



DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 11, 2021 - 12:00 PM

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

Members Attending: Chairman Gabe Iacoboni, Mark Havens, Travis Brusseau, Eric Peterson, Mike Feeney

Non-Attending Members: Ged Randall, Christina Stevenson

Non-Members Attending: Dustin Johnson, Leah Burris

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 12:01pm

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. None.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. None.

IV. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from February 11, 2021 – *action item*

i. Mr. Peterson motions to approve the minutes and Mr. Feeney seconds. All members vote to approve the minutes.

B. APPROVAL OF TRANSITION PLAN 2020 ANNUAL REPORT – *action item*

i. Mr. Johnson and Chairman Iacoboni open it up for the group to discuss the report so staff can make recommendations. Mr. Peterson asks if City Staff has reviewed the report and Mr. Johnson states they have. Mr. Peterson asks if the process is being followed as outlined in the ADA Transition Plan and the right staff members are involved in these processes and states the annual report is a very important step of the Transition Plan. Mr. Feeney states Mr. Peterson has worked for years to get to where we are with the Transition Plan. Mr. Burris reads a comment from Mr. Randall regarding a dollar amount in the Transition Plan that needs to be filled in. Mr. Johnson states he will work on getting that dollar amount. Mr. Havens asks if when Council adopted the ADA Transition Plan, if it applies to the area of City impact and if the City could require things

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like sidewalks outside in the surrounding area be brought up to code. Mr. Peterson states yes, it does, as he has been communicating with Nez Perce County about addressing this issue. Mr. Havens states it's important that areas that could be annexed are following code. Chairman Iacoboni confirms those areas are in County jurisdiction and Mr. Peterson confirms that is correct. Chairman Iacoboni asks if the County then has to follow the ADA Transition Plan. Mr. Peterson states the County is required to follow the American with Disabilities Act but the City cannot enforce anything upon the County. Mr. Johnson states he is meeting with County later today and may bring up this topic with them. Mr. Iacoboni motions to approve the 2020 Transition Plan Annual Report contingent on staff compiling a dollar amount for the estimated dollars of infrastructure investments being filled in on page 4. Mr. Havens seconds the motion and Mr. Feeney is a concurring second. All members vote aye. The report is approved.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Mr. Havens discusses the long range transportation plan and prepping the City for electric vehicles. Shannon Grow, MPO Director, presented on the transportation plan a few months ago. Mr. Havens states some major automotive companies have announced they will eventually only create electric vehicles and Mr. Havens states there will be a transition to electric transportation and wonders if there is a role to play for DAC in being a part of this transition. Mr. Feeney asks Mr. Havens what role that plays in disabilities. Mr. Havens states to could become common to have more types of vehicles that may be more easily used by individuals with disabilities. Mr. Peterson states that change is coming and he hopes for more shared transportation. Mr. Feeney states it could impact current road systems. Mr. Havens states he hopes to convince Ms. Grow to address this topic in future plans. Mr. Feeney states most likely our area will be reactive rather than proactive and Chairman Iacoboni states he could see this becoming a bigger issue in about five years. Mr. Johnson state he is also meeting with MPO Policy Board this afternoon and welcomes Mr. Havens to attend or email him with his comments.
- B. Chairman Iacoboni states he worked with a group of non-profits this winter to get a warming shelter set up for individuals that did not met the requirements to be housed and reiterates a comment made before in a DAC meeting, which is that DAC does not just represent those with physical disabilities, but also those with mental disabilities and any of those that used the warming shelter had mental disabilities. He would like DAC to work with the community to assist in the development of a permanent warming shelter. Mr. Feeney asks if there is a group in town leading that charge and

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Mr. Iacoboni states the group that provided it in 2019 was unable to do it this past year so a group of non-profits tried to band together to provide something to the public. He adds there are some non-profits coming online that may be able to assist in the future. Mr. Brusseau asks if it should be a priority to meet with these non-profits. Chairman Iacoboni states it would be his goal to invite non-profit leaders to meetings to see what they see as a need. Mr. Brusseau mentions Union Gospel Mission and Chairman Iacoboni states they will leave a gap in services as they will provide services for women and children but not to single men. Mr. Havens states he has been involved with this effort in the past. He adds that over and above all of the logistical issues, which are enormous, is the issue of insurance and more specifically, liability. Suzanne Johnson from Twin County United Way tried to find someone to take that on and no one wanted that liability. He states without someone willing to cover the liability and insurance, the other efforts may be wasted. If that problem can be solved, the other issues can be resolved. Mr. Peterson adds it's very difficult to get insurance coverage as a new 501C3. Mr. Feeney asks if a large part of the problem is that many of the organizations that have been involved in these efforts have been religious organizations which has caused hang ups. Mr. Iacoboni states that was an issue when he worked in Boise and there were religious commitments to utilize those services. Mr. Havens confirms the group First Step for Life did not have a religious commitment like that. Chairman Iacoboni states even just finding a space is a huge problem. Mr. Feeney states in the past Salvation Army just used a trailer to give people a space to get out of the cold. Chairman Iacoboni adds that logistical planning needs to start months ahead of time and there are funding sources available. Mr. Feeney states some of the bigger cities have used tiny homes and Mr. Brusseau adds that could reduce liability. Mr. Havens notes there is a huge difference between homeless shelters and warming shelters. He reiterates that insurance liability was the biggest stumbling block in the past for a warming shelter and that problem needs to be solved first. Mr. Feeney asks if the liability and insurance is just a matter of money and Chairman Iacoboni states no, there is much more to it than that. Chairman Iacoboni is worried if something is not created by next winter and it's a harsh winter, we could be hearing about individuals freezing to death. Mr. Peterson asks if this is under the directive of DAC and Mr. Havens reiterates what Chairman Iacoboni said earlier, which is that many homeless individuals do have disabilities. Chairman Iacoboni will reach out to the City legal department regarding if this is a topic DAC can be involved in.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A. Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.

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