



DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2022 - 12:00-1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting and City Hall Back Conference Room, 1134 F St. Lewiston, Idaho 83501

Members Attending: Chairman Ged Randall, Eric Peterson, Constance Vance, Mark Havens, and Mike Feeney

Members Not Attending:

Non-Members Attending: Hannah Liedkie, Dustin Johnson, Michelle King, Nikki Province, Leah Burris

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 12:00pm

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. None.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

i. Public Works Director Dustin Johnson states the plan was adopted by Council at their last work session. It generated a lot of good conversation. Staff is compiling data for an update to the ADA Transition Plan and he hopes to bring that to next month's meeting. He asks if there are any questions for him. Chairman Randall asks if they will be able to review the Transition Plan updates. Mr. Johnson states he will try to make sure DAC members get the document ahead of the next meeting so they can discuss it at April's meeting. Mr. Havens asks about one of the projects that is on Juniper Drive. Mr. Johnson states there are walking paths, ramps, etc. in that area that could use improvements. Mr. Peterson states DAC was asked to participate in the review of the Transportation Plan and had a plan to create a subcommittee that did not create a quorum, but because of the interpretation of the open meeting laws and subcommittees, that did not occur and he is hoping there will be clarification soon on subcommittees and open meeting laws. Mr. Peterson adds DAC was not able to utilize their member's knowledge to provide input because they could not have a subcommittee meet due to the open meeting law requirements.

B. FUNDING FOR DISABLED PERSONS

i. Mel Leviton was not able to be available to provide a presentation.

C. WARMING AND COOLING SHELTERS

Eric Peterson – Term Expires 07/22

Mike Feeney – Term Expires 07/24

Mark Havens – Term Expires 07/24

Constance Vance – Term Expires 07/24

Ged Randall – Term Expires 07/23

Vacant

Vacant



- i. Michelle King states the LC Valley Adult Resource Center started providing services in December 2021 in a Salvation Army Facility. They have 20 beds available, are low barrier, and provide supervision at night. She provides some statistics and states 48 individuals have been provided services, 23 from Nez Perce County and 19 from Asotin County. Nine have secured permanent housing and seven have secured employment. In winter of 2020-2021, two community members died of hypothermia and to her knowledge, there were no weather related deaths this winter. Of the 48 guests, 36 are disabled or struggle with mental health related disabilities. The agreement with the Salvation Army runs through the end of March so they are in the process of purchasing a building for year round service. Chairman Randall asks if she will be asking the City for funding and if so, if she will be requesting a certain amount. Ms. King states she does not have a specific amount at this time. Chairman Randall tells her the City's budget process is starting soon so the time to make a request is quickly approaching. Chairman Randall asks that Ms. King's handout be included in the minutes and wants to specifically note that 75% of the guests have a disability. Mr. Havens asks what happens with some of the guests during the day, especially in inclement weather. She states First Step for Life provided daytime services including transportation. She adds they hope to extend their service hours and do more to connect guests with services in the area, such as housing and employment. Mr. Peterson states he is impressed with what Ms. King said about their guests being able to secure employment, housing, etc. and their ability to help their guests make those connections. Ms. King states they do invest heavily in their guests and try very hard to make those connections. Mr. Feeney asks if there are plans in place to extend this into the summer to provide a cooling shelter. Ms. King states they are hoping to provide extended hours when the temperatures are very high pending a permit from the City. She states in compliance with state regulations, they cannot provide a 24 hour shelter, but they hope to be able to be open during the heat of the day and provide water. Councilor Hannah Liedkie asks how they differentiate between physical and mental disabilities in guests. Ms. King said they try to respect the privacy of guests and just ask in general on their form if they are disabled. Councilor Liedkie states if they had more information about the guest's disability, they may be able to provide more specific resources to the guests. They also discuss assisting guests with applying for social security disability.

IV. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. FUNDING WARMING AND COOLING SHELTERS

- i. Mr. Randall asks for a motion for this item to be tabled until April's meeting when Ms. King has more information about funding needs for the Adult

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Resource Center. Mr. Havens motions to postpone this item until April and Ms. Constance Vance seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

B. SUB-COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING LAW

- i. Mr. Peterson makes a motion to direct the question previously posed to the City's legal department, regarding subcommittees and if they are required to follow open meeting laws, to the Idaho Attorney General's Office for clarification. Mr. Feeney seconds the motion. Mr. Havens asks if there is any difference, legal or otherwise, if a task force set up by City staff would be different that a subcommittee created by a board or commission. Mr. Peterson states part of the purpose for this request is to explore this. The vote is held and the motion is approved. Chairman Randall reads a letter that had been emailed to Mr. Peterson regarding subcommittees and open meeting law requirements. Mr. Randall asks the letter that was emailed to Mr. Peterson be included in the minutes.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- i. Mr. Havens motions to approve the minutes from February 10, 2022 and Mr. Peterson seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Mr. Havens asks if there have been applications for the open DAC position. Ms. Province states there are not any at this time and adds that Commissioner Christina Stevenson has resigned so now there are two openings.
- B. Mr. Havens states Mr. Johnson's presentation on the ADA Transition Plan will probably take quite a bit of time at April's meeting.
- C. Ms. Province states she was planning to have the Library Director attend to explain the Library's accommodation process.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner Randall states it is Women's History Month and recognizes some disabled women that have been very instrumental in history, such as Helen Keller, Senator Tammy Duckworth, and Maya Angelou.
- B. Mr. Peterson states he was just appointed to the Idaho State Independent Living Council which focuses on reducing barriers for disabled persons engaging in the community and living independently. Chairman Randall asks for Mr. Peterson's letter appointing him to the Council to be included in the minutes.

VII. STAFF LIASON COMMENTS

- A. Councilor Liedkie states she wants everyone to know that she is a resource to Council for DAC. She asks to confirm if DAC will be requesting support from the City for a warming and/or cooling shelter. Chairman Randall states they do plan to request support and Mr. Peterson states it makes sense for the City to support a service like this as reducing the homeless population actually reduces costs to the City. Mr. Havens asks

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Councilor Liedkie if the City still has COVID relief funds available. Councilor Liedkie states there is money that has been allocated but not spent, however, there may be some funds not allocated yet but she would have to confirm that. She adds that if DAC can provide supporting information about the cost savings from investing in homeless services that would be helpful in garnering support.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm

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Mike Feeney – Term Expires 07/24
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