

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2022

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on July 13, 2022. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson
Michele Williams, Vice Chairperson
Lynne Catarro, Secretary (absent)
Al Catarro, Member (absent)
Cynthia Lang, Member

Dr. Fred Weiss, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 16, 2022 MINUTES

Ms. Lang moved, Ms. Williams seconded, and the May 16, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

ADA ACCESSIBILITY PLAN UPDATES

Several Parks and Rec projects have been discussed at the past few LMT BOS meetings. Most are still in the preliminary planning stages as funding is being considered. These projects were included in the ADA Transition Plan completed last year. Ms. Huchler met with Mr. Jim Majewski, Planning and Zoning and Monica Tierney, Director of Parks and Rec to go over some of the projects.

Veterans Square

Plans are not finalized and they may be adding to the area in the park as requested by the Veterans group. Once the conceptual plan is decided then an overall plan which will include some of the ADA Accessibility options can be finalized. Items to review will be access to the playground, water fountains, handicapped portable restroom, handicapped parking spots, parking signs, access from parking lot and bike path to the monument.

Memorial Park – Secret Garden

The inclusive playground is slated to have the surface redone and shade structures built. The current surface is deteriorating quickly possibly due to the original design pour process to create the different colors for the path and leaves. Ms. Tierney suggested we might look into doing one pour and then painting the surface to create a similar look. Also, included in the ADA Transition plan was to put shade structures at the park. Ms. Huchler had done some research on many types of structures and will pass along that information. Some of the shade structures were in the shape of a flower which would complement the garden theme. However, this type of structure is very expensive. Ms. Williams asked how donations worked if we did fundraising and people wanted to donate to that particular structure. Dr. Weiss stated that they can donate to the township and designate the funds to go to that project. Ms. Huchler said that it may be good to go look at other playgrounds that already have the “one pour” surface with paint and see their type of shade structures. Need to look into the type of maintenance required. Ms. Tierney also said that some of the equipment may need to be painted. Could we partner with an Eagle scout or potentially Artists of Yardley. Again, this project is still in the planning phase and will have more detail and plans to look at as more information is collected.

Schuyler Tennis Courts

Will be doing work on the tennis courts. We ask that all ADA Accessibility issues be part of the plan including a handicapped parking spot, parking sign, accessible path into tennis court area, accessible gate, and restrooms.

OTHER TOWNSHIP PROJECTS

Ms. Huchler talked with Mr. Jim Majewski about other projects starting soon:

Paths

Paths will be added around the Community Center, ball fields and township pool area. The DAB is excited to have an accessible cross walk at the light on Edgewood and Oxford Valley Rd. This will be a safe way to cross the busy intersection connecting all of the rec spaces and buildings in that area. Our concern was the slope on the playground side of the road. Mr. Majewski said the plan includes lowering the bike path and it will have the appropriate slope ratio to accommodate all of the accessibility issues.

LMT Administration Building Plans – Lower Level

The LMT Administration building lower level will be undergoing a renovation to accommodate the Police Department. There will still be some storage for the township administration and the tax office will remain in its current location.

The DAB had already sent information regarding the door handles in the township building. The lever type of handle is ADA compliant and should be used throughout the building. Ms. Huchler is recommending that while they are making changes to the lower level that they replace all handles and make sure doorways are compliant.

The plans also have a renovation of the bathroom which we will review plans to ensure all ADA recommendations are adhered to. Since this bathroom is used by the tax office it may be necessary to supply a portable handicapped restroom during construction. The township building does not have an elevator and it may be easier for tax office staff/patrons to stay on one level.

Ms. Huchler also noticed that the tax office has a portable air conditioning unit. It was discussed at length during the BOS meeting how the township needs a new HVAC system but the money is not there to take on this large project. However, they did discuss while the construction is taking place on the lower level, they may look at the duct work and possibly make enhancements while the ceiling is open. Ms. Huchler suggested while they are doing that can the tax office duct work also be looked at. Maybe a simple solution to an existing problem.

Bike Paths

Ms. Huchler discussed bike paths with Ms. Tierney. She stated there are many paths that have gaps up to 8 inches wide along the Township Line Rd bike path system and is dangerous for handicapped users as well as strollers and bikes. Ms. Huchler wondered if the Prickett Preserve project included work on the bike paths since they would have to be used to get to that area. Ms. Tierney stated there are no plans included in the Prickett Preserve project for existing bike path repairs. However, a comprehensive study had been done and prioritized each bike path.

Ms. Huchler suggests that anyone noticing an unsafe Bike path to report it to Parks and Rec for review. Might be able to prioritize sooner.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

All community events can be found under LMT Parks and Recreation webpage and Facebook page.

A few reminders mentioned by Ms. Huchler were:

5 K Anyway run/walk will occur in August 6, 2022. A portion of the funds raised will be allocated to the ADA Transition Plan. Ms. Huchler is seeking those who are available to volunteer. Ms. Williams and Ms. Huchler will let Parks and Rec know they are available for sign in/registration.

Community Day August 27, 2022- Great opportunity for DAB to have a table set up with brochures and resources for community members. We have had a table for the last few years. Ms. Huchler will send an email with a schedule for volunteers.

SENSORY KITS

Ms. Huchler discussed reading that the Hatboro-Horsham Fire department have been putting together Sensory Kits to be used when first responders encounter a child with special needs. Ms. Huchler has reached out to the Hatboro Horsham Fire Department to gather more information on Sensory Kits. Hatboro Horsham Fire Department partners with others in the community such as the Masonic Lodge. They also provide training for Community Service Members. Mr. Focht responded that he gives the presentations and the Masonic group partnered with them. Ms. Huchler has asked for a detailed description of items that go into the kits.

Dr. Weiss suggested that we reach out to Mr. Chamberlain at the township building to see if he has any suggestions. Ms. Huchler will send an email with all of the information.

WEBPAGE

Ms. Catarro organized the website information and changes by activity on a word document with a Table of Content type of summary. This was sent to all for review and we will go over at the next meeting. Ms. Huchler was concerned that residents might think we are endorsing all of the information we put out on our webpage. Ms. Catarro and Ms. Huchler wondered if we should put a disclaimer. This is probably a good idea but many organizations (including LMT) provide links to other outside sources so this is not uncommon. We could still put a disclaimer or state for informational purposes only.

Dr. Weiss alerted us that the township will be upgrading the website. May occur closer to year end but we should keep that in mind when we are doing changes.

Ms. Lang stated it is difficult to maintain all of the links. In her experience with trying to click on links on other webpages many are broken and it can be frustrating. It will be something we should continually monitor.

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

No updates for Prickett Reserve at this time. Ms. Williams will send an email to Mr. Jim Majewski asking for any update once the restaurant, retail and Wegmans gets closer to actual construction.

Giant Shopping center restriping – not completed yet.

NEW BUSINESS

DAB material has been kept in a filing cabinet in the lower level of the township building. Ms. Huchler stated she will bring all contents to her house to use for the upcoming community events and then see where it can be stored at the township building once the lower level is completed.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting will be held August 10, 2022

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Lang and seconded by Ms. Huchler, approved unanimously by all board members.
Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Catarro

Secretary, Disability Advisory Board