

Park and Recreation Board

June 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The June 13, 2022 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order by Chair Robert Rupp at 7:38 p.m. at Lookout Park, 1565 River Road, New Hope, PA. In attendance were the following members of the Park and Recreation Board: Chair Robert Rupp, Vice Chair Debbie Stasolla, and Members Kathryn Benson, Lynn Geiszler, Andy Reiss, and Joe Weiss. Also in attendance was Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio. Supervisor Liaison Tom Cino participated by telephone.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

Public Comment

Frank Gatto, 445 Lurgan Road, former chair of the Park & Recreation Board, expressed appreciation for the dedication of the volunteers and the improvements made to the parks. As a former member of the Board, he provided background and history on the development of the two Township parks.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reiss and was seconded by Mr. Weiss to approve the May 16, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Subcommittee Updates

Lookout Park Projects

Mr. Rupp provided a summary of the subcommittee (Mr. Rupp, Ms. Geiszler, Mr. Reiss) visit to Lookout Park to brainstorm potential projects. Their recommended priority project is shade covering over the existing picnic area; potentially connecting the new structure to the existing building. They envision squaring off the patio/walkway and adding additional tables and benches. The committee suggests consulting with an architect for suggestions and to keep with the style of Brownsburg Park and the theme of Lookout Park.

An additional suggested improvement for board consideration is establishing a quiet sitting area with chairs or benches in a current no-mow area. Ms. Benson will bring the suggestion to reclaim some of the no-mow area to the EAC.

The Board also discussed the need for additional parking, which was experienced during this meeting. Adding gravel or mowing a portion of the no-mow area near the southernmost parking lot would provide an area for overflow. Ms. Benson will bring this to the EAC as well.

A field map wayfinder sign is also suggested for the north entrance to the walkway. Mr. Rupp will draft an example.

Brownsburg Park

Ms. Stasolla provided a summary of the subcommittee (Ms. Stasolla, Ms. Benson, Mr. Weiss) visit to Brownsburg Park to brainstorm potential projects. Their recommendation is to phase projects at the park with Phase 1 focusing on the addition of a court for pickleball. Mr. Weiss then shared his research on the growing popularity of the sport, court construction, design, location and sound abatement. He explained that four pickleball courts can be constructed on the footprint of one tennis court. The subcommittee suggests construction of a court to house four pickleball courts, which could be converted to tennis or basketball in the future depending on usage. Staff will contact the Township Engineer for information about the existing courts and potential for expansion in that area.

Phase II recommendations include additional playground equipment for older children. The subcommittee suggested phasing the park improvements to help determine layout and placement of new equipment. At the appropriate time, consulting with a playground designer may help to maximize space and investment. Ms. Benson will seek input from families utilizing the park for their suggestions on new equipment.

Additionally, adding more shaded areas at the park, with trees and/or covered benches, is recommended. Ms. Stasolla stated that she will work with staff to develop a preliminary design for a replacement wayfarer sign.

Liaison Reports

Environmental Advisory Council

Ms. Benson shared that the EAC is exploring options for the Mt. Eyre property, which could include some areas of reforestation. Mr. Rupp and Mr. Reiss volunteered to meet with representatives of the EAC to brainstorm suggestions for the property for consideration by both the Park & Recreation Board and the Environmental Advisory Council.

Staff Report

Ms. Caporiccio provided the following updates:

- The replacement display case for Lookout Park has been ordered but not yet delivered.
- The applicant withdrew the request approved at the last meeting to hold a softball camp at Lookout Park.
- The Township renewed the agreement with Big Oak Whitetail Management Association (BOWMA) to manage the deer population on Township-owned property. Homeowners are encouraged to contact BOWMA directly for information about deer management on their private property. Contact information is available on the Township website.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

The Board will hold a combined July/August meeting on August 1, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at Brownsburg Park. No meetings will be held on July 11 or August 8.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Stasolla and was seconded by Mr. Geiszler to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Caporiccio
Assistant Township Manager
Approved: August 1, 2022