



The City of Lorain

200 West Erie Avenue
Lorain, Ohio 44052

Fair Housing Board Meeting ***Minutes Approved September 17, 2020*** **Thursday, August 20th at 4:00pm**

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 4:11pm**
- II. Roll Call**

In attendance: Yvonne Johnson, Dennis Johnson, Rhoda Lee, Jean Wrice.
Absent: Sylvia Duvall, Martin Leibas, Teresa Yuzon.
Also in attendance: Mayor of Lorain Jack Bradley, Drew Crawford (City of Lorain Building, Housing, Planning), Max Upton (acting director of Building, Housing, and Planning).
- III. Approval of minutes from July 23, 2020 meeting**

Minutes approved. Motion by Yvonne Johnson, second by Rhoda Lee, all in favor of approval.
- IV. Approval of new positions**
 - a. Martin Leibas, Chairperson
 - b. Rhoda Lee, Vice Chairperson
 - c. Sylvia DuVall, Secretary

All positions approved by board.
- V. Old Business**

Information campaigns to spread the word on fair housing
Many members expressed interest in and a need for distribution of pamphlets and other print information to be available to Lorain Citizens. Drew will provide copies and distribution once he confirms the information is accurate.
- VI. Eviction help resources guide distribution**

Drew to provide information and printed copies for September meeting.
- VII. Stoveworks Feedback**

Members present had a discussion with the Mayor, Max Upton, and Drew Crawford regarding the Stoveworks Project and possible affordable housing on the site. It was stressed that programmatic elements need to be planned before people move into their apartments. In other words, support elements for residents need to be in place. Also, elements of maintenance need to be in place to keep the properties clean and up to date.

Property ownership continued to be a large theme of the discussion. Many board members advocated strongly that some element of home ownership, perhaps rent-to-own, a contract, or some other element to allow people to create generational wealth to own their properties. Stabilization of neighborhoods and families can occur through home ownership.

Concerns about railroad tracks are still felt, but the board agreed that the designs were good for putting housing on the site that addressed noise and quality of life elements to the railroad tracks.

Members of the Board approved the notes unanimously that were summarized by PORT (Philadelphia/Chicago).

VIII. **Adjournment** at 5:15p

Remaining 2020 meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month:

September 17th, October 15th, November 19th, and likely December 17th