

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2022**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on November 14, 2022. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson

Michele Williams, Vice Chairperson

Lynne Catarro, Secretary (absent)

Al Catarro, Member

Cynthia Lang, Member

Dr. Fred Weiss, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 MINUTES

Ms. Williams moved, Dr. Catarro seconded, and the September 14, 2022 minutes were approved by all board members in attendance.

MACCLESFIELD STUDY GROUP

This is an Ad hoc committee created by the LMT Board of Supervisors that will meet over the next few months to go over a comprehensive plan of Macclesfield Park. The purpose of the master plan is to establish a long-term vision for development of the park.

Ms. Huchler will be the liaison for the Disability Advisory Board. As they come up with a plan, we can make sure that the recommendations made in the ADA Transition plan are implemented. We made recommendations for accessible bathrooms, proper Handicapped parking spots and accessible pathways to venue areas.

LMT PROJECT UPDATES

Several Parks and Rec projects are in the preliminary planning stages as funding is being considered and been approved. These projects were included in the ADA Transition Plan completed last year. The Disability Advisory Board (DAB) will review plans, work with Parks and Rec in any planning, suggestions and monitor as progress is made.

Ms. Huchler has sent an email to Ms. Tierney to let us know what assistance she needs from our Board.

Some recent projects are in process and will be ongoing throughout 2023:

Path from Community Center to Pool is almost completed. However, completion of the ADA cutouts will be delayed pending approval from the State. This will be completed by end of year.

5 Mile Woods

A grant in the amount of \$10,000 was received. At a previous BOS meeting, they approved a matching grant and potential for more. The plan is to create a wood platform approx. 800 feet with a minimum width of 3 feet with 5

feet passing lane every 200 feet. One of the Supervisors asked if we could do 5 ft path the entire distance. They would have to weigh the cost and if we would rather have the length shorter at 5 ft or longer at the 3 ft width. In addition, they will be creating 2 handicapped parking spots.

Schuyler Tennis Courts entire surface is currently under construction. DAB has already given suggestions in the ADA Transition plan and will review as project progresses. We asked that all ADA Accessibility issues be part of the plan including handicapped parking spots, parking signs, accessible path into tennis court area, accessible gate, and restrooms.

The plans were sent over and it appears the handicapped parking spots are adequate and are accessible to the entrance. Since there will not be a permanent bathroom facility, we will recommend a portable handicapped restroom.

Veterans Square – A preliminary drawing was sent over via email and will be reviewed in detail. Items to review will be access to the playground, water fountains, handicapped portable restroom, handicapped parking spots, parking signs, access from parking lot and bike path to the monument. It appears most of the issues will be resolved with the new plans. Items that were unclear were the placement of the water fountain, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc. These should be close to the accessible walkways.

We still recommend the curb cuts be completed at the intersection of Heacock and Yardley-Langhorne Rd. This will not be addressed in the current plan but we will continue to see if we can work with PennDOT.

Memorial Park Secret Garden – Inclusive Playground replacement surface must be done every ten years. The Parks and Rec department will move forward next spring with resurfacing and providing shade structures. The DAB will ask Monica Tierney if there is anything our Board can do at this time.

In addition to that work, the current playground equipment is in need of a fresh coat of paint. We will see if a community group such as AOY or an eagle Scout might be interested.

LMT Pool is scheduled to have bathroom renovations and looks like the Parks and Rec Department received approval for \$100,000. Most Engineer/Architects plans will be ADA compliant and will probably not be started until next spring. The DAB will review the plans that have been submitted to ensure that there is nothing more that can be added with minimum impact to the budget.

OTHER TOWNSHIP PROJECTS

LMT Administration Building Plans – Lower Level

No plans yet. Per Mr. Jim Majewski all plans will be ADA compliant.

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

Prickett Preserve- Mr. Jim Majewski sent over the apartment plans via email for the DAB to review. Ms. Huchler has asked the Board to review these and Ms. Williams will review with Dave Rogers assistance. We are not sure of the number of accessible apartments. In addition, we will look at structures to see if they have extra safety features such as sound/strobe fire alarms, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Catarro asked how we can apply to get a grant. The Parks and Rec Department has been able to find potential grants and they are very familiar with completing the application process. One way we could assist is to take a look at the ADA Transition plan, come up with ideas and look for potential grants that relate to the existing plan. Ms. Williams stated there might be grants available for something like the sensory kits. Ms. Huchler noted that we can look out on websites and look for grants that are out there for First Responders, Fire Dept and Police that we could apply and work together with a particular project such as the sensory kits.

Dr. Catarro thought maybe monies to send a handicapped child to a program but Ms. Huchler stated it would have to be something for all. The BOS would have to match any grant received.

Dr. Catarro will investigate and look into potential grants that would relate to accessibility, programs, or community-based programs.

Ms. Lang was looking at the ADA Transition plan and noticed a section about filing grievances. She asked if we receive the grievance. Ms. Huchler noted that the township would receive and if it is something that we could assist with they would contact us. In the past few years, residents have contacted the township and we have been given the information to work out or assist with questions or issues the resident was experiencing.

Ms. Williams asked if anyone had concerns at voting places. We did not hear of any problems but most polling places are at accessible locations.

Reappointments – Ms. Huchler wanted to remind members if they are up for reappointment to respond back to township with an email stating you would like to continue. You would be appointed at a future Board of Supervisors meeting.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting will be held in January/February 2023. Date and time to be determined.

Can continue doing zoom into next year.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Catarro moved and Ms. Lang seconded to adjourn, approved unanimously by all board members in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Catarro

Secretary, Disability Advisory Board