

CITY OF SANDUSKY
ADA/Fair Housing Advisory Board
Monday, June 26, 2071
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
1:00 PM

Members Present – Jeff Berquist, Diane Corso, Lovey Leavell, Carol Steele, Kathleen Wickens,
Commissioner Lockhart

Absent – Kathy Linz, Martha Thompson

Staff Present – Assistant Law Director, Trevor Hayberger; Clerk, Elisabeth Sowecke; IT Manager, Don
Rumbutis

Meeting called to order at 1:10 PM.

A 30-minute video, *Fair Housing* by National Association of Realtors was presented by Chairman Berquist. It provided an overview of Fair Housing laws, such as the Federal Fair Housing Act, signed in 1968. Since the late 1960s, the NAR has taken leadership in fair housing issues. Protected classes include, race, color, religion, sex, marital status, gender, handicap and familial status. A few topics covered, include reasonable accommodation/ reasonable modifications, steering and protective agents. Chairman Berquist reminded members that they are “the eyes and ears” of the community. Mediation is recommended prior to litigation.

Chairman Berquist raised the question of frequency of meetings and reviewed meeting minutes from a fair housing meeting on April 25, 2016. He reviewed the general purpose of the ADA/Fair Housing Board, asking each member to provide their own vision for the Board. Ms. Wickens raised the issue with the swing at Shoreline Park that is not realistically accessible and indicated that she would like to be proactively involved in helping the City become ADA accessible. Ms. Corso indicated that she would like to see the Board continue to fulfill the role that the City has asked of the board, to serve at the

discretion of the Commission. Mr. Hayberger agreed that the role of the Board is to provide another set of eyes and ears to support the City's work in ensuring accessibility. Ms. Steele raised several issues, including gratitude to the volunteers who repaired Washington Street Pier, continued concern that the Jackson St Pier remain accessible and the recent patio constructed at Barra on Columbus Avenue that leaves a clearance inaccessible for a majority of passersby. She indicated that she is "upset" that the City does not enlist their perspective before projects and indicated that she would "consider resigning" if the City does not take a more active role in accommodating ADA standards. Commissioner Lockhart asked Ms. Steele if there were other patios that seemed to violate ADA accessibility. Ms. Steele indicated that Daly's is difficult to maneuver around and that patios in-general were difficult to navigate from an ADA perspective. Mr. Hayberger covered the City permitting process and indicated that that patio does, in fact, violate requirements set by the City, so owners of property have been asked to modify it. Discussion ensued around how this Board can work to address these issues. Lovey said she hopes to adjust her thinking to become more proactive for ADA accessibility and recommended meeting monthly to address all the issues that arise.

Mr. Berquist asked for volunteers for the Stars and Stripes event. Discussion occurred regarding the need for someone who is able to perform set-up. In addition, there were questions about the logistics of the event, including who is responsible for registering for a table. Carol Steele, Kathleen Wickens and Lovey Leavell all offered to work "early." Ms. Sowecke indicated that she would follow-up with City staff to see if anyone is currently registered to table at the event and if so, will connect the Board with a viable contact.

The plaque to honor Dr. Linz was raised again and Commissioner Lockhart indicated that additional follow-up with City Commission is needed.

Ms. Corso asked about the status of the Peddler's Alley ramp. Ms. Sowecke said that the ramp was completed but would confirm its status.

Meetings were set for the fourth Monday of every month, with the next meeting occurring on Monday, July 24 at 1:00 PM.

Chairman Berquist moved to adjourn the meeting. Lovey Leavell seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.



Jeff Berquist
Chairperson



Elisabeth Sowecke
Clerk