

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011**

A meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. Chairman Huchler-Smith opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Lisa Huchler-Smith, Chairman
David Rogers, member
Megan Dorko, Secretary
George Crawford, member (absent)
Trish O'Donnell, Vice-Chairman
Lynn Buie-Carter, member

OTHERS:

Ron Smith, Supervisor Liaison (absent)
Charm Crawford (absent)

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2011 MINUTES

Ms. Dorko moved, Ms. O'Donnell seconded and the February 2011 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written.

NEW MEMBER

Ms. Huchler-Smith welcomed new member Lynn Buie-Carter. Ms. Buie-Carter said she is a nurse by profession and has taught in that capacity in the past. She works in the re-insurance industry giving additional insurance to victims of catastrophic injury cases. She is an advocate for the insurance companies to help these people.

PAST BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ms. Huchler-Smith compiled a list of the Board's accomplishments such as handicap parking throughout the Township and handicap accessible doors at the Township Building.

GOALS FOR 2011

Ms. Huchler-Smith said Ms. Dorko, Ms. O'Donnell and she came up with goals for 2011 and delegated tasks to the Board members. Ms. Huchler-Smith thought Ms. Buie-Carter might be able to help out with updating the Emergency Management List.

Ms. Buie-Carter asked if anyone knows the number of disabled persons in the Township and Mr. Rogers said that number is difficult to determine. Ms. Huchler-Smith referred to the results of the survey the Disabled Board sent out several years ago to get an idea of the make up of disabilities in

the community. Mr. Rogers said the Board has also surveyed the schools to find out the make up of disabled children and had no success. Ms. Huchler-Smith said that is one reason the Board started the award nomination to reward businesses for making adjustments to accommodate people with special needs.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

Ms. O'Donnell said she talked with Donna Linney from the Park & Recreation Department about the status of the grant for the all-inclusive playground. Ms. Linney said she hasn't heard anything. Mrs. Mazzitelli said the Township is waiting to hear if Governor Corbett will sign off on this program or not and should hopefully hear something by early April.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REQUEST

Ms. Huchler-Smith said there was a request by a resident during the recent flooding event to move someone should they be evacuated from their home. Ms. Huchler-Smith said the woman called the Police Department then the Township Building. The mother is disabled and they asked if the mother could be taken somewhere more private like Sunrise Assisted Living rather than Penwood because of her special needs. Ms. Huchler-Smith talked with Chief Coluzzi asking what the Township would do in this situation. Chief Coluzzi said the Police would do whatever they could to give the woman the privacy she needs at Penwood but could not accommodate a request to be taken to Sunrise at the Township's expense. The Police could also transport a person anywhere they need to go within reason. Ms. Huchler-Smith is going to write a letter to the resident about what services the Township would provide. She will attend the next Emergency Management meeting in the next few weeks to discuss this issue.

The Board discussed ways to get residents to fill out the Emergency Management forms.

PERMITS

Mr. Rogers said the Library came through the Township for a permit for handicap parking and it was so bad it was rejected before this Board could even review it.

Ms. Huchler-Smith asked if there are any other active projects and Mr. Rogers replied no.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rogers said the CIL has a new Executive Director, Nancy Hess. One of her first goals is to support a countywide Disabled Persons Advisory Board. Mr. Rogers said he is meeting with Diane Marseglia about revisiting the countywide Disabled Board and SCORE. He said it is imperative to have a county level Disabled Persons Advisory Board to look at plans for things such as the new Doylestown Courthouse.

Mr. Rogers said the CIL published a book on employment and businesses and they interact with people with special needs. The book gives examples on how to handle situations and questions to ask.

Ms. Buie-Carter asked why many of the bike paths in the Township just stop. Ms. Huchler-Smith and Mr. Rogers said the Township has no money in their budget to complete many of the paths.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26th at 7:30 p.m. in the Township Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dorko, Secretary