



DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 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, Mark Havens, Amy Brogan, Mike Feeney, Eric Peterson, Constance Vance

Members Not Attending: None

Non-Members Attending: Dustin Johnson, 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. REVIEW CITY CODE - DAC will review and discuss City Code Section 2-50 regarding Advisory Boards and Commissions.

i. Chairman Randall reviews City Code Section 2-50. He states this code is mostly related to budgets and staff time as they apply to Advisory Boards and Commissions. Chairman Randall reads it aloud. Chairman Randall states he wanted to discuss this as there are new members on DAC and there is a new form of government. He states that one main point is to be aware of the limited time the staff liaisons have to dedicate to commission work. Chairman Randall asks if there is any discussion.

B. REVIEW CITY CODE POWERS AND DUTIES OF DAC

i. Chairman Randall reviews City Code section 2-49(h) and reads it aloud. This section is related to the powers and duties of DAC as they relate to Title II. Chairman Randall asks if there is any discussion. Mr. Peterson states he previously thought that recommendations from DAC would go through the City Manager or Mayor then to the City Council, but the way the City Code reads, it sounds as though recommendations would go directly to City Council. Mr. Randall asks Ms. Province to discuss with the Mayor if he would prefer recommendations go to him then to City Council, or if they should go directly to City Council. If the Mayor wants clarification, DAC can make that recommendation. Mr. Peterson states he would recommend the language just be changed to have recommendations go to the Mayor and Council. Chairman Randall states one of his concerns was determining how broad DAC's jurisdiction is in making recommendations to Council. The powers and duties

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of DAC is very specific but in conversation with the Mayor, the Mayor seems to think DAC's scope may be broader.

C. REVIEW AND DISCUSS – DAC mission statement

- i. Chairman Randall states it was Ms. Province's understanding that the Powers and Duties of DAC outlined in City Code negated a mission statement which is why the vision and mission statements that used to be included on DAC agendas was removed. He will be looking to clarify if the current Council is supportive of an additional mission and/or vision statement. Chairman Randall states he is pretty sure some of the boards and commissions do have mission and/or vision statements in addition to their powers and duties. Mr. Havens asks when City Code was reviewed with the change in the form of government, if any other changes were made. Ms. Province and Chairman Randall state Section 2 of City Code as a whole is being reviewed. Mr. Havens states the purpose of a mission is not to broaden the scope of DAC, but just a statement to keep DAC focused on their purpose. Chairman Randall reads the mission and vision statements DAC used to use and states it is basically a summary of their purpose and hopes City Council would be agreeable to them.

D. DISCUSS – Senior Summit presentation by Interlink, Inc.

- i. Chairman Randall states Interlink, Inc. did a survey of the population, how the population is aging, and the effects this could have the community. The elderly and retiree communities are growing, especially in our area. This will increase the population of persons with disabilities and the need for increased accessibility and accommodations. He adds that every service provider in our area needs to be prepared for this. Mr. Havens states there was a Summit meeting in April and provides an overview. He states you cannot prepare for the future without envisioning what the future will look like, which includes looking at demographic information. He states the meeting included a good cross section of people, including the Mayor, government entities, non-profit companies, for-profit companies, etc. He also adds he was invited by the Mayor and City Council to give a presentation to City Council at the June 6, 2022 work session. Mr. Havens continues by providing statistical information regarding the senior population locally and nationwide. Mr. Havens states Asotin County is already where the rest of the country will be in the future in regards to the ratio of children to senior citizens. He discusses movement of seniors in the area between Idaho and Washington. Over the next 20 years, the population of senior citizens will significantly increase. He adds that this area has several attributes that make it attractive to senior citizens which could also increase the amount of seniors moving to the area, in addition to the current population that will be aging. He states the Lewis Clark Valley could easily make itself a retiree mecca. Following the baby boomer generation, the aging population appears to drop

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off. Mr. Havens continues that the point, after you digest this information, is how to prepare for this change. He also clarifies that not all senior citizens are disabled. While people seem to think senior citizens will require more services and have greater needs, this is not necessarily the case. For example, senior citizens are not as poor and isolated, as people seem to think. It is mostly the increase in the actual population that will increase the demand for services, not the needs of the population. Mr. Peterson asks Mr. Havens to comment on the City of Riggins. Mr. Havens states CEDA is working with the City of Riggins, which is a rapidly aging population. He also states there is a National Council on Disabilities having a meeting about the effects on elderly when they experience a loss of power. He continues that this shift in demographic could affect every department of the City, especially Parks and Rec, Police, Fire, Transit, etc. Mr. Randall states he and his wife are considering downsizing and one thing they are looking for is a one level home. The supply for this is pretty low so the City could benefit by encouraging builders to build homes that are smaller, one level, more affordable, etc. Mr. Havens states Interlink will provide ramps when someone becomes in need of one at their home, however, they do not evaluate if those individuals should be in those homes. Mr. Peterson states Washington, D.C. has no single level homes so they have an agency that will evaluate homes and make recommendations to improve accessibility in the home. Ms. Brogan states this is definitely something to consider and be aware of moving forward. Mr. Havens states he just came across an article advocating for accessory housing that would allow for a caregiver and a person in need to live in close proximity but in separate dwellings. Mr. Havens states that almost all of the attendees at the Summit meeting were concerned about their parents and finding them appropriate homes, services, etc. He also adds that something that will become more common is senior citizens providing care for super seniors and having two generations of the same family needing care.

IV. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes from April 14, 2022

- i. Mr. Peterson motions to approve the minutes. Mr. Havens seconds the motion. All members vote to approve the minutes.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Mission and Vision Statements
- B. Area Agency on Aging Presentation
- C. Independent Living Council Survey

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

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A. None.

VII. STAFF LIASON COMMENTS

A. Public Works Director Dustin Johnson states the budget process is underway and states it is easier for staff to implement changes if requests are made up front rather than later in the budget process. He states he has included a budget for ADA sidewalk improvements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Meeting adjourned at 1:04pm.

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