

## **Park and Recreation Board**

### **September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The September 11, 2023 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order by Chair Robert Rupp at 7:33 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, Member Braun Taylor, and Member Joe Weiss. Also in attendance were Assistant Manager Judy Caporiccio and Supervisor Liaison Tom Cino.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

#### **Public Comment**

Kevin Holmes of 476 Stoneybrook, inquired about additional bridges for easier access to the canal and the opportunity to add trails to access the parks, perhaps through preserved open space areas. Mr. Cino provided background that the canal bridges are owned by DCNR and past efforts by this committee for additional bridges have been unsuccessful. He explained that although the Township holds easements to open space, property owners would have to grant permission to use the land. He offered to provide more detail and historical background.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Trstensky and was seconded by Mr. Weiss to approve the July 31, 2023 minutes. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

#### **Patriot Field**

Ms. Caporiccio provided an overview of the Field Use Request of Patriot FC for August 15 - November 30, 2023 for both youth and adult leagues. In lieu of a field use fee, the club will continue their approved maintenance plan below for Brownsburg Park. Patriot will collaborate with Township management, KJB Turf Management, and Hammer Landscaping to plan for, treat, and remediate the soccer fields. The pavilion is not being requested for Fall use.

- Patriot FC will commit to spending at least \$6,000 on landscaping and maintenance services at Brownsburg. These expenses will focus on weed control, fertilizer, seeding, rolling fields, and other treatments that will bring the greatest benefit to the fields.
- Field resting to be determined once final registration numbers for the season are known.
- Aerate and overseed fields on a needs-based schedule, exact fields to be determined following an evaluation in the early Spring (March-April).
- Patriot FC will pay to maintain or replace the soccer goals, equipment, and supplies used at the park.
- Patriot FC will reimburse the Township for the cost to winterize the irrigation system for all 5 fields.
- In addition to financial support, Patriot FC will continue to rotate goals and equipment, use areas between fields, and run practices outside areas of heavy use to preserve the fields.
- Volunteers and coaches will be at Brownsburg for portions of almost every day of the week during the soccer seasons and will be observant and report observed improper usage or mistreatment of the fields, equipment, or courts at Brownsburg to the Township. Trainers, coaches and volunteers will be instructed to call the police or 911 if they see something.

Discussion followed and a motion was made by Ms. Stasolla and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the Patriot FC Brownsburg Park Use Request for Fall 2023 as submitted, with Patriot FC providing the maintenance plan outlined above in lieu of field use fees and reimbursing the costs of winterizing the irrigation system. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **Brownsburg Park Pickleball Court Project Update**

Mr. Rupp provided an update that on August 21, after noise concerns were expressed at the last meeting by neighbors of Brownsburg Park, a pickleball game was played in the area where the courts are proposed to be built. Mr. Rupp went to locations in the Cedar Glen Development, Estates of Washington Crossing, Orchards at Jericho, River Road/Brownsburg Road intersection, and at the Brownsburg Park entrance to listen for sound generated by the game. He heard road noise or children playing but reported that he did not hear noise from the pickleball game at any of those locations. Mr. Rupp offered to repeat the test with neighbors.

Liza Norman, 101 Cedar Glen, appreciated that the test was performed but expressed concern that noise is carried differently depending on the atmosphere and that the sound of consistent bouncing is as important as the decibels.

Ann Marie Murray, Brownsburg Road expressed appreciation for the effort to test sound but still has concerns about noise for those living closest to the park.

Discussion followed and consensus was to request that the funds budgeted in 2023 for the courts are carried over into the 2024 budget to allow time for a noise test with the neighbors. Ms. Caporiccio explained that the existing bids will not be viable next year, and the project must be rebid if it moves forward. A motion was then made by Ms. Trstensky and seconded by Mr. Reiss to request that the funds budgeted in 2023 for the pickleball court project be budgeted in 2024. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **2024 Budget Requests**

#### **Upper Makefield Youth Baseball/Softball League**

Mike Costello, President of Upper Makefield Baseball, provided an overview of the club's 2024 budget request:

- Dugouts: \$50,000 to build two additional dugouts.
- Fence repair/backstop relocation: \$25,000. The club has spent \$8,000 to repair fencing in 2023.
- Field maintenance/mowing support: \$15,000.

Mr. Costello noted that even with fundraising, the financial burden on the club due to inflation and increased costs is significant, and they requested Township assistance. Mr. Rupp provided an overview of the current Township policy, which is that the Township provides general park maintenance and improvements for public use, and the clubs provide sport-specific items in lieu of a field use fee and priority use of the parks. The baseball club has provided field specific mowing and maintenance over the general mowing service the Township vendor would provide. Mr. Cino provided historical background that the policy has evolved over time with sports groups and the Township working together to find the right formula for the club's priority use while meeting the challenges of field maintenance.

Discussion followed and the Board appreciated the added expenses due to inflation. They suggested that, to aid further discussion, the club document the current partnership, potential future arrangements, fundraising efforts and opportunities, noting that fundraising would benefit multiple groups when all Township emergency services are involved.

### **Lookout Park Shade Cover Project Update**

The Board was in agreement to recommend approval of the Lookout Park Shade Canopy proposal to the Board of Supervisors based on the resident survey results and subsequent discussion. To accommodate the existing piping under the concrete pad, the kit will be modified with 3 columns instead of 5 and the pitch will match the existing building for a cohesive look.

Discussion followed, and a motion was made by Ms. Stasolla and seconded by Ms. Trstensky to recommend approval of the Lookout Park Shade Canopy proposal and construction to the Board of Supervisors. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **Liaison Reports**

Board of Supervisors. Mr. Cino stated that the 2024 Budget process is underway with workshops scheduled for September 13 and October 3, and presentation of the Preliminary Budget on October 17. He commended staff for consistently controlling costs.


EAC. Ms. Benson noted that the focus of the last meeting was discussion of the July 15 flash flood event.

Township. Ms. Caporiccio provided further details about the 2024 Budget process and confirmed that the Board is recommending proceeding with the Lookout Park Canopy Project in 2023 and moving the pickleball court project into the 2024 budget cycle.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Reiss and was seconded by Ms. Stasolla to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy A. Caporiccio

Approved: February 12, 2024