

Minutes

CITY OF LAKEWOOD ADA TASK FORCE MEETING April 25, 2023 7:00-8:00 PM

Meeting is recorded

<https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/accordions/ada-task-force/>

Members present

Tracy Greenberg, co-chair
Ahmie Yeung, co-chair
Sean Mott
Michele Slife
Chris Cowen
Christina Tayman
Thomas McGraw
Sarah Kepple, City Council

Others present:

Michelle Nohta, secretary
Andrew Fleck, legal counsel

1. Discussion about meeting minutes: The November 29, 2022, and March 28 minutes were approved by vote.
2. Ms. Greenberg called the meeting to order, attendance was observed and recorded by Ms. Nohta

NEW BUSINESS

3. Ms. Nohta delivered the progress report from DLZ which stated that the rough draft should be available for review sometime in May. The city and Mr. Metzger hosted the first citywide ADA training session. A Q&A walk-in session for city employees and Task Force members would also be held at city hall from 10am-11 am on Friday, April 28, 2023. Ms. Tayman stated she would not be able to attend the May meeting and hoped she would be able to connect with Mr. Metzger in May, Ms. Nohta assured her Mr. Metzger would be available for her questions.
4. Ms. Greenberg introduced the topic of removable barriers from the last session and expressed her wish that the Task Force vote on adding an addendum to the transition plan addressing movable barriers. Ms. Nohta stated that the Task Force could propose the addendum, Mr. Metzger would be able to answer the question of how such a recommendation would be handled, and Ms. Greenberg acknowledged that movable barriers are not typically addressed in transition plans. Ms. Greenberg stated that one of the goals of the group is to add their recommendations to the transition plan. Ms. Greenberg asked that an email she sent prior to the meeting be brought up on the screen, where she had created the beginning of a list of movable barriers, and suggestions for city employees and other affiliated organizations who might be able to help address movable barriers. Mr. Mott stated he had noticed new tables and chairs on the sidewalk at Bar Italia and remarked that they didn't look compliant, they seemed to take up too much of the public right of way. Mr. Mott asked how such a complaint/inquiry might be handled. Ms. Nohta stated that tables and chairs located on public sidewalks were approved through a conditional use permit that was reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission. Any suspected compliance issues could be reported through the report- a problem app or a call to the building

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department, and an inspector will go out to verify if the property's outdoor dining set-up complies with an approved plan or not. Ms. Tayman stated that as an avid urban runner, she also had experienced issues with movable barriers such as cars parked across the sidewalks, and felt such issues needed to be addressed. The question of whether garbage truck workers were receiving ADA compliance training was raised. Ms. Tayman shared with the group a training that was being hosted by the Great Lakes ADA Access Board and about several new job postings. The question was raised of how to educate the public to take responsibility for movable barriers, that the online "report-a-problem" software wouldn't work for some of the issues because by the time someone could address the issues the problem would be self-resolved. One member said "See something say something" which was a good motto to keep in mind, while another member said "See something do something" might be better advice. Ms. Greenberg mused that there might be trespass issues when moving objects onto any private property but hoped that all manner of public servants could be pressed into responding to removable barrier complaints while at work. Ms. Yeung stated that she hoped to ask H2O camp instructors to include a message about movable barriers in their camp sessions with middle schoolers.

5. Mr. McGraw shared that he had a new baby recently and had a new appreciation for movable barriers like cars parked across sidewalks when navigating with the stroller.
6. Ms. Cowen share that Governor DeWine had recently approved money through OOD to focus on making accessible public venues such as parks, arenas theaters, etc., Ms. Greenberg mentioned that she is involved in an organization called RAMPED that might be interested in the funding and Ms. Cowen agreed to forward her the information.
7. Ms. Slife stated that she would like to discuss a recommendation that the city provides funds for a program that issues removable ramps for businesses and that she understood there could be scoping issues but that the ramps were comparably less expensive than permanent building changes. Ms. Kepple stated that she worked with small business groups and could bring this type of information to those groups. Ms. Greenberg stated that she was concerned about how safe those ramps might be and that she was sometimes directed to use loading ramps to access buildings when she went to work with her band at various venues. Ms. Greenberg stated often the loading ramps would not appear to be a safe form of egress and would decline due to safety concerns.
8. Discussion about how to send suggestions and edits to Ms. Nohta before the next meeting. It was decided Ms. Nohta would send out the rough draft and any edits could be sent to Ms. Nohta directly; Ms. Nohta could compile and make the document and comment part of the agenda for the next meeting.
9. Adjournment

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