

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2021**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on December 6, 2021. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson

David Mann, Vice Chairperson

Trish O'Donnell, Secretary

David Rogers, Member (absent)

Lynne Catarro, Member (absent)

Michele Williams, Member

Dr. Fred Weiss, Supervisor Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 16, 2021 MINUTES**

Mr. Mann moved, Ms. O'Donnell seconded, and the October 13, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Ms. Huchler reappointed at the December 1, 2021 BOS meeting.

Dr. Albert Catarro was appointed at the December 1, 2021 BOS meeting. Unable to attend tonight. Official welcome at the next meeting.

Ms. Michele Williams appointed at the December 1, 2021 BOS meeting. Ms. Huchler expressed a thank you for volunteering and looking forward to working with the committee. Thrilled for her to be involved with this committee. Ms. Huchler asked Ms. Williams about her involvement in the LMT community.

Ms. Williams is currently the Vice Chair of the Center for Independent Living (CIL). Also, she is working with the Department of Health doing contact tracing, as well as research in policy and regulation regarding the ADA. Other township involvement included work in the past with the Historic Preservation committee and substance use disorder. Does research in policy and regulations regarding the ADA. Ms. Williams commends our committee for the work we have accomplished and is excited to be part of the committee.

Ms. Huchler expressed goodbye to some longstanding members: Mr. Dave Rogers who could not attend tonight, Mr. Dave Mann and Ms. Trish O'Donnell.

Mr. Rogers has been with the committee for 16/17 years and is a founding member. His expertise is greatly appreciated including his business knowledge and knowledge of the ADA. He has been a guiding light, and we thank him for his service. He has offered to help with the transition by continuing to assist with the review of building plans. We will continue to tap into his wealth of expertise in that area.

It has been very exciting to have Mr. Mann on the Board bringing his knowledge and insights that no one else could provide. Mr. Mann also suggested and recommended changing the name of our committee. This was one of his thoughtful insights, since we were unaware that the name of our committee was not the appropriate way to address people with disabilities. Huge thank you to him for attending events as well as his family. Mr. Mann is very busy with work in Harrisburg and again we will be tapping into his knowledge on a regular basis.

Mr. Mann noted he will always be a fan and thanks the committee for making our township a better place. Mr. Huchler asked if he could continue to make us aware of any new ADA rules or regulations.

Ms. O'Donnell was thanked for her 10 years of service. Over the years, Trish has been Secretary and most recently did a tremendous job assisting with the ADA Transition plan for the Parks and Rec department.

Ms. O'Donnell stated it has been my pleasure to serve the committee. Thank you to Lisa and other members for your help and support.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Ms. Huchler has an email out to Katie, Township Manager's Assistant, regarding the status of future meetings. Dr. Weiss said it will be up to the individual committees to choose virtual or in person.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Ms. Huchler asked Monica Tierney, Director of Parks and Rec, if they will be doing any additional fundraising for the ADA transition plan. The only plan at this time is for the 5K color run which will be at Macclesfield Park sometime in August 2022. Will be looking for volunteers.

Ms. Tierney asked if our committee would be willing to do any fundraising for the ADA Transition plan. The DAB put together a comprehensive plan for Parks and Rec which is looking to make some improvements.

Mr. Mann asked what the fundraising would be used for. Ms. Huchler stated that any fundraising would go into a separate fund to be used for items on the ADA Transition plan. Dr. Weiss said any money that is collected in the community goes into the existing community fund, which is divided into sub funds. Those funds would be segregated and reserved for the ADA Transition plan items.

Mr. Mann asked if it was for items not covered by the Township. Ms. Huchler stated that the ADA Transition plan has projects that may be covered over a period of 5 years. As the budget allows, projects can be completed. This fundraising will allow the Parks and Rec to start on some smaller projects sooner than later. For instance, the color run raised about \$3,000.00. This will chip away at little things, like a new picnic table, etc. Ms. Williams had done some fundraising for creative ideas such as “Beach Mat to allow easier access on the sand.” Ms. Huchler suggested maybe fundraising for a specific project, like shade for the playground. We could use the Roll and Stroll event to promote fundraising for the playground shade.

