

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2024

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held at the Township building on August 14, 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 phone)
Abbey Yeatts, Member (in person)

Matt Ross, Supervisor Liaison- Absent

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 12, 2024 MINUTES

Ms. Lang moved, Ms. Yeatts seconded, and the June 12, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment this week. Ms. Huchler did mention that we had a member of the public call in last meeting about a situation at the HOA community. It would be helpful if members of the community can follow up and let us know how issues were resolved since it may help others in similar situations.

LMT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Reminder there will be no LMT Community Day this year. We did have Ms. Claire Leal, Director of BCCIL Services, Bucks Country Center for Independent Living <http://buckscil.org/> reach out to see if she could share a table with us. Ms. Huchler let her know that we will keep her in mind if LMT decides to have an event in 2025.

5 K Color Fun Run for Accessibility is rescheduled to Saturday, October 13, 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.

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 have looked at each section and will forward all of our updates/comments/additions to Monica Tierney so the Parks and Rec Department can update the ADA Transition plan.

We had a discussion about each of the areas and what we will put together for Monica Tierney. Here is a list of the parks reviewed by our Board members and Ms. Huchler will write one email to Monica Tierney with all of our updates (will forward to all members for review before it is sent to make sure all updates are included).

Ms. Lang reviewed the Schuyler Tennis courts, Fred Allen Softball fields and the Greg Caiola Baseball complex.

Ms. Yeatts reviewed the Kids Kingdom playground and some facilities around it.

Ms. Williams reviewed Memorial Park.

Ms. Huchler reviewed all other Park and Rec areas which include pocket parks, Veterans Park, Community Center, 5 Mile Woods, Dog Park, etc.

In addition, Ms. Yeatts will assist the LMT Parks and Rec department with the ADA Transition Plan for programming. Monica Tierney asked if we can schedule a meeting after the summer to discuss future programs and Ms. Yeatts said she can be available.

Some of the areas that we discussed in further detail that may need attention now:

Kids Kingdom- Ms. Yeatts made some observations about Kids Kingdom regarding the accessibility to some of the areas, specifically the swings. It appears the one section is for handicapped children but there is no easy way to get there. In addition, there is a sign on the top of the swing set that says "for children ages 2-5" but these swings clearly are for children with disabilities that are older. Ms. Yeatts felt uncomfortable having her child older than 5 years on this swing due to the sign but her daughter, older than 5, fits comfortably on it. Will have Monica Tierney take a look at that sign and if it applies to those particular swings.

Monica Tierney did let us know this playground is going to have to have a major overhaul due to its age.

Bike paths – can we look into the areas that get the most use. One area in the township that has a large number of residents is Township Line Rd. Now that Prickett Preserve has been opened many people use the bike paths to get to that area. Ms. Huchler rode along the path and noticed gaps up to 2 feet along the Floral Vale section. She suggests prioritizing these areas that are being used by many residents in the Northwest section of the township. The gaps in the paths are unsafe.

Macclesfield Field- should some of the parking and signs be looked at for current users? We did not have proper striping to allow Van accessibility. Ms. Huchler to review for potential immediate needs.

At next meeting, we can discuss some of the long-term projects and if anything should be done in the short term. Our task was to update the ADA Transition plan; however, we realized that the updates for projects could take many years. Do we need to consider addressing some of the improvements/maintenance sooner while waiting for the larger, long-term projects to get started and funded?

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 ordered the surface for the playground. Monica Tierney asked if we could give a recommendation on where shade would benefit users. Ms. Huchler visited the playground and observed how the area was used. She suggests that the shade would be best over some of the pieces that children climb on and the slide. Some of the structures, like the log, is enclosed and already provides shade. Ms. Yeatts expressed that the one piece of equipment for wheelchair users called the Rocker and the handicapped swings should have shade. Ms. Huchler stated that the section closest to the bathrooms has trees and shade is there during certain times of the day for the Rocker. The other concern is that the poles needed for the shade structures might damage the soft surface areas. Ms. Huchler suggested having a large pole in the middle where there used to be a tree and then potentially having the additional poles outside the fenced area. This would limit the need for having poles in the playground area. This will all depend on how large the shade sails could be. Ms. Huchler has forwarded an email to Monica Tierney with our suggestions.

Ms. Lang said that planting trees is planning for the future. Ms. Huchler stated maybe we could ask the Environmental Advisory Council to assist with ideas for plantings.

No updates

Pool Bathrooms

Macclesfield Steering Committee Plans

Veterans Park

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

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

Ms. Williams stated that the old Prickett residence is currently going through some updates. We were not sure what the plans were for this structure. Ms. Williams will check with the Historic Commission and report back at next meeting.

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

Plans for Michael's Jewelers being reworked and Ms. Williams will give an update at next meeting.

Ms. Williams said we should review the handicapped parking at Prickett Preserve as plans are being finalized.

No other building going on in the township currently.

NEW BUSINESS - None

MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting will be held October 9, 2024 at the Township Building meeting room.

Meeting for September 2024 has been cancelled.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Yeatts moved and Ms. Huchler seconded to adjourn, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Williams
Secretary, Disability Advisory Board