

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 2024

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held at the Township building on June 12, 2024. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson (in person)
Cynthia Lang, Vice Chairperson (via Zoom)
Michele Williams, Secretary (via zoom)
Abbey Yeatts, Member (in person)

Matt Ross, Supervisor Liaison- Absent

APPROVAL OF THE April 10, 2024 MINUTES

Ms. Yeatts moved, Ms. Williams seconded, and the April 10, 2024 minutes were approved unanimously.

OPEN POSITIONS

Ms. Huchler stated that there is currently 1 open member position 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.

Ms. Williams also mentioned she will be relocating out of township upon sale of her home. We also welcomed a resident caller who was very interested in the Disability Advisory Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Theresa Miller of LMT called in to express a concern she has at her community. Ms. Miller is in need of a wheelchair ramp and access to her parking lot via a curb cut. She let us know she was getting a ramp through the Temple University lending area. Their website is: <https://techowlpa.org/>. Ms. Yeatts said she was familiar with the Temple program as they offer many services and free use of adaptable equipment.

Ms. Miller was not sure if the Homeowners Association (HOA) would have an issue with the ramp to her home and finding a solution for access to the curb cut since cars currently can park there.

Ms. Huchler and others had expressed contacting the HOA and follow the guidelines they have in place to make accommodations to the outside of her home. Usually, you need to submit something in writing or a form to the management company but we encouraged her to copy the Board member that might oversee these types of changes. She should also ask management to consider placing stripping at the curb cuts so cars do not block access to her ability to get to transportation.

LMT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ms. Huchler mentioned 5 Mile Woods Ribbon cutting on April 21, 2024 was a huge success.

5 K Color Fun Run for Accessibility will be held Saturday, July 20, 2024 for all interested in volunteering and supporting. This is the fourth year for this event. A portion of the funds raised will be allocated to the ADA Transition Plan. Parks and Rec is asking the DAB members for volunteers. Reminder that the color thrown at stations is elective for runners.

We will continue to explore supporting LMT events -to see if it is something we might want to do in the future.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN UPDATES

The ADA Transition plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2021. Monica Tierney has asked the DAB to look through the plan and update as needed. We will look at each section and designate certain areas for each member to review. In addition, Ms. Yeatts will assist the LMT Parks and Rec department with the ADA Transition Plan for programming. Not sure when they will start but with Ms. Yeatts extensive educational background and life experiences, she can bring forth much needed guidance in this area.

LMT PROJECT UPDATES

Several Parks and Rec projects were included in the ADA Transition Plan completed in 2021. The Disability Advisory Board (DAB) will review plans, work with Parks and Rec in any planning, suggestions and monitor as progress is made.

Parks and Rec Projects and other projects to follow up in 2024:

Memorial/Secret Garden - Parks and Rec has reached out for quotes on shade structure and surfacing at Memorial Park and are considering using this new to us product called SofSurface which is a tile system. Monica Tierney will bring to Board of Supervisors for approval soon.

Due to cost constraints and the expense of the new surface it is unlikely there will be funds to do the shade at the Secret Garden anytime soon.

Macclesfield Plans - Park & Recreation Department and the Macclesfield Park Steering Committee discussed the plans in detail at the June 11, 2024 Parks and Rec meeting. Lisa Huchler attended. The design group gave an update on the short-term plan to address safety and traffic issues using the current use as an athletic facility and the long-term plan deals with creating a recreational park with passive activities as well as athletic fields with improved traffic flow and facilities. In both of their designs, they want to eliminate the one parking area that is closest to the football fields and soccer fields. It enabled people to watch games from their cars and/or just be closer to those fields. Looking at their plans, the DAB does have some concerns that even though there will be adequate number of Handicapped parking spots, the distance to fields would prohibit people with disabilities to get to those fields due to the distance they would have to travel. Lisa Huchler did not mention anything at this time because the plans are so preliminary and many people at the meeting did not like this option for various reasons. We will monitor and continue to make suggestions as needed.

Schuyler Rd. Tennis courts – Ms. Lang asked if the tennis courts had handicapped bathroom facilities. We believe if there is only one port a potty available at an event or facility it should be handicapped accessible. Will check with Monica Tierney to see what their policy is.

No updates

- Pool Bathrooms

- Veterans Park

- Community Center handicapped door and parking issues update. Seniors expressed need to have for community center.

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

Duck Donuts—Plans submitted. Will review.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Yeatts was pleased to find adaptive carts for her children at the new Wegman's. Assists shopping with children that may be older and still require a special cart.

Ms. Yeatts also asked if the township could review the Kids Kingdom playground accommodations. There is accessible equipment (swings) but she is unable to get to the equipment. Could a solution be thought of to allow an accessible walkway to that area of the playground. Ms. Huchler suggested possible placing mats down?

Grants and Community fundraising opportunities- for some of these smaller projects could we ask some of the businesses to sponsor an accessible upgrade such as playground mats, shade structures, etc. look into Wawa Community grants, potential new business like Wegmans.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting will be held August 14, 2024 at the Township Building meeting room.

Meeting for July 2024 has been cancelled.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Yeatts seconded to adjourn, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Williams
Secretary, Disability Advisory Board