Ms. Huchler did express concern that we are volunteers, not fundraisers but could make suggestions on how to raise additional funds for our group. Mr. Mann asked if fundraising was the best use of this organization’s time. Ms. Williams asked if we are allowed to write grants. Dr. Weiss commented, if you can identify a grant, we have a professional staff which will help you to write up the proposal. Additionally, the townships financial position will be very different next year than it is today. We have a slew of opportunities that will be available, money will not be such a factor and should have more options. Monica Tierney will open a needs survey on all aspects of Park and Rec. Hopefully, our committee will contribute for the best possible outcome.

The bottom line is fundraising should not be the centerpiece of this committee. Recommending accessibility and educating the community about issues affecting people with disabilities is our focus. We should be aware of any grant opportunities and bring these to the township’s attention.

#### **COMMUNITY CENTER DOOR UPDATE**

Ms. Huchler spoke with Ms. Tierney who said the doors were not completed due to shipping delays.

## **UPDATES ON BUILDING PLANS**

No report from Mr. Dave Rogers. (absent)

### **Parking at Macclesfield**

Ms. Huchler received an email from Mr. Jim Majewski with information about stripping at Macclesfield Park and noted three areas have been completed. The spots are located near the turf fields. Signs will be placed at a later date. Mr. Mann responded that additional spots will need to be strategically placed since there are many more locations and fields. We will continue to follow up. Ms. Williams asked if there is a ratio of handicapped spots. Ms. Huchler thought the number was around 1 handicapped to every 25 parking spots. Jim Majewski is aware of the ratio and will make sure to have the proper number.

### **Parking at Memorial**

Ms. Huchler also noted that the paving and stripping was done at Memorial Park. Will need to get over there to see exactly where they have been placed.

### **Scudder Falls Bike Path**

Ms. Huchler noted the Scudder Falls Bridge bike path and rest rooms are complete and accessible, as well as the ramp up and over the bridge, appears to be in compliance. Mr. Mann stated the township has no authority over the Bridge Commission. He will try to get down there, weather permitting, to test if compliant with ADA standards.

### **Edgewood Village**

Ms. Huchler stated plans have been submitted for new apartment buildings at Yardley-Langhorne/Edgewood Rd. The BOS questioned that there were no sidewalks in front of these buildings. There should be a safe way to get to CVS. Perhaps access at Edgewood and Heacock? We don't want people crossing at the "point", extremely dangerous.

Even if apartments are not built, there should be a safe area to cross in the village. Mr. Mann says he travels to the Edgewood Cafe from Yardley Hunt via wheelchair and there is no sidewalk or safe way to get there via Yardley-Langhorne Rd. Maybe a sidewalk on the side of Woodside Presbyterian Church. This will provide a safe crossing at Heacock and Edgewood –at the existing light and allow people to use a side walk to get to all shopping areas without having to cross at Edgewood Rd. and Yardley-Langhorne Rd.

Dr. Weiss said the builder has withdrawn his appeal for now. He may submit an entirely different plan. The stop sign will remain unless PennDot allows it to be changed.

Ms. Williams also brought up that the Stop sign may be contingent on the historical house which is located on the point. This issue has been discussed for years concerning traffic at that location.

#### Prickett Plan

Ms. Huchler received an email from Jim Majewski regarding the Wegman's interior building plans for the store. Will send plan to Ms. Williams to review with Mr. Rogers. To be discussed at next meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Huchler listened to interviews of prospective members and the BOS noted we focus on accessibility for people with disabilities but not providing programs. However, earlier in the year Ms. Lynne Catarro was able to provide much information on Adult Programs and Services at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit and shared that Pennsbury has new resources for children aging out of the system. Information is available on the LMT website regarding many programs available to the community.

Since new member, Dr. Catarro, has wide experience in education we may be able to assist Ms. Tierney and the Parks and Rec department with programs being inclusive. The question was posed as to what can we do for children with disabilities (physical or mental) at our various summer camps. How can we make programs to meet every child's needs? Will ask Dr. Catarro to look into suggestions to make all our programs accessible.

#### **Next meeting January - TBD via Zoom.**

Per discussion we look to hold our meetings the first or second week of the month. Dr. Weiss suggested keeping the meetings virtual until the Spring.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mann moved, Ms. Williams seconded and the motion to adjourn unanimously approved. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish O'Donnell  
Secretary, Disability Advisory Board