**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD**

**DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**January 10, 2024**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makerfield was held via zoom on January 10, 2024. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:08 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson

Cynthia Lang, Vice Chairperson

Michele Williams, Secretary

Matt Ross, Supervisor Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMEBER 8, 2023 MINUTES**

Ms. Huchler moved, Ms. Lang seconded, and the November 8, 2023 minutes were approved unanimously.

**REORGANIZATION**

The reorganization of Board members for 2024 was as follows:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson - Motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Lang. Approved unanimously by all board members.

Cynthia Lang, Vice Chairperson - Motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Huchler Approved unanimously by all board members.

Michele Williams, Secretary - Motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Lang. Approved unanimously by all board members.

Liaison, Matt Ross assigned at Board of Supervisors (BOS) reorganization meeting.

**REAPPOINTMENTS**

Ms. Lisa Huchler and Ms. Michele Williams were appointed to another 2-year term by the Board of Supervisors

**OPEN POSITIONS**

Ms. Huchler stated that there are currently 2 open member positions and 1 alternate position for the Disability Advisory Board (DAB). Please send a letter of interest with a current resume to township manager at 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.

Disability Advisory Board – January 10, 2024 Page 2 of 4

**DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Lower Makefield Township Disability Advisory Board is to educate and advise the Township and broader community about issues affecting people with disabilities; promoting inclusion, safety and equal access for everyone.

Ms. Huchler wanted to review the mission statement. Some residents have asked if we had attorneys or provide services regarding disability issues. We have to explain that we are an advisory board to the LMT Supervisors and do not directly provide services. We have a comprehensive list of services available on the website under the Disability Advisory Board webpage. We are here to assist and will give people options for agencies and services provided by the local departments, county and state. We often refer people to the Bucks County Center for Independent Living (CIL). See their website at <https://buckscil.org/>

You can reach us at dab@lmt.org for anyone that would like to contact us.

**HOUSE BILL 1761 – ELEVATOR REQUIREMENTS**

Lisa Huchler had a conversation with Rep Perry Warren’s office, Rep Brian Munroe’s office and Jim Majewski, LMT. Looking for clarification regarding the number of apartment units or size of the buildings. Seems like the International Building Code that many municipalities follow go by square footage and number of stories a building is before an elevator is required. The proposed regulations classify an “Apartment building” as a residence for 3 or more households. Any new building with at least 2 stories to have no less than 2 elevators within one year.

Ms. Williams concern is that the amount of rent they would need to charge to offset the cost of elevators would prohibit affordable housing, especially for those in need. We agree it makes sense for any building with a senior or disabled population or buildings requiring elevators but not sure a 2-story building with 3 apartments should be required to have 2 elevators

Ms. Huchler will reach out again to Mr. Munroe’s office again to clarify. However, they did say amendments could be made at any time.

Ms. Lang said maybe we should not be worried about the details and still show our support for this bill. We can state we support the idea of this bill and let them work out the details as far as who it should apply to.

The committee agreed and we will move forward with our support.

We will review our support letter one more time and narrow down who we will copy on it.

Link to the House Bill 1761 <https://legiscan.com/PA/text/HB1761/2023>

**MACCLESFIELD STUDY GROUP**

Final steering committee meeting was held November 14, 2023. Ms. Huchler attended. The final analysis will be presented to the LMT Board of Supervisors. This will be an ongoing discussion and before any work can be considered at Macclesfield, there needs to be an overall plan for adding additional fields elsewhere in the community. We will be available for any consultation when this project moves forward.

Disability Advisory Board – January 10, 2024 Page 3 of 4

**HANDICAPPED PARKING REVIEW**

Number of Van accessible parking spaces – 1991 ADA standards vs 2010 ADA Standards

We wanted to review the guidelines regarding number of Van Accessible spaces needed.

2010 Standards updated to state- At least 1 of every 6 handicapped parking spaces must be Van accessible.

See link for additional information on handicapped parking space size and number: https://www.ada.gov/topics/parking/

**LMT PROJECT UPDATES**

Several Parks and Rec projects were included in the ADA Transition Plan completed in 2022. The Disability Advisory Board (DAB) will review plans, work with Parks and Rec in any planning, suggestions and monitor as progress is made.

Will monitor the below projects:

5-mile Woods -2 ADA handicapped parking spaces were added. Will be placing required signs up soon.

Memorial/Secret Garden-Shade/Surface at Playground

Veterans Park- still in design phase.

Pool Bathrooms

Community Center handicapped door and parking issues

Parks and Rec programming- reviewing the ADA transition plan; would like discuss how LMT can better incorporate programming into the plan.

**BUILDING PLAN REVIEW**

Prickett Preserve – Updates

The pedestrian connection from Stony Hill Road across the I-295 bridge into Edgewood Village is almost completed.

Ms. Williams noted Chase Bank does have a lower counter for persons with disabilities. However, she asked about the requirements on doors. She noticed they were not automatic. Businesses are not required to have but doors must be able to opened by people with disabilities.

We recommend automatic doors because it promotes independent entry for individuals with limited mobility.

Will continue to review plans as they come in for other retail establishments at Prickett Preserve.

Disability Advisory Board – January 10, 2024 Page 4 of 4

**NEW BUSINESS**

Goals for 2024 –

Continue to review design plans

Community Outreach- look for different ways to create awareness of the DAB since LMT Community day is cancelled for this year.

 Support Parks and Rec scheduled events – 5 K Anyway (usually in August)

Seniors – Ms. Lang will reach out to see if there are opportunities for the DAB to interactive/provide info to their group.

Center for Independent Living (CIL) – Ms. Williams will reach out to the CIL to see if we could partner with them for upcoming events.

Local Representatives- see if Rep Perry Warren is doing any events that we could attend or assist with. Ms. Huchler will reach out to their office.

Ms. Lang asked if there were any interactive maps regarding the Bike path system in LMT. This would be useful for people that wanted to safely navigate around the township. We will ask Parks and Rec if that is something could be made available. We do know that as the roadways are newly paved, they are required to put in safe ADA compliant curb cuts.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Next meeting will be held in March 13, 2024. 6:00 pm via zoom.

Meeting for February 2024 has been cancelled.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Williams

Secretary, Disability Advisory Board