

Park and Recreation Board

June 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The June 10, 2024, 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, Member Kathryn Benson, Member Lynn Trstensky, and Member Andy Reiss. Also in attendance were Assistant Manager Judy Caporiccio, Supervisor Liaison Tom Cino and Supervisor Tim Thomas

Members of the public were also in attendance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and was seconded by Ms. Trstensky to approve the April 8, 2024 minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Summer Field Use Request

Upper Makefield Youth Baseball/Softball League

Ms. Caporiccio presented an overview of the club's summer field use request and maintenance plan for Lookout Park:

- 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 \$10,000+ expense that the League will incur.
- Set up irrigation, fertilization and seeding plans as needed for fields.
- Mow and edge fields during the playing season as needed to maintain playability. In the spring/summer months, mowing will occur every 7-14 days.
- Maintain fields, snack sheds, batting cages and dugouts throughout the season.

Discussion followed, and a motion was made by Mr. Reiss and seconded by Ms. Benson to approve the request of UMYBSL for use of Lookout Park fields for the 2024 summer season as submitted conditioned upon the club providing the maintenance plan above in lieu of field use fees. The snack shed will not be used over the summer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Patriot FC

Ms. Caporiccio presented the club's Summer 2024 Field Use Request for June 16 – July 31, 2024. 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 summer 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. Benson and seconded by Ms. Trstensky to approve the Patriot FC Brownsburg Park Use Request for Summer 2024 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. The snack stand will not be used over the summer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Brownsburg Park Pickleball Court Project

The Board resumed discussion on the Brownsburg Park Pickleball Court Project

Marilyn Roche, 3 Pheasant Run, expressed her appreciation for the tennis courts and was relieved to learn that the pickle ball courts were not being considered to replace the tennis court.

Jim Pearsall, 1482 River Road and former member of the Park and Recreation Board, expressed concern about the noise from pickleball courts and about measures to control league or outside use that would inhibit resident use. He recommended seeking a professional sound test and communication to neighbors surrounding the park.

Spencer Saunders, 489 Brownsburg East and former member of the Zoning Hearing Board, expressed opposition to locating pickleball courts at Brownsburg Park because of the effect of the noise on neighbors, which varies due to atmospheric conditions. He encouraged communication to the neighbors surrounding the park.

Amy Saunders, 489 Brownsburg East, is opposed to locating pickleball courts in Brownsburg Park because of effect of the noise on neighbors. She feels a professional sound study should occur because the noise from pickleball is different than the noise from soccer games.

Liza Norman, 101 Cedar Glen Drive, expressed that she is not in support of pickleball courts at Brownsburg Park, wants the Township to communicate with the surrounding neighbors, and agrees that a professional sound test should occur because of how differently sounds carry. She also referenced a recent article about the potential construction of indoor courts in Newtown Township.

Rob Norman, 101 Cedar Glen, expressed opposition to spending taxpayer money to build pickleball courts at Brownsburg Park when courts are available in New Jersey and may be built indoors in Newtown Township.

Matthew Kourtsounis, 47 Bailey Drive, suggested considering building a lacrosse turf field in the vacant Bed, Bath and Beyond building in Newtown.

Discussion followed, and a motion was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Ms. Trstensky to obtain costs for a formal sound test. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Brownsburg Park Butterfly Garden Design Update

Ms. Caporiccio shared the concept plan for the Brownsburg Park Memorial Butterfly Garden prepared by Season Garden Center, noting that the families are supportive of the project and design. The Board was also supportive of the design and encouraged Pennsylvania native plants.

Community Day Participation Discussion – September 21, 2024

Supervisor Tim Thomas shared information about the upcoming Community Day scheduled for September 21 from 10 am to 3 pm at Brownsburg Park. The goal is for residents to learn more about the Township, the local sports programs and provide information about volunteer committees. He invited Park & Recreation Board to participate, host a table, and help spread the word about this community event. The Board expressed interest in participating and will brainstorm ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

Liaison Reports

There were no liaison reports.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reiss and seconded by Ms. Trstensky to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approved: 8-14-2024