

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
February 7, 2017**

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (Mayor's Office), Eran Fowler Pehan (Housing & Community Development), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Melinda Mason (Children's Mental Health Bureau), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Lt. Jake Rosling (Police Department), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), and Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador).

Commission Members Absent: Kathleen Jenks (Municipal Court Judge) and Keithi Worthington (City Attorney), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Michael Moore, Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), and Jon Wilkins (City Council)

Others in Attendance: Jessica Miller

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of December 6, 2016 were approved as submitted.

1. New Business

- Lt. Rosling stated that the hospitals are calling the police to report trespassing on certain individuals with mental health issues. Some of these individuals are now going to jail instead of receiving treatment.
- The Union Gospel Mission is opening a center that will provide shelter to folks at 11:00 p.m. when the outside temperature reaches 11 degrees.
- Poverello Center occupancy numbers were down last weekend.
- Dan Cederberg has heard mostly positive comments about construction downtown, instead of problems with homeless individuals recently.
- The recent public discussion regarding the Fox Hotel project and labor agreement indicates there may need to be more education for the community regarding the City's role in the project.
- Handicap spaces downtown have been used as snow storage, which the Street Division will address by tonight.
- The County received a MacArthur Foundation safety and justice grant to address the disproportionate number of Native Americans in the criminal justice system.

2. Working Group Updates

a. Crisis/drop-in/warming center

- The group must perform public education regarding the need for the center. They are applying for a planning grant to define the gap and determine the need.

b. Alcohol retail sales reduction

- The group did not meet this month. Lt. Rosling spoke to the Billings Police Department regarding the reduction in over-serving offenses. Billings is encouraging citizens to call and report over-serving to the Department of Revenue, which investigates the complaints.

c. Education and public advocacy

- The group did not meet.
 - d. Evaluation of the commission's progress
 - The evaluation of MDAC's progress is probably beyond the scope of students at the University of Montana. The Bureau of Business and Economic Research and the social science research labs may be resources. A student may also be able to conduct a literature review.
3. Discussion of additional members in key areas
- Bryan von Lossberg will discuss recruitment approaches with Ruth Ann Swaney. Dan Cederberg recommended Patrick Weasel Head as a possible member.

Respectfully Submitted
Jessica Miller
Citizen Services Manager