



**Commission on Inclusion
September 19, 2023 Meeting
Stow City Hall
Boards and Commissions Room**

Members Present:

Tricia Streharsky, Chairperson
Jason Dresden, Vice Chairperson
Bruce Bach
Jason Gates
Pamela Hunt
Elizabeth Kinsella
Michael Lamboy
Pamela Wind

Others Present:

Mayor John Pribonic
Gale Koritansky, Director SMFPL
Jeremy McIntire, President of Council
Halle DeSonne. Summit DD Inclusioners

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 pm in the Boards and Commissions Room at Stow City Hall.

Review and Approve minutes from July 25, 2023 (August meeting was cancelled)

Tricia Streharsky made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2023 meeting, and Pamela Hunt seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed.

ADA Proposed Transition Plan – Jeremy McIntire, President of Council

Jeremy came to speak to the Commission Regarding an ADA Transition Plan within the City. Both Jeremy and Michael Lamboy have been working to see how City can improve in making all areas more conducive to everyone with any type of needs within the City.

The Commission on Inclusion's role would be to look at all the City facilities and see where there are needs for improvement. Example the podium in Council Chambers is not ADA Compliant. It's only one height and it would be an easy fix to make sure everyone is able to use it. Also for example if Parks decided to do something new to enhance the Parks he feels that the Commission should be involved.

Jeremy stated that every City needs to have an ADA Compliance Officer to oversee the technical end of projects new and old.

Jeremy provided the Commission information regarding the American with Disabilities ACT

Under Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) public services, programs and activities are required to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Compliance includes conducting a self-evaluation to identify and accessibility obstacles or issues that need to be addressed with regard to communications, building facilities and pedestrian facilities. In addition, *public entities that employ 50 or more persons** are required to :

Designate an ADA Coordinator

Establish a grievance procedure to allow for prompt resolution of accessibility concerns.

Establish a transition plan for taking the steps necessary to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Monitor implementation of the transition plan, and update the plan periodically as needed.

Halle Desonne Summit County DD Inclusioners

Halle graciously came and put on a presentation regarding the Summit County DD Inclusioners group

It was very informative and she showed two projects that both Summit DD and University of Akron Engineering Department worked to together on to help several people that had specific needs one was a certain type of wheelchair and with the Engineering Department at the University of Akron and the Inclusioners they were able to design this. The recipient was beyond grateful.

Jason Dresden, Accessible Ohio

Jason provided the Commission with a hand out regarding Accessible Ohio.

Accessible Ohio promotes inclusion in Ohio for businesses, venue and communities. Will follow accessible design, to include again population, people with disabilities and veterans.

What the Accessible Ohio is NOT – is the ADA police, not a compliance agency. Working in partnership with entities to help identify the barriers to access, establish goals to accessibility, and following best practices for those goals and to find funding for accessing. Will provide education of in person trainings and webinars and will have an Expo and Conference.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 in the Boards and Commissions Room at Stow City Hall at 5:15 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

