**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD**

**DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**August 9, 2023**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on August 9, 2023. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson

Michele Williams, Vice Chairperson

Cynthia Lang, Member

John Lewis, Supervisor Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 14, 2023 MINUTES**

Ms. Lang moved, Ms. Williams seconded, and the June 14, 2023 minutes were approved unanimously.

**RESIGNATIONS AND OPEN POSITIONS**

Effective August 1, 2023, Ms. Lynne Catarro and Dr. Al Catarro have resigned from their position on the DAB. Ms. Huchler thanked them for the service and commitment to the Board. We all wish them good luck in the future.

Ms. Huchler stated that there are currently 2 open member positions and 1alternate position for the Disability Advisory Board (DAB). Please send a letter of interest with a current resume to township manager at [admin@lmt.org](mailto:admin@lmt.org). For further information, please email dab@lmt.org or leave a message at the LMT main number at 267-274-1100. You can also reach out to any LMT Disability Advisory Board Member.

**DAB EMAIL AND WEBSITE**

The [dab@lmt.org](mailto:dab@lmt.org) is not working. We are hoping this is fixed in the next 2 weeks.

Ms. Huchler did not realize that it is recommended to post the agenda for the meeting on the DAB webpage on lmt.org. This should include call in instructions for anyone interested in asking a question or making a public comment. Will do this for all future meetings.

**MACCLESFIELD STUDY GROUP**

Meeting was held June 28, 2023. Ms. Huchler gave an update that they are closer to making a recommendation to the Board but further information is still being gathered. Ms. Huchler said there is no meeting scheduled yet but will attend future meetings and keep the DAB updated.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

All community events can be found under LMT Parks and Recreation webpage https://www.lmt.org/

and Facebook page.

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5 K Anyway run/walk was held on Saturday, August 5, 2023. This is the third year for this event. A portion of the funds raised will be allocated to the ADA Transition Plan. Elizabeth Lawson, LMT Parks and Rec dept, coordinated the event and did an excellent job. There were almost 150 attendees this year. It was a lot of fun and look forward to volunteering next year.

Ms. Huchler did note that more water was needed and the idea concerning “Stan the Can” no waste was discussed. Has the Parks and Rec and Environmental Advisory Council considered putting in refill water stations throughout all the parks in response to the new initiative? Ms. Huchler will ask about this and/or bring it to the attention for the other committees or departments.

Community Day will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2023. Weekend before Labor Day. The DAB always has a table and will provide information to our community about our committee. We have asked Clair Deal, Director of the Center for Independent Living, to join us at the table. She will be attending and we have volunteers to work from 12-5 pm.

We will hand out brochures, handicapped parking information and helpful information on how to interactive with a Person with a Disability. This would include someone hard of hearing or seeing and a person in a wheelchair.

Ms. Williams said she just learned that Gov Shapiro has passed a bill which gives a property Tax reduction to older people and people with disabilities. She will call our local government office, Perry Warren, to see if they have anything we can hand out about this new program.

**LMT PROJECT UPDATES**

Several Parks and Rec projects were included in the ADA Transition Plan completed last year. The Disability Advisory Board (DAB) will review plans, work with Parks and Rec in any planning, suggestions and monitor as progress is made.

5 Mile Woods update

Lower Makefield Township received a $10,000 grant courtesy of PECO’s Green Region Open Space program. This grant will be used to create ADA accessibility at Five Mile Woods. The Park and Recreation Department is working with the 5-mile woods committee to come up with ideas. Ms. Tierney, Director of LMT Parks and Rec Department said work will begin this fall and they will need volunteers to assist.

Some other projects are in process and we will give updates throughout 2023. There are no updates:

Memorial Park/Secret Garden Shade, new surface and sign

Veterans Park

Pool bathrooms

Community center handicapped parking and door

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Mr. Lewis said that the Parks and Rec tour of all facilities was done the night before by all of the supervisors. They toured the Secret Garden and noted the surface was in bad shape. It will be very expensive to replace and suggested we may have to look for fundraising opportunities or additional grants. Since it is an existing structure, the DAB feels grants are probably not an option since it would be considered a maintenance line item. Mr. Lewis said potentially something for accessible restoration? Also, during the tour, they noticed the patterns in the surface have faded and the design may have contributed to the deterioration of the surface. Can we do a “one pour” so there are no seams. Ms. Huchler suggested there may be new processes/material since this was done years ago.

Ms. Huchler asked if the township sets up reserves or funds to properly maintain the facilities once they are constructed. Mr. Lewis said it was an issue and feels further discussion of this might be necessary with the BOS. Ms. Huchler noted that there are proposals for additional playgrounds or expanding existing ones. Before we do this, should we take care of the playgrounds already in the township that need repair. Ms. Huchler thought there was another playground going into the new section of Memorial Park. Again, is it wise to put something new in without maintaining the existing playground? Mr. Lewis said it may be due to the way the grant is worded and might only be able to be used for a new build not maintenance. He also stated we may be working with grant money that was received up to 5 years ago.

Ms. Williams asked if the township was allowed to have sponsors. Maybe the sponsors get to advertise in the facility in return for helping with the maintenance? Mr. Lewis said it would be something we could look into.

We also see this problem with Bike paths. We have put in additional bike paths in the township and the old ones are in need of repairs. Cracks larger than ½ inch pose a problem for people with disabilities.

**BUILDING PLAN REVIEW**

Prickett Preserve - Construction continues to move along. No updates.

**NEW BUSINESS -None**

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Next meeting will be held in October 11, 2023. 6:00 pm via zoom.

Meeting for September 2023 has been cancelled.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Huchler seconded to adjourn, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Huchler

Chairperson, Disability Advisory Board