

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2018**

Commission Members in Attendance: Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Ginny Merriam (Mayor's Office), Ethan Smith (Police Department), Alex Beal (Municipal Court), Ryan Boyd (Salvation Army), Melinda Mason (Western Montana Mental Health Center), Dan Cederberg (Attorney), Dave Chrismon (Downtown Ambassador), Eran Fowler Pehan (Housing & Community Development) and Keithi Worthington (City Attorney)

Commission Members Absent: Michael Moore (Downtown Business Owner), Tom Snyder (Downtown Business Owner), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council), Lt. Jake Rosling (Police Department), Amy Allison Thompson (Poverello Center), Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments) and Theresa Williams (Reaching Home Coordinator)

Others in Attendance: John Engen (Mayor), Erica Johnson (Practicum Student – Reaching Home), Jesse Jaeger (Poverello Center), Randy Krastel (Downtown Police Officer) and Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of April 3, 2018 and July 10, 2018 - approved as submitted.

1. Public Comment - None
2. Introductions
3. Current Issues Update
 - Westside Problem Solving
 - Ethan Smith stated that after meeting with the west side neighborhood the police department is moving forward on installing cameras along the California Street footbridge. Five to ten transients in the area seem to be causing the majority of the problems.
 - Mayor Engen explained that the most recent neighborhood meeting was a great opportunity for the neighborhood to discuss issues directly with the executive director and staff from the Poverello Center. He also discussed the idea of making the courtyard of the Poverello Center more appealing so people would be less likely to stray into the neighborhood.
 - Jesse Jaeger of the Poverello Center indicated that the Lyons Club may help finance the courtyard upgrade and the Poverello Center was doing some neighborhood cleanup in the area to have a stronger neighborhood presence.
 - Sue Wilkins reminded commission members about the availability of community service workers to help with removing graffiti from the neighborhood.
 - Winter Warming Shelter
 - Eran Pehan stated that the Union Gospel Mission was no longer providing shelter like they were last year because of some fire code issues. They housed 20-30 people a night last year.
 - Jesse stated that the Poverello Center also has a cap of 175 people, which they just instituted for this winter season, but the doors will be open during the day. So far, they have not gone over their cap.

- Eran explained that a group of community members got together to discuss the need for another overnight shelter/warming center and every option for housing was being investigated to make sure people would not be out in the cold this winter.

4. Downtown Update

- Keithi Worthington indicated that the city attorney's office was seeing an increase of methamphetamine use and substance abuse. Mental health case management was a major issue and they were having difficulty finding help for people. Keithi was not seeing as many open container and camping issues.
- Ryan Boyd said that the Salvation Army was seeing increases in laundry loads and showers due to the cold weather. The Salvation Army also has money available for bus tickets and at this time is able to refer people who need help to a rehab center. Winter shelter money will also be available in November.
- Randy Krastel noted that the worst area for him for transient issues at this time was the library, but his presence at the library was also a deterrent. Randy discussed the Roam student building. There were many places in the Roam building for transients to hide and camp out and all areas are heated. He is concerned that an assault with a student may happen.
- Mayor Engen thought that he and Randy should get together with property management to discuss the issues at the building. Many areas in the Roam building are not locked and there are currently no security cameras.
- Randy also noted that he saw students acting very aggressive because of the current parking situation in the area.
- Ethan Smith stated that the Holiday Inn is installing a gate due to all the construction workers and students parking in their parking lot. Theft of bicycles was also a major concern.
- Randy added that anyone could access the courtyard and the roof at the Roam building, which was a safety concern.
- Randy stated that there was a group of 12 -14 transients in Kiwanis Park that he had been working with all summer. They were very receptive to Randy's requests. Randy went on to discuss removal of trash and camping equipment. By law, he is required to hold equipment for 30 days, which is becoming a major problem. He had also helped remove garbage behind the Citylodge Motel and he made sure that the residents of the westside saw what they were doing to benefit the neighborhood.
- Mel Mason, from the Western Montana Mental Health Center, said that there were 4 – 5 people camping on their campus, which has never happened before. She noticed that one person is always intoxicated, but has refused assistance. Mel is worried about her welfare this winter.
- Mel also noted that she had been supervising The Sharehouse where she has received multiple pleas for assistance. Unfortunately, many that have been admitted have relapsed right away – many of them homeless or incarcerated. Case management has been very challenging and the state is only providing a minimal amount of help with case management. Many needing case management will end up going to the emergency room or to the state hospital.
- Keithi also added that the public defender's office staff end up being case managers and that so many people are cycling through without case management.
- Dan Cederberg asked about who was reinstating case management on the state level. The mayor explained that there was a governor component and a legislative component. Cola Rowley added that Diane Sands was working on it too. Dan asked if MDAC could prepare a letter about case management and the mayor thought it was possible.
- Keithi noted that people were committing felonies just so they could have access to services.
- Eran Pehan discussed the Frequent User System Engagement (FUSE) planning grant that the city received for data sharing. The hope is to generate a list of 10 people who frequently utilize local

- services such as the emergency room. By the end of the project, she will have a road map for the community and can possibly develop a demonstration project and fund a pre-development group.
- Dan wondered if the names generated could be used as a no sale list. Eran said that all the information is private and cannot be used, plus she did not think this list would capture the right individuals for the no sale list.
 - Cola said that the county just received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation in the amount of \$700,000 for jail diversion.
 - Jesse Jaeger from the Poverello Center explained that there was currently a staffing transition on the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). The Poverello Center also had new software coming online to help with coordinated entry.
 - Mayor Engen explained that there were some parking issues with the new Roam building. People were parking around the bulb-outs and the city was working to try to temper the behavior. The other big issue is the annexation of the Airport Industrial Park. There are many campers in the area because it is currently consider county property, but once annexed it will be city property and campers will be in violation of the city ordinance. Cola added that the commissioners are very frustrated about the issue since they do not have an ordinance.
 - Randy added that many of the downtown Missoula issues are moving to the N. Reserve area because of the zero bus fare.
 - Sue Wilkins wondered if the new tunnel under Russell Street for pedestrians would attract transients. The mayor said anecdotally, because the area will be well used and because of the environmental design work that was taken into consideration, he did not think it would be a problem.
 - Dave Chrismon stated that everything was looking better downtown and people seem to be getting the help they need. He noticed that there were a few new transients in the area. There also had been an increase of feces in allies which is becoming more of an issue now.
 - Randy stated that he had been citing people recently for starting small fires in the area. Many were complaining about being cold and he is concerned about winter shelter in Missoula.
 - Alex Beal was noticing a downward trend due to the lack of case management. A warm area was also an issue and many were using the jail as a warming center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Bakula, Executive Assistant