

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, July 23, 2020**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on July 23, 2020. Chairperson Mann opened the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Those present:

David Mann, Chairperson

Trish O'Donnell, Vice Chairperson

Lisa Huchler, Secretary

David Rogers, Member

John Lewis, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 18, 2020 MINUTES

Mr. Rogers moved, Ms. O'Donnell seconded, and the June 18, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

Mr. Mann wanted to remind members of the LMT Community there are many helpful support resources available to people with disabilities when you sign up for Smart911. It is easy to sign up and input as much information as you want to determine the notifications you would like to receive. Smart911 is there so first responders will be aware of important information to help when you call 9-1-1. You can sign up at smart911.com or download the app on your mobile device.

LMT Police and Emergency Management also has a form that can be completed and returned directly to the Police Department. The Emergency Management Special Needs Application Form can be found on the LMT website under forms in the Police/Emergency Management Tab.

Mr. Mann also wanted to remind people to update the information on the form or smart911 to report any changes that may occur from original sign up.

EFFECTS OF PANDEMIC ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. Mann wanted to extend his continued concern about the impact the pandemic has had on people living with a disability.

Ms. Huchler mentioned many children with disabilities will be impacted most if schools do not have in-person instruction. Pennsbury has not made a final decision and we believe the Intermediate Unit has reached out to these students already. Hopefully, when possible the district should prioritize full-time, in-person classes for special needs children.

UPDATES

Roll and Stroll

Reminder that the Roll and Stroll has been cancelled this year out of safety and concern for our attendees and will reschedule for the following year.

Community Day

The township made the decision to cancel the 2020 Community Day event.

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

No new building plans were reviewed by the DAB.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Memorial Park Update

Ms. Huchler gave an update on the special meeting held with Parks and Rec last week along with the Board of Directors of the 9-11 Memorial Garden of Reflection, Inc. They presented their plan to work with local organizations to help us revitalize The Garden and other areas within Memorial Park, specifically to replace the deteriorating red tipple pathways. The proposed new walkway will be wider and use an eco-friendly green building product, called Porous Pave, made in the U.S.A. with recycled rubber. This surface offers our handicapped residents the availability to navigate through The Garden and Oak Garden Arboretum where previously the surface did not allow access.

Mr. Mann asked if plans like this would usually go through the normal process of review prior to work being completed so other township committees might have input. Mr. Lewis stated that the BOS only received shortly before start and because it is township owned property it likely did not need to go through the zoning/planning commission process. If a major change (i.e.: impervious surface) was planned only then would it need to go through that process.

Parks and Recreation Accreditation

Monica Tierney, Director of Parks and Rec joined the June 18, 2020 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 will 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.

Ms. Tierney provided a list of all facilities and each DAB member will be assigned to make recommendations that can be presented to the Parks and Rec Department for the ADA Transition part of the accreditation process. We will focus on the removal of structural barriers to provide access to programs and services offered to the public.

To begin the process, Mr. Mann will review Macclesfield and Yardley Hunt facilities. Ms. O'Donnell will review 5-mile woods and the Dog Park. Mr. Rogers will review the Community Park which includes all facilities in and around the LMT pool. Ms. Huchler will review Memorial Park, Community Center and Veterans Square.

While the Bike Paths are listed, Mr. Lewis stated that a comprehensive review by Parks and Rec is being performed. Mr. Mann did ask about the accessible curb cuts at the intersection of Heacock and Edgewood Rd. These were not included in previous budgets but Ms. Huchler will revisit upon the review of the Veterans Park recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next meeting to be held in September. Exact date, time and place to be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Huchler
Secretary, Disability Advisory Board