

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission

Minutes ~ September 6, 2011

Commission Members in Attendance: Barbara Berens (County Auditor), Eran Fowler (Poverello Center), Laurie Johnson (Downtown BID), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Dave Strohmaier (City Council), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney)

Commission Members Absent: Rod Austin (Downtown BID), Margaret Borg (Attorney), Brenda Desmond (District Court), Melissa Gordon (OPG), Leslie Halligan (County Attorney), Julie Hilley (Owner, MKLauren), Melinda Mason (WMMHC), David Pierce (Salvation Army), Vacant (Food Bank, Vacant (Poverello Center), Leanne Vreeland (St. Patrick's Hospital), Keenan Whitt (homeWORD), Jason Wiener (City Council)

Others In Attendance: Melani Coