

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008**

A meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, September 28, 2008. Chairman Huchler-Smith opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Lisa Huchler-Smith, Chairman  
David Rogers, Vice-Chairman  
Megan Dorko, Secretary (absent)  
Ann Piccinotti, member  
George Crawford, member  
Dennis "Digger" O'Brien, member

**OTHERS:**

Pete Stainthorpe, Supervisor Liaison  
Charm Crawford

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2008 MINUTES**

Mr. Rogers moved, Mr. O'Brien seconded and the August 2008 meeting minutes were unanimously approved with changes.

**COMMUNITY DAY**

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated that Community Day was a huge success for both the Township and the Disabled Board. She stated a lot of people came to the Board's booth. She made a suggestion to have a petting zoo for the mentally and physically challenged next year at Community Day.

**HANDICAP DOORS**

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated the new accessible front doors have been installed and are working. She stated the only complaint is the location of the button for the front entrance.

Mrs. Huchler-Smith talked about the recent article in the Bucks County Courier Times about the positive things that have been happening in Bucks County to assist disabled people. She noted how she and Mr. Rogers worked to get the leaders in the region to support the local CIL which has been a success since opening.

**BICYCLE AND WALKING PATHS**

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated she received a complaint from a resident about cracks in the bike paths near Memorial Park make the paths difficult to manage for the physically challenged. She contacted Ms. Linney about the complaint and she stated the cracks in the Township paths have been addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Township has a budget and a plan to repair cracks on Township paths and we should pursue getting the cracks fixed that need to be fixed. Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated that she would ask Ms. Linney for a copy of the 2008/2009 repair plan. Mrs. Piccinotti suggested taking a picture of the cracks and sending the pictures to Ms. Linney.

Mr. Rogers stated he has not approached Ms. Linney about the proper handicap parking space criteria in the Township and he will follow-up on parking in the Township complex, the handicap sign that was removed at Schuyler tennis courts, striping at the pool and Macclesfield Park.

## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated 83 questionnaires were sent out and 38 completed questionnaires were received. She broke down the responses on the questionnaires and noted the biggest percentage of responses have a walking disability and second was a hearing disability. She also talked about the comments written by the respondents.

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated one thing that could be addressed as a result of the comments received would be waiving permits fees for handicap accessibility modifications that are requested for a subsequent modification for the same disability. Mr. Rogers agreed the Township should make a concession on permit fees for accessibility reasons and the Disabled Board could review the plans to determine eligibility.

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated one of the comments on the questionnaires was the cost for the Township Ambulance service that the resident said they cannot afford to pay. Mrs. Crawford mentioned that she and her husband make a yearly contribution to the Morrisville Ambulance Squad which covers the cost of the Ambulance should they need the service. She asked if Yardley/Makefield has the same courtesy and Mrs. Huchler-Smith replied no.

Mrs. Huchler-Smith asked now that the Board has this information what do we do with it. Mr. Rogers mentioned the greatest concern he heard on the questionnaire was transportation. Mrs. Huchler-Smith asked Mr. Stainthorpe if the Board of Supervisors would be interested in the results of the questionnaire. Mr. Stainthorpe stated it would be a good idea for the Disabled Board to get on the Supervisors meeting agenda and make a presentation the Supervisors about the great things the Disabled Board has accomplished. Mr. Rogers suggested the Disabled Board give the Supervisors a proposal of solutions and improvements to be done based on results of the survey. The Board did not agree with him.

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated on October 28<sup>th</sup> she will have a Power Point presentation for the Disabled Board to review prior to the Board of Supervisors presentation.

Mrs. Piccinotti talked about the lack of transportation out of the Yardley area. She said she heard that SEPTA was increasing its routes and asked if the transportation would be increased in Yardley. Mr. Stainthorpe stated the TMA runs a lunchtime rush hour line to the Lower Makefield office buildings but does not know that service will be increased in and out of Yardley with the latest announcement.

The next meeting would be Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. on the main floor of the Township Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dorko, Secretary