed the positive aspects the addition of courts has had in his development and encouraged Upper Makefield to build them in our community.

Steve Kondonijakos, Goldney Drive, supported the construction of pickleball courts in the Township, noted the inclusivity of the sport, and its value in bringing the community together.

Amy Saunders, 49 Brownsburg Road, expressed appreciation for the positive impacts that have been shared about pickleball. She shared concerns about the negative impact pickleball courts at Brownsburg Park could have on real estate values and wildlife, and the impact of the noise on surrounding neighbors. She suggested considering another location.

Jim Pearsall, 1482 River Road and former member of the Park and Recreation Board, expressed appreciation for the Board's position. As a retired realtor, he shared information about the potential negative impacts of pickleball courts on real estate values and about the impact of noise on neighboring properties. He is not supportive of building pickleball courts at Brownsburg Park.

Chris Muth, 1062 Washington Crossing Road, was supportive of building pickleball courts as a community asset. He noted opportunities to study placement, surfaces, sound mitigation measures and changes in technology to address quality of life concerns.

Nelson Costa, 122 Beaumont Drive, supported the addition of pickleball courts as a community asset and stated that the availability of courts are used as an incentive in some property listings he has viewed. He also shared the changes in technology that are addressing noise concerns.

Liza Norman, 101 Cedar Glen Drive, expressed that she is not opposed to pickleball but is concerned about the impact of the courts on neighbors, specifically noise and property values. If the project moves forward, she requested a professional sound study under different atmosphere conditions,

notification to neighbors, and a public meeting to discuss the results.

Rob Norman, 101 Cedar Glen Drive, stated that he is not opposed to pickleball and appreciates the many benefits people enjoy from the sport, but he is very concerned about the impact to the welfare of neighbors from the noise pickleball creates and the impact on property values.

Spencer Sanders, 49 Brownsburg Road, shared his positive experiences living near Brownsburg Park. He then expressed concerns of neighbors that the sound from pickleball is a different type of sound, sound carries differently based on certain atmospheric conditions, and wildlife living in and near the park could be negatively impacted.

The Board expressed appreciation to all for attending the meeting and sharing concerns.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and was seconded by Ms. Carpenter to approve the September 9, 2024 minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Community Day Follow-up

The Board discussed the Community Day event in September, noting its success and discussing key takeaways for future events. Ms. Stasolla will summarize to provide feedback for future events.

2025 Meeting Schedule

The 2025 Park & Recreation Board meeting scheduled is: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8. The meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. beginning next year.

Liaison Reports

Board of Supervisors

Mr. Cino provided the following updates

- Board of Supervisors Reorganization meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2025.
- The 2025 Budget is approved and posted on the Township website.

Township

Ms. Caporiccio provided the following updates:

- Memorial Butterfly Garden. Location is staked at Brownsburg Park. Preliminary work has begun with installation expected in Spring 2025.
- Brownsburg Park Roof Replacement. Under contract for early Spring 2025.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reiss and was seconded by Ms. Benson to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Caporiccio

Assistant Township Manager

Approved: January 13, 2025