

CITY OF SANDUSKY

ADA/Fair Housing Advisory Board Meeting

April 25, 2017

First Floor Conference Room, City Hall

10:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Kathy Linz, Carol Steele, Diana Corso, Kathleen Wickens

Members Excused: Jeff Berquist, Lovey Leavell, Martha Thompson

Commission Liaison: Commissioner Greg Lockhart

Staff Members: Law Director, Justin Harris and Clerk, Elisabeth Sowecke

Additional Attendance: Robert Eggers, Larry Knauer

Commissioner Lockhart called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM and roll was taken by Clerk, Elisabeth Sowecke.

I. Presentation by Larry Knauer of *Adaptive Adventures*

The mission of this organization is to provide progressive outdoor sports opportunities to improve quality of life for children, adults and veterans with physical disabilities and their families. AA is requesting that the ADA/FH Board spread the word to local residents, who may experience physical or cognitive disabilities, but want to sail, to take advantage of Adaptive Adventures services. A majority of funding for AA programs is donation-based. To make a donation or for more information about AA services, please e-mail Larry@adaptiveadventures.org.

II. Advisory Board Orientation by Justin Harris, Law Director

Changes were made by the Commission to combine the ADA and Fair Housing Advisory Boards. Additional requirements have been added to meet Fair Housing regulations and members of the new group may hold hearings for Fair Housing complaints in the future. A third party, specializing in Housing issues will be present for any Fair Housing hearings. The ADA/Fair Housing Board is required to meet at least four times each year and a Chair and Vice-Chair will be selected.

Discussion: Mr. Eggers shared that the only hearing ever to take place during an ADA meeting was regarding a Fair Housing issue. Mr. Harris did indicate that a majority of Fair Housing claims in the US are ADA-based.

III. New Business

A. Chairman and Vice-Chairman Selection - Due to the absence of three Board members and no interest expressed by members in-attendance, Commission Lockhart offered the opportunity to delay selection, if preferred. All members present agreed to wait until the next meeting to select a Chair and Vice-Chair.

B. Ms. Steele questioned the installation of new benches that are only a few feet away from the sidewalk, less than allowable by ADA standards. The location of the benches was not determined and Commissioner Lockhart indicated that he would follow-up with the matter.

C. Ms. Steele motioned to be appointed as liaison for the ADA/ Fair Housing Board and Friends of the Jackson St Pier. Ms. Linz seconded. All members were in-favor of this motion.

D. Commissioner Lockhart recognized new member, Kathy Linz and indicated a desire to make a dedication somewhere in the City on behalf of her husband, Dr. Linz. Mr. Eggers suggested an ADA-accessible ramp at the gazebo at Facer Park. All members were in-favor of this idea. No follow-up was established.

E. Ms. Wickens inquired about the status of the wheelchair-accessible swing at Shoreline Park. Commissioner Lockhart asked Clerk, Elisabeth Sowecke to follow-up with City staff for an update on this issue.

F. Commissioner Lockhart raised an issue with accessibility of sidewalk ramps at Subway located at Market and Wayne and The Sandusky Register at Jackson and Market Streets. He asked Clerk, Elisabeth Sowecke to follow-up with City staff to report this issue.

G. Ms. Corso inquired about the status of the Lions Park parking lot pothole complaint from the last meeting. Clerk, Elisabeth Sowecke indicated that the potholes had been reported to the Streets department but that overall improvements to the parking lot are due for construction this year.

H. All members expressed support for the improvements to Jackson Street Parking Lot but indicated that accessibility of Peddler's Alley is still a problem. Commissioner Lockhart indicated that this remains an issue with private property.

I. Commissioner Lockhart asked if anyone wanted to discuss publicity of 4th of July event but no further information was discussed.

J. Commissioner Lockhart asked if anyone wanted to discuss publicity at Biker's Week. Ms. Steele indicated that she does not go downtown for this event because it is not accessible. No other information was discussed.

K. Ms. Wickens informed the Board that Walk MS will take place on May 6. The start/ finish location is the Erie County Senior Center and the walk begins at 9:00 AM. Ms. Wickens suggested that the Board may want to table at this event but no one was available.

The Board agreed to meet next on Monday, May 15, at 1:00 PM, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.