

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
March 1, 2016

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Melinda Mason (Children's Mental Health Bureau), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Travis Mateer (Homeless Outreach Volunteer), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Tara Maus (Montgomery Distillery) and Dave Chrismon (Downtown Ambassador)

Commission Members Absent: Andrea Marcoccio, Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council), Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney) and Judge Kathleen Jenks (Municipal Court Judge)

Others in Attendance: Dustin Delridge (Police Department), Andy Roy (Downtown Police Officer), Stacy Rye (County Commissioner), Sindie Kennedy (Grants) and Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of February 2, 2016 will be reviewed at a later date.

1. Public Comment – None
2. Update from Downtown Police Officer Andy Roy

Andy Roy stated that in February there was an influx of new homeless people coming to Missoula and spring is generally a quieter period. There have been several altercations between parties that have had police response. Andy is seeing mostly alcohol abuse over drugs and the issuance of tickets has been quite high. On one day last week there were seven arrests. Andy is having a hard time responding to all the calls he receives and business owners are growing frustrated.

Union Gospel Missoula has now changed its hours so they are only open four days per week for one hour and they are no longer providing any services. They appear to be doing more mission work.

Since the Mountain Line bus fare is free, more homeless camps are popping up further outside the downtown area.

3. Missoula Art Park Update

Ginny Merriam said that the art park has now been 83% funded for construction. Several businesses have provided support. The project will possibly go out for bid in a week and the hope is to start construction on July 17, 2016. Currently Ginny and others are meeting with members of the Saturday Market to determine a temporary location while the art park is being constructed. Right now the thought is to move the Saturday Market to Pine Street by the Meagher Bar.

4. Discussion and reporting on work groups

Additional sworn police officer dedicated to downtown

Dan Cederberg explained that after discussion, the decision was that the city would have to pay for an additional sworn officer, the Business Improvement District would not be able to contribute. He asked about getting this request in the upcoming budget discussion for FY17. Dan also asked if MDAC

supported the request and wanted to pursue it with city officials. There was no discussion so Margaret Borg made a motion to ask the mayor to support MDAC's request to budget for an additional sworn police officer and Susan Hay Patrick seconded the motion.

The question was asked if MDAC should write a letter to the mayor to this effect. Direction on this letter should be given to Eran Fowler Pehan and Bryan von Lossberg, MDAC's co-chairs, and they would speak to Ginny Merriam.

The motion carried unanimously.

Crisis/drop-in/warming center/detox center with staff

Michael Moore went over what he had reported at previous meetings, that Catholic Charities would only support Missoula with housing. In order for Missoula to provide wet housing/drop-in center on its own, the cost would be around \$800,000 per year.

- How will the cost of wet housing/drop-in center be funded?
- Should services be co-located in order to fund with other agencies?
- Could tax credits be used?
- Who would own the facility?
- The citizens of Missoula may not support such a facility initially, a person with clout will need to support this movement.

Eran Fowler-Pehan reiterated that most likely tax credits cannot be used because of the many competing agencies in our area. The City of Spokane needed more units to support its population, but Missoula may only need 20. All funding will have to be done locally. It would be possible to re-hab an existing building with different co-located services.

Economic impact of indigence – nothing new to report.

Dog licensing

Dan Cederberg reported that Missoula Downtown (MDA) will be working on this advocacy program with Jeff Darrah, of Missoula City/County Animal Control, and Andy Roy, our downtown police officer. Jeff stated that he would support ticketing for a first offense of no dog license and then impounding a dog on a second offense. If a person was cited for a second offense, Jeff would support encouraging that person to leave town with their dog.

Advocacy and Education Committee / Parking Meter Repurposing – nothing new to report.

Alcohol retail sales reduction – nothing new to report

10-Year Plan / Challenges to detox programs – short-term information-gathering – nothing new to report.

5. Comments from Board Members

Susan Hay Patrick indicated that she was inquiring with the Missoula Urban Indian Center and the university for possible new members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

Date of Next Meeting, Jack Reidy Conference Room, April 5, 2016