



DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 8, 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, Ged Randall

Members Not Attending: Mike Feeney, Christina Stevenson

Non-Members Attending: Matthew Davis, Dustin Johnson, Leah Burris

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 12:03pm

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. No Citizen Comments

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion with Matthew Davis, City of Spokane, regarding homelessness.

- i. Matt Davis presents to the group on the work he does with the City of Spokane. He states Spokane works with a group of community stakeholders to best handle and assist the homeless population of Spokane. He states he is here to answer questions for the group and provide whatever assistance he can. Mr. Peterson asks Mr. Davis for his opinion of how Lewiston has handled its homelessness issue. Mr. Davis responds that the biggest struggle is finding a group to take on that liability and Mr. Peterson states that is the main issue here. He asks Mr. Davis if there was something Spokane did to mitigate that. Mr. Davis states that organizations that assist in their homelessness program are required to hold liability insurance and grant funding can assist with that. Mr. Randall states with vaccines becoming more available and agencies doing away with eviction protections if Mr. Davis expects an increase in homelessness. Mr. Davis states there is a fear of a wave of homelessness but there is legislation to help protect tenants and hopefully mitigate and prevent that from happening. Chairman Iacoboni asks Mr. Davis if Spokane has ever done a homelessness study and Mr. Davis states they are consistently doing that. Spokane works with the County to provide regional assistance. They look at rates of new homelessness, recurring homelessness, those getting permanent homes, and

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other key indicators. Mr. Peterson states homelessness has been a main factor and concern for the Lewis Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation Board, which he and Mr. Havens both sit on, and homelessness in this area is “hidden,” for example, people are in their cars, living in other people’s basements, garages, “couch surfing,” etc. He suggests contacting local law enforcement to find out what they are seeing. Mr. Peterson also asks about the liability for younger people that are homeless. Mr. Davis states they do have a specific overnight license for youth. Mr. Havens states we have the Youth Resource Center in Lewiston to assist that population. Mr. Peterson asks about their funding. Chairman Iacoboni states Idaho Housing & Finance Association has been helpful in covering housing costs. He adds they are not a long term shelter so are classified more as “transitional housing” and try to get the youth they serve back into stable permanent housing. Mr. Peterson states he would like to hear from them about the logistics of how they operate. Mr. Randall states you hear about a lot of homelessness as it relates to drugs and addiction, and asks if the state has classified these individuals as disabled. Mr. Davis does state mental health, such as substance abuse, does play into housing availability and eligibility for intervention. Mr. Peterson adds that he does not see a lot of nonprofits that have a lot of opportunities to fully assist people and get them recognized in the system. Mr. Davis continues that during warmer weather months staff do outreach to maintain contact with the homeless community to continue to help provide resources other than just a shelter. Mr. Peterson states he and Mr. Havens are both members of Lewis Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation Board and a warming shelter has been a big topic of discussion. He states the board can help provide funding and grants and this may be a good place to look for funding. Mr. Peterson suggests that an item be added to the next agenda under action items to consider making this a goal of DAC for 2021. Chairman Iacoboni asks Mr. Davis if he faced any political opposition, or any opposition, in regards to setting up or providing a warming shelter. Mr. Davis states the politicizing of homelessness has been a huge issue and the topic is very polarizing which can be challenging.

B. Discussion regarding American Rescue Act funding.

- i. Chairman Iacoboni states the City Manager has been in contact with local nonprofits to try to get the Rescue Act funding to assist with making resources available. Mr. Randall suggests asking the City Manager if the City’s Grant Writer, Jacqui Gilbert, could provide assistance. Chairman Iacoboni states he has worked with Jacqui and Jacqui has been in contact with local non-profits. Chairman Iacoboni states there are plans for local agencies to meet bi-weekly to

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work on this. Chairman Iacoboni states he attends these meetings and will represent DAC at those meetings. Mr. Havens states he would also like to attend.

IV. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from March 11, 2021 – *action item*
- i. Mr. Peterson motions to approve the minutes and Mr. Randall seconds the motion. All members vote to approve the minutes.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Mr. Havens states he would like to share that yesterday he received notification that over in Asotin County funds are available for rental assistance and it is very generous. Those interested just need to contact Quality Behavioral Health to apply. He does wonder where Idaho's share is and if it will trickle down to counties and cities.
- B. Mr. Randall states there is a PBS special about Ernest Hemmingway and the traumatic brain injury issues he dealt with.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chairman Iacoboni motions to adjourn and Mr. Peterson seconds. Meeting adjourned at 1:01pm.

The City of Lewiston is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities and encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the ADA coordinator at least 48-hours in advance of the meeting time. [Nikki Province \(208\) 746-3671 x 6211](tel:(208)746-3671x6211) or nprovince@CityofLewiston.org.

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