

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
March 7, 2017

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (Mayor's Office), Eran Fowler Pehan (Housing & Community Development), Melinda Mason (Children's Mental Health Bureau), Lt. Jake Rosling (Police Department), Amy Allison Thompson (Poverello Center), Theresa Williams (Reaching Home Coordinator), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments) and Jon Wilkins (City Council)

Commission Members Absent: Kathleen Jenks (Municipal Court Judge), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney), Michael Moore, Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services) and Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner),

Others in Attendance: Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of February 7, 2017 will be approved at a later date.

1. Public Comment – None
2. Downtown Update

Laurie Johnson reported that the downtown area has been very busy. Elizabeth Marshall said that she had been seeing some new transients in the area of the Palace Hotel, she also mentioned the shooting in the parking garage. Jon Wilkins mentioned that Rod Austin discussed needing better lighting in the parking garage and Jon also mentioned the need for cameras in the parking garage. Elizabeth said that cameras were not cheap but they are so helpful, several are used in the Palace Hotel and one is also near the Palace's backdoor.

3. New Business
4. Working Group Updates
 - a. Crisis/drop-in/warming center – Nothing new to report
 - b. Alcohol retail sales reduction – Nothing new to report
 - c. Education and public advocacy – Nothing new to report
 - d. Evaluation of the commission's progress – Nothing new to report

Eran Pehan asked the commission if they felt that this method or structure of handling these topics was working for everyone, should the commission do something different. Amy Allison Thompson asked about revisiting the initial discussion on the topics and thought it would be helpful.

Eran suggested the possibility of looking at videos or having speakers that could expose the commission to new ideas. Ginny Merriam thought it would be a great idea and a way to share information. Maybe commission members could be assigned to bring a topic to the meeting.

Amy suggested a presentation on the Travel and Treatment Fund that the Salvation Army maintains. Elizabeth suggested inviting one of the new downtown officers to come in and give an update.

5. Discussion of additional members in key areas

Eran recommended Ruth Ann Swaney, a new council member, to serve on the commission. Kevin Kickingwoman from the university was also recommended. Eran also suggested a representative from Mountain Line would be a great contact to have on the commission.

6. Comments from Board Members

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi Bakula
Executive Assistant