

**Park and Recreation Board**  
**July 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The July 31, 2023 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order by Chair Robert Rupp at 7:32 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 Lynn Trstensky, Member Andy Reiss, and Member Braun Taylor. Also in attendance were Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio, and Supervisor Liaison Tom Cino.

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of the victims of the July 15 flood, and the Board expressed appreciation to the first responders for their efforts during the event.

**Public Comment**

Liza Fisher Norman, 101 Cedar Glen Drive, expressed appreciation for Brownsburg Park but was not supportive of the pickleball court project. She referenced several articles stating concerns about noise pollution caused by pickleball, and she submitted a petition dated July 31, 2023 listing neighbors who oppose the project. Ms. Norman asked that neighbors be contacted directly before the project moves forward and that sound is assessed, such as a temporary pickleball court at the existing tennis court.

Robert Norman, 101 Cedar Glen Drive, referenced the pickleball court project at Brownsburg Park and noted specific concerns about neighbor input, noise pollution and negative effects on property values. He asked that neighbors be contacted before the project progresses and referenced articles related to noise mitigation efforts around existing courts.

Mr. Rupp thanked all present for attending and expressing their concerns. He noted that a resident survey was distributed in 2022. It was posted on the Township website, distributed through the Township eNews email list, Sol Feinstone Elementary School, Patriot FC, Upper Makefield Youth Baseball/Softball League, Homeowners Associations that have provided contacts to the Township, and was discussed at Park and Recreation Board and Board of Supervisors meetings.

Calvin Rose, 8 Lenape Drive, provided his background in noise and vibration control and physics and stated that, after visiting pickleball courts, his opinion is that most offensive is the percussive nature of the popping sound when the ball hits the paddle.

Ann Marie Murray, 489 River Road and a former member of the Park and Recreation Board, felt that a survey without direct communication to the neighbors was not sensitive to those living closest to the proposed courts. She did not encourage a shared court with tennis and thanked the board for volunteering.

William Pfundt, 114 Cedar Glen Drive, agreed with the comments stated previously in opposition to the pickleball courts, particularly the objectionable noise and potential adverse effect on properties.

Spencer Saunders, 489 Brownsburg Road and former member of the Zoning Hearing Board, referenced examples of the effect that noise can have on homeowners, provided background on the notification process for a zoning variance application, and expressed frustration that neighbors were not notified directly about the proposed courts.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Taylor and was seconded by Ms. Trstensky to approve the June 12, 2023 minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **Field Use Requests**

### **Fall 2023 - UMYBSL**

Melissa Paparone represented UMYBSL and explained that the fields were not used over the summer. She then provided an overview of the UMYBSL Field Use Request for the Fall season. The snack shed will not be used for the Fall season. UMYBSL will continue the approved maintenance plan for 2023 in lieu of field use fees:

- Prepare fields for use at the beginning of the season, purchase and spread infield mix as needed, clean dugouts, set-up and replace/repair field equipment. This is an estimated \$5,000+ expense to the League.
- Set up irrigation, fertilization and seeding plans as needed for fields.
- Mow and edge fields throughout the year as needed to maintain playability throughout the season.
- Maintain fields, batting cages and dugouts throughout the season.

Discussion followed and a motion was made by Ms. Stasolla and seconded by Ms. Trstensky to approve the request of UMYBSL for use of Lookout Park fields from August 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023 as submitted with the maintenance plan outlined above. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **Pickleball Court Project Bid Result Review**

The Board received a summary of the Pickleball Court Project bid results. Board members expressed appreciation for the public comment received this evening noting that neighbors were not intentionally overlooked for input. Residents were encouraged to sign up for the eNews and provide updated HOA contact information to the Township. Board consensus was to hold discussion on this project until the next meeting in consideration of the concerns raised.

### **Lookout Park Shade Cover Project Review**

Consensus was to discuss this project and the pickleball court project at the next meeting.

### **Liaison Reports**

Board of Supervisors. Mr. Cino informed the Board that the 2024 Budget process will begin in the next month. He also expressed deep appreciation to the First Responders who assisted in the July 15 flood event and the days that followed, noting the exceptional cooperation and respect between the various teams.

EAC. Ms. Benson said the EAC received public comment about the Mt. Eyre property mowing plan, and a meeting of the joint subcommittee may be scheduled.

Township. Ms. Caporiccio noted that 2024 budget requests will be considered at the next meeting. She also relayed that there have been several instances of vandalism at the park restrooms.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Trstensky and seconded by Mr. Reiss to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Caporiccio

Assistant Township Manager

Approved: September 11, 2023