

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY November 13, 2019**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Community Center on November 13, 2019. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson
David Mann, Vice Chairperson
Trish O'Donnell, Secretary
David Rogers, member
Dr. Frederic Weiss, Supervisor Liaison, absent

Steve Grumann, Township Resident

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2019 MINUTES

Mr. Rogers moved, Mr. Mann seconded, and the October 9, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lions Pride Park at Upper Nike

A discussion of how DAB might incorporate some of the features used at Lions Pride Park.

a. seating areas incorporate benches and tables that will accommodate people with various physical needs.

b. A "beacon app" that can link to a Bluetooth-Enabled device and serve as a kind of guidebook for all visitors and act as GPS navigation for the visually impaired

Ideas to keep in mind for the walking trail as well as the interactive playground.

TABLECLOTH

New DAB tablecloth has been delivered.

NEW PRIORITY STATEMENT

The Lower Makefield Township Disability Advisory Board's (DAB's) mission is to educate and advise the Township and broader community about issues affecting people with disabilities; promoting inclusion, safety and equal access for everyone.

Consistent with that mission, the DAB has created a new priority for itself: partnering with Township officials and builders to ensure that new construction within the Township is as inclusive of people with disabilities as possible. As part of this partnership, we ask that the Township work with the DAB to create additional building recommendations that exceed the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The DAB believes that the entire community would benefit from these new recommendations. The recommendations would include things such as family restrooms in commercial buildings (so that people with disabilities can enter a restroom with a caretaker from another gender), additional apartments with wheelchair accessible floorplans, and the elimination of curbs when possible. Fortunately, most of these recommendations can be implemented relatively easily if they are incorporated into building plans before construction begins.

We look forward to dialoguing with you so that this new focus can improve our Township by promoting inclusion, safety and equal access for everyone.

The DAB seeks to go beyond the minimum ADA requirement by 20% in order to make new construction (residential and commercial) and new renovations to commercial buildings more disability friendly.

This revised statement to be presented before the Board of Supervisors.

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

No new building plans.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rogers will reach out to Administrator at Bucks County Community College, on behalf of a Lower Makefield resident to inquire about procedure for BCCC group to recommend restroom handicapped accessibility.

Next meeting to be held January 8, 2020

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish O'Donnell

Secretary, Disability Advisory Board