Lewiston Disability Advisory Commission
MEETING MINUTES
January 09, 2025
Lewiston City Hall – Back Conference Room – 1134 F Street
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

Members Attending: Chairman Constance Vance, Eric Peterson, Mark Havens, Jessica Grainger, Mike Feeney, Matthew Ruth, Amy Brogan
Members Not Attending: None.
Non-Members Attending: Suzanne Seigneur, Chris Usher, Melinda Rose, Nikki Province, Leah Burris

A. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>

a. Meeting called to order at 12:02pm

B. <u>CITIZEN COMMENTS</u>

a. None.

C. <u>DISCUSSION ITEMS</u>

A. <u>PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND CDBG FUNDING</u>

a. HR Director Nikki Province states former City Councilor Hannah Liedkie asked Ms. Province to put this on the agenda due to previous DAC discussions. The City's Grant Manager, Melinda Rose, discusses with the group the ability for CDBG funding to be used for transportation services. Groups can submit applications for funding starting in March. There are stipulations, such as the funding has to be used for low income, emergent need, etc. Transit services are considered a low income service. The City receives about $250,000 in funding and there is a cap of $15,000 for service projects. Mr. Peterson asks which projects are currently being funded. Ms. Rose states home repair projects, housing projects, and multiple service type projects. With public service projects, it has to be a new or increasing problem that's being addressed and must be sustainable. Mr. Peterson states curb cuts could be addressed with this funding as some are very dangerous. This would be considered a capital project and he'd be happy to identify locations. Ms. Rose states the projects also have to be in an area identified as low income. Ms. Seigneur states CBDG funds can match Transit funds, so this could be addressed as a Transit service project. Mr. Peterson asks if Transit could submit an application, and have the application supported by DAC, for missing curb cuts. Mr. Ruth asks about using funding to extend routes and hours. Ms. Seigneur states one time funding for non-sustainable projects is challenging, as one time funding will typically go to capital projects rather than service projects. Mr. Peterson states for after hours transportation, it seems more ideal to have someone else be responsible for that and requesting the grant, rather than the City. Mr. Peterson states he wants to make a motion to support a grant application for CBDG to fund missing curb cuts. Mr. Peterson states he can make a list of locations for the curb cuts. Ms. Seigneur states she would also just want to make sure the application fits within the grant parameters. Mr. Ruth asks if there is an ability to tap into those funds for low income individuals for after hours transportation. It's not a huge market and won't be cost effective, but it's a needed service. Ms. Seigneur states it would be great to have an on call driver for something like this, but finding someone to provide that is very difficult and unfortunately, there are no great solutions to this problem. Chairman Vance asks if there is a grant that could basically pay for the service for those individuals. Mr. Peterson asks Transit if they would write the grant. Ms. Seigneur states a capital service project is more likely to be successfully funded, and if something can't be sustained, don't ask for funding for it. Mr. Peterson asks that his motion be placed on the next meeting's agenda as an action item. In the meantime, he will identify curb cut locations and make a list. Mr. Ruth asks if the CBDG funding could be used to purchase an ADA vehicle, and Ms. Seigneur states yes, as that would be considered a capital project. Mr. Usher asks if the hospital has been contacted about submitting a grant to purchase equipment or services for after hours transportation, as that is where the problem tends to primarily take place. Mr. Havens confirms applications can be submitted in March. Ms. Rose states typically applications close in May and grants are awarded in July.

B. OPTIMIZE PUBLIC REPORTING SYSTEM UPDATE

a. Ms. Province has put some ideas in front of the City's Leadership team for review and the next step will be to develop workflow.

C. REVIEW AND DISCUSS LEWISTON CITY CODE CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, SECTION 2-49(h) DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION POWERS AND DUTIES

a. Chairman Vance reviews the powers and duties outlined in City Code. There are no questions or discussion.

D. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. 2025 DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION GOALS

i. Chairman Vance asks the group if anyone has any goal ideas. Mr. Ruth states the groups desire for reporting software that can work quickly and get efficient results. Chairman Vance adds promotion of the tool to the public.

ii. Mr. Havens states of the powers and duties, some are "hard" and some are "soft." The soft powers and duties, such as building relationships, educating, etc. has not been addressed as much lately. He asks if DAC should develop a tangible goal in this area, such as a brochure or a certain number of trainings. Ms. Province suggests a brochure that combines all of the City's ADA services. Mr. Havens and Mr. Ruth both agree with this idea, as well as combining this information onto a webpage. Mr. Havens and Ms. Province also discuss identifying partner organizations in the community.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of the November 14, 2024 and December 12, 2024 meeting minutes

i. Mr. Peterson motions to approve minutes from both meetings. Mr. Havens asks in the December minutes, to please add a sentence that Mr. Havens and Mr. Feeney represented DAC on the task force that was discussed, which is why Mr. Havens brought it up. Mr. Peterson motions to approve the minutes with the Mr. Haven's recommended change to the December minutes. Mr. Ruth seconds the motion and the motion to approve both sets of minutes was approved.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. None.

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. None.

G. STAFF LIASON COMMENTS

a. None.

H. ADJOURNMENT

a. Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.