

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, June 18, 2020**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on June 18, 2020. Chairperson Mann opened the meeting at 5:15 pm.

Those present:

David Mann, Chairperson

Trish O'Donnell, Vice Chairperson

Lisa Huchler, Secretary

David Rogers, Member

John Lewis, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 8, 2020 MINUTES

Ms. O'Donnell moved, Mr. Rogers seconded, and the January 8, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

PARKS AND ACCREDITATION

Monica Tierney, Director of Parks and Rec joined the meeting to discuss how LMT was applying to become the first Parks and Rec department in PA to go through the accreditation process. This national certificate will recognize our Parks and Rec departments commitment to quality and improvement. This will be a 2-year process to create a plan and will be implemented as budget allows.

As part of this application process, the DAB can assist with the creation of an ADA Transition plan. This would be a comprehensive plan to address the issues such as accessibility of all recreational spaces in LMT and identify barriers that may exist for people with disabilities.

Mr. Rogers stated that the DAB has had an ongoing dialogue with the township regarding accessibility of various areas such as fields, bike paths, Five Mile woods, etc. Five Mile woods created a wood board walk to accommodate people that have difficulty walking. Most recently, enhancements to Macclesfield parking was sent to township for consideration.

Mr. Mann asked if Ms. Tierney could provide a list of facilities. It was suggested that we could meet at some of the facilities during the Parks and Rec summer tour. Specifically, Mr. Mann asked if he could take a view of the pool area while it is closed this year. There have been discussions of major renovations to the pool in future years and it would be beneficial to identify areas of improvement for accessibility prior to those plans being finalized.

We understand this plan will focus on the removal of structural barriers to provide access to programs and services offered to the public. The DAB suggests we schedule a meeting, obtain a list of facilities and we can identify and make recommendations to the parks and Rec Department for the ADA Transition part of the accreditation process.

EFFECTS OF PANDEMIC ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. Mann described the impact the pandemic has had on people living with a disability especially for those that need outside assistance. The need to limit interactions with people for fear of spreading the coronavirus has isolated many people from necessary medical services and help. In many cases, family members have to step in and assist with medical care along with their other duties such as childcare, teaching from home, working from home, etc.

Ms. O'Donnell discussed being out in public and the lack of people wearing protective masks or wearing them improperly. She is concerned for their lack of understanding how this one minor precaution can help prevent the spread of disease to those most vulnerable.

Ms. Huchler wanted to thank the township for providing the Wellness check program. LMT has a list of people that may require assistance from First Responders but this service was expanded to include additional names of people requiring extra support during the COVID outbreak.

DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD VACANCIES

The Board has 2 vacancies - Member and Alternate member.

UPDATES

Roll and Stroll

The Roll and Stroll was scheduled to be held at Memorial Park on Saturday, September 26, 2020. Our event brings together people with disabilities and they may be more susceptible to contracting the coronavirus and have more serious complications. After a discussion, it was decided we should cancel the event out of safety and concern for our attendees and reschedule for the following year.

Ms. Huchler made a motion to cancel the September 26, 2020 Roll and Stroll event. Ms. O'Donnell seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Huchler will reach out to all vendors to inform them of the decision to cancel.

Community Day

The township will make a decision in early July about the Community Day event usually held around Labor Day. The DAB will discuss the event at the next meeting to determine if there is a need to attend the event as a vendor.

UPDATES (continued)

Community Center Door

The doors were originally scheduled to be put in 2020, however due to coronavirus this project is on hold.

Trees at Inclusive Playground

The DAB has been concerned about the lack of shade provided at the playground. Per discussion with Monica Tierney, Parks and Rec Director there may be an opportunity to place shade structures. Trees tend to attract unwanted pests and debris on the playground. She will keep us informed of potential project.

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

No new building plans were reviewed by the DAB.

Mr. Lewis mentioned some upcoming projects and all plans can be viewed on the Zoning Hearing Boards website.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rogers moved, Ms. Huchler seconded and the motion to adjourn unanimously approved.

Next meeting to be held July 23, 2020 at 5:00 via zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Huchler

Secretary, Disability Advisory Board