

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Commission Chambers, June 9, 2011, 10:00 a.m.**

Present: Vicki Cannon, Supervisor of Elections  
Jerry Greeson, Clerk Chief of Staff and Operations  
Faye Johnson, citizen member  
Michael Beard, Health Department  
Kevin Burnette, School Board  
David Kramer, School Board (Alternate)  
Paulo Soria, Interim Assistant County Attorney  
Robert McKinney, Building Official  
Tim Milligan, Facilities Maintenance  
Ted Selby, County Manager  
Stacy Johnson, County Commissioner and Chair  
Connie Arthur, Deputy Clerk

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order and the Deputy Clerk called the roll.

Chair Johnson welcomed Faye Johnson, Executive Director of ARC Nassau, who replaces Judy Main who recently resigned due to ill health. Chair Johnson hoped to request the Board of County Commissioners to prepare a resolution recognizing Ms. Main's service and contribution to the County.

It was stated that Mr. Soria had realized that the ordinances needed to be updated and Chair Johnson realized that the committee had not met in several years and needed to be re-activated, particularly to discuss a mechanism for citizens to make complaints. She commented that an improved website should make it easier for the public for this purpose.

Mr. Milligan reported that his department strives to make all county buildings ADA compliant. It is time to update the department's checklist and inspect the facilities as part of the Capital Improvement Plan. He advised that two of the County's boat ramps have been updated with ADA accessible parking and route to the floating docks. Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) funds contributed to this project. Additionally, he felt it was important to educate staff on compliance issues as well.

Mr. Selby agreed with using the website as a means for the public to report ADA issues. Mr. Milligan pointed out that the website has a link to work order requests as a means to notify Facilities Maintenance of any issues. Additionally, he is working to improve the website to list the ADA accessible features of all of the parks. Chair Johnson reiterated that the County's website would welcome any links for information to the public regarding the School Board or City of Fernandina Beach compliant areas.

Chair Johnson commented that a local engineer, Dan McCranie, has recently been certified in new ADA codes and was available to talk to County officials if needed.

Next, Mr. Soria reviewed a draft ordinance that codifies prior actions of the Board into one document, including complaint procedures for employees and/or the public, and updating the role of the County Manager. He identified in detail seven sections of the ordinance. Chair Johnson requested consensus of the group to recommend the draft be considered by the Board of County Commissioners.

Responding to questions, Mr. Soria stated he would research and/or further define “reasonable accommodations” versus requests from employees for special aids. Mr. Soria then explained the informal process. Mr. Burnette advised that the School Board facilities/projects are reviewed by the Department of Education to meet State requirements, including ADA compliance. He is aware of the new code and attends training to stay current. He questioned if the County’s ordinance was in conflict, to which Mr. Soria replied that federal regulations require every public entity to have a designated person for ADA compliance. Mr. Beard reviewed a recent complaint handled by the Health Department. Mr. Greeson referred to Section III of the ordinance related to confidentiality and requested clarification and assurance that there is no conflict with the Sunshine Law for public records requests or HIPPA requirements about withholding information. Mr. Soria will research *Florida Statutes*. The group reviewed an example of confidentiality issues. Chair Johnson suggested Mr. Soria research and respond with an email to all committee members before moving forward. Ms. Cannon urged educating employees and the Constitutional Officers on the ADA issues, and she requested to have the polling places included in the assessment of county facilities.

Mr. Milligan announced that a wheelchair had been recently donated to the governmental complex by Nancy Freeman for use by the public.

There was no public input.

Ms. Faye Johnson commented that ARC provides services for approximately 26 adults with developmental disabilities each day. With a recent update of the restrooms, the building is now ADA compliant. She noted that the agency must search for areas to travel with the group; she expressed appreciation for the work being done to provide accessibility for everyone.

Mr. McKinney reported that the State has an accessibility code that is more restrictive than the ADA federal code. It has been incorporated into the Building Code so that the standards the County holds facilities to are slightly higher than federal standards. After reading the document, it did not appear that the County is agreeing to lower any standards to the ADA.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.