

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES – MARCH 23, 2004

The regular meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on March 23, 2004. Chairman Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present:

Disabled Persons Advisory Board: David Rogers, Chairperson
Ann Piccinotti, Vice Chairperson
John McConville, Member

Absent: Lisa Huchler-Smith, Secretary
Liz Harbison, Member
Scott Fegley, Supervisor Liaison

MISSION STATEMENT/WEB PAGE CONTENT DISCUSSION AND MOTION

Mr. Rogers provided information on the proposed Website content that had been provided by Ms. Smith. She also gave Mr. Rogers a group of questions for the Board to consider. The recommended email address for the group is DPAB@lmt.org.

Mr. McConville stated he feels they should have this information posted on the Township Cable Channel as well. Ms. Smith has asked how the Board would be advised if someone would submit an email comment, concern or question. Mr. Rogers will contact either Mr. Fegley or the Township Manager's secretary with this question.

Mr. McConville asked if there is any way that people with disabilities would know how to get in touch with someone regarding transportation issues. Ms. Piccinotti stated they could provide information on the Disabled Persons Advisory Board Website on the Bucks County Transport program and the Website for SEPTA's ParaTransport program. It was agreed to add these links to the Resource Guide.

Mr. McConville asked if there are any in-home services for people with disabilities. Ms. Piccinotti noted the Bucks County Corporation for the Aged which could provide information on personal care services. She stated JEVS – Jewish Evaluation Vocational Services also does personal care. She stated the Department of Public Welfare Website would also have information. Ms. Piccinotti agreed to email the addresses for these organizations to Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Rogers stated most of the resources they have included would most likely have other links on their Websites as well.

There was discussion on the proposed mission statement. After discussion it was agreed that the mission statement should read as follows:

The mission of the Lower Makefield Disabled Persons Advisory Board is to educate the public with respect to the Americans with Disabilities Act, educate the community as to the needs of persons with disabilities, and to recommend to the Township Manager and Board of Supervisors those actions which will allow persons with disabilities to enjoy equal access as all community residents in Lower Makefield Township.

Mr. McConville moved, Ms. Piccinotti seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the Mission Statement as proposed.

GOLF COURSE DISCUSSION

Mr. McConville stated he received a copy of the blueprints for the Golf Course Clubhouse from Mr. Taylor. His intention was to review the Plans and go to the site, but there is only a foundation at this time. He has found out that the Clubhouse is accessible to individuals in wheelchairs. There will be handicap restrooms. He plans to visit the site next month and make sure that light switches, water fountains, etc. are suitable for the disabled.

Mr. Rogers stated the Board needs to find out how they can be in touch on a regular basis with the Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector, etc. He stated he went to the Falls Township Disabled Persons Advisory Board to see how they operate; and in the course of review of Plans, there were some items that they were able to bring up which were in need of revisions. The Falls Board does make recommendations back to the Township on those items which need to be modified, and he feels the Lower Makefield Township Board should have a similar role.

Ms. Piccinotti stated fire alarms should have light and sound.

Mr. McConville stated he was concerned about the Golf Course because the Clubhouse is a two-story building, and the area where they store the Golf carts is in the basement. This would be a problem for disabled persons to access. Mr. Taylor advised him that they would bring the carts around, but he would still like to see this on site. Mr. Rogers noted information he has received on handicapped-accessible Golf Courses and provided they are bringing the carts around for everyone, this would be fine. He does feel they should check into this. Mr. McConville stated they should also look at the height of the public telephones.

March 23, 2004

Disabled Persons Advisory Board – page 3 of 3

Mr. McConville asked if there are any other buildings they should look at, and Mr. Rogers stated this is the only Township building under construction at the current time as far as he knows. He would like to get in place the mechanism for how they can be involved in the review of all construction in the Township of public buildings. Mr. Rogers stated he will discuss with Mr. Fegley how they can get “in the loop.” Mr. Rogers stated in Falls Township the Disabled Persons Advisory Board looks at every building permit, but he does not feel they need to look at anything other than public buildings. He feels they should look at anything that falls under ADA requirements.

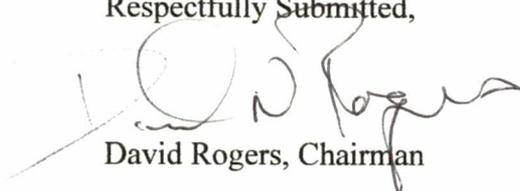
OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rogers stated he feels it would be good to have Bob Shanburg come to the next meeting to make a presentation, and he will contact him to see if he is available. Mr. Rogers stated once they have information on the Disabled Persons Advisory Board on the Website, he would like to invite Mr. Shanburg back again, possibly in September, to make another presentation and invite the public.

Ms. Piccinotti stated she would like the Board to consider hosting other functions to help people get more involved. Mr. Rogers suggested possibly they could have a Golf Outing once the Golf Course is open. He stated this would draw attention to the fact that Lower Makefield Township has an accessible Course.

There being no further business, Mr. McConville moved, Ms. Piccinotti seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


David Rogers, Chairman