



**Lewiston Disability Advisory Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 10, 2025 - 12:00–1:00 PM**  
**Lewiston City Hall – Back Conference Room – 1134 F Street**  
**Lewiston, Idaho 83501**

Members Attending: Chairman Constance Vance, Mark Havens, Matthew Ruth, Eric Peterson, Mike Feeney

Members Not Attending: Jessica Grainger

Non-Members Attending: Nikki Province, Leah Burris

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Meeting called to order at 12:01pm

**II. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- a. Mr. Peterson, as a citizen, states that in following the “Big Beautiful Bill,” we need to watch “waivers,” which are special grants, and the organizations that have been receiving those should begin talking to legislators.

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a. CivicOptimize Update**

- i. Ms. Province states she sent emails that the CivicOptimize reporting system is basically completed. Mr. Peterson states after the last meeting, Ms. Province talked with the Information Systems & Security (ISS) Department and they have been in a beta testing phase and it is functioning quite well. He encourages commission members to try it out so they can provide feedback. He used it recently to report a park issue and received a response that it had been taken care of. Mr. Ruth states he also submitted a request for the Community Center and received very prompt responses. Both agree it was very simple to use. Mr. Havens asks to have CivicOptimize as a discussion item next month, so commission members can test it out and provide feedback at the next meeting. Mr. Peterson and Mr. Ruth give kudos to the ISS Department for their work on this.

**b. Pedestrian Rights and Driver Responsibilities**

- i. Mr. Ruth reviews an email sent to DAC from City Attorney Jennifer Tengono on this topic following an advice letter she provided. Mr. Havens states the pedestrian killed which prompted this discussion was a prominent doctor that was still practicing in the area. He states he was surprised there was not more reported information about the incident and the person that was killed. Without knowing more about what led to the incident, it makes it more difficult to try to prevent this from happening again. Mr. Peterson states City Attorney Jennifer Tengono’s letter is accurate, however, this issue will probably end up with the courts. He adds they could fix the ADA, but that can open a pandora’s box of issues. There are also work arounds, like he could put a white can on his wheelchair. Chairman Vance

also brings up what's considered an "obvious" disability, as many disabilities are not visibly apparent. Mr. Peterson states in addition to that question, there's also the issue of intent. Mr. Havens then asks about mental disabilities. Mr. Peterson reiterates that the City Attorney's letter is her legal opinion and anticipates this topic to come in front of the courts. Mr. Havens discusses analyzing pedestrian accident data. Chairman Vance states she does not quite understand the intent of the discussion because no pedestrians should be getting hit, regardless of if they are disabled or not. Mr. Peterson provides examples but acknowledges it's a confusing gray area of law. He adds the City Attorney is interpreting this in a way that disregards other components of state code, and he suspects the police department is probably not aware of this area of law. Mr. Havens asks Chairman Vance if DAC could request rates of pedestrian accidents to see if there's been an increase over the last seven or eight years. If there has been, are the police doing anything about pedestrian safety, and if there has not been, this topic may not need to be discussed. He also adds the LC Valley has a reputation for not being pedestrian friendly and wonders what it would take to get drivers to be more aware and pedestrian friendly. Mr. Peterson states White Can Law is intended to increase awareness of the blind community, but has extended to include preventing deaths and injury and increasing awareness, which could be DAC's goal. The group agrees there is a lack of designated crosswalks and a lot of the crosswalks are different. Mr. Ruth states he fails to see a true actionable item they can do with this topic. Mr. Havens states that's why he thinks it would help to have data from the police department.

#### **IV. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- a. **Approval of June 12, 2025 meeting minutes**
  - i. Mr. Havens motions to adopt the June 12, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Ruth seconds the motion and the motion is approved.

#### **V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. The new Parks & Recreation Director and Parks & Facilities Manager will be attending the August meeting. Ms. Province asks if there are any particular topics she should prepare them for. Chairman Vance states she has heard great things about the new playground equipment at Pioneer Parks. Mr. Havens states he would like to ask them about a Parks & Recreation strategic plan and if any of it pertains to the disabled community.
- b. CivicOptimize discussion for August.

#### **VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- a. Mr. Havens states he attended the City's employee and volunteer appreciation barbeque.

#### **VII. STAFF LIAISON COMMENTS**

- a. Ms. Province reminds the group there is a vacancy on DAC if anyone knows someone that may be interested in joining.
- b. Ms. Province states the installation for an ADA automatic door button is supposed to be installed today. Mr. Havens states that is great news and asks how much it costs. Ms. Province states it was about \$6,000. Mr. Havens states Carol Maurer, Public Outreach Coordinator, is doing a good job emailing out a regular newsletter from the City and asks

if she could do an article about this in the next one. Mr. Havens states it is getting better and better and “newsier.” Mr. Peterson asks how to sign up for the newsletter and the magazine. Ms. Province states she will talk to Ms. Maurer and share that information with the group.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Meeting is adjourned at 1:09pm