



DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 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, Amy Brogan, Mike Feeney

Members Not-Attending: Mark Havens

Non-Members Attending: Hannah Liedkie, Amy McFarland, Gail Lombardi, Steve Small, Leah Burris

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 12:00pm

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. None.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. AREA AGENCY ON AGING PRESENTATION -

- i. Amy McFarland presents first. Ms. McFarland states there are several areas that can be improved for senior citizens, most importantly transportation, home repairs, and nutrition. The City has good transportation but it can be difficult to access. There are citizens that need assistance getting to appointments and sometimes they just cannot find anyone to take them. Home maintenance and finances is another. They struggle with simple upkeep and repairs. They are able to provide some assistance at Community Action Partnership, however, that assistance does have limitations. Roofing is one of the top needs that there is not a lot of assistance or funding for. A program for low cost home repairs would be very beneficial. Citizens are also facing homelessness. She states the community would benefit from a homeless shelter. There are several senior citizens being evicted and have nowhere to go. Mr. Peterson states there are laws about evicting from trailer parks that provides quite a bit of protection and he will share that with Ms. McFarland. With the cost of living increasing so much, elderly citizens are really struggling. Lastly, nutrition for seniors is needed more than ever. They are having to choose between paying for food, medication, or bills. There is a lack of funding to provide nutrition assistance. Chairman Randall states the City does provide a senior nutrition program. He suggests Ms. McFarland write a letter to the Mayor since the City is in the budget process and making him aware of the issue could be helpful. He also suggests speaking to City Council during citizen comments at a City Council meeting.

Ged Randall – Term Expires 07/23

Mike Feeney – Term Expires 07/24

Mark Havens – Term Expires 07/24

Constance Vance – Term Expires 07/24

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Vacant



- ii. S Lombardi, a Family Coach at Community Action, speaks next. She states one issue they are seeing more of is younger generations moving in with elderly family members. The younger family members are doing illegal things, like using drugs, which causes the entire family to be evicted. These are the types of situations where a shelter and nutrition program could be incredibly beneficial. One improvement they have seen is community resources working together more to try to find some resolutions to these issues. Mr. Feeney asks what the relationship is between Community Action Partnership and the Area on Agency. Ms. McFarland states the Area on Agency is under the umbrella of Community Action Partnership. Mr. Feeney asks if they can make use of the City Attorney to find out what their legal rights are. Chairman Randall states he does not think so but they could work with Idaho Legal Aid. Ms. McFarland and Ms. Lombardi state they do utilize their resources. Ms. Lombardi states just continuing to share this information is important.
 - iii. Steve Small, Community Action Partnership Food Bank Program Manager, speaks next. He states his specialty is dealing with nutrition and food insecurity. He states 15,600 people came through the food bank in the last 12 months and they delivered over 4,000 food boxes to families. He also explains the differentiation between this food bank and the Idaho Food Bank and explains in what situations they do work together. He states with housing prices and gas prices increasing, people will reduce their spending on food. He adds roughly 20-30% of citizens seeking services from the food bank are senior citizens. Unfortunately, they do not have the funding or personnel to do regular food deliveries. He adds that mentally ill citizens are often overlooked and they see mentally ill citizens seeking services every day. They have the food available, but making the food accessible can be a challenge. The transit system does have a stop right by the food bank but sometimes citizens cannot physically carry all of the food they need on the bus with them. He also states they would be more than happy to discuss some of these issues and possible relationships with City Council and it would be great if City Council, when making decisions on policies, could consider how it would impact the disabled and elderly community. Mr. Peterson discusses seeking additional funding and provides some information to Mr. Small that could be beneficial. Ms. McFarland states there are also a lot of senior citizens out in the County that have nothing. Chairman Randall recommends they communicate to City Council as well as the County. Mr. Small states he believes 30-35% of seniors admitted to the hospital are diagnosed with malnutrition. Chairman Randall states that would be important information to share with the City. Chairman Randall, Ms. Vance, and Mr. Small also discuss the importance of social interaction for both mental and physical health. Councilor Liedkie suggests they also contact local congressman.
- B. DAC BYLAWS – Review and Discuss the DAC bylaws.

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- i. Chairman Randall reviews the main topics covered by the bylaws. He asks the group if there are any questions related to the bylaws. There are no questions.

IV. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes from May 12, 2022
 - i. No motion to approve the minutes. This item will be moved to July's meeting.
- B. VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS - Discuss and approve mission and vision statements to be brought to City Council for approval
 - i. Mr. Peterson states he is fine with the mission and vision statements just being shared on the agenda and not including it anywhere else. Chairman Randall asks Councilor Liedkie if Council would want to vote on whether the mission and vision can go on agenda. Councilor Liedkie does not seem to think that would need to be approved by City Council. Mr. Peterson motions to have agendas include the mission and vision statements. Ms. Vance seconds the motion and all members vote in approval.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Approval of May 12, 2022 minutes.
- B. Chairman Randall states he would like DAC to familiarize itself Title II of the ADA.
- C. Mr. Peterson states he would like DAC to review and discuss the results of the needs assessments done by Community Action Partnership.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Mr. Feeney states when he was working, there was a difference between the ADA and ADAG (Americans with Disabilities Accessibility Guidelines) and states if they are still separate, they may want to review the ADAG and not forget that portion. Chairman Randall states he believes DAC should focus on overall ADA and not focus on specifics. He suggests they go over the general law of ADA and if there are questions, get deeper into detail.

VII. STAFF LIASON COMMENTS

- A. None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

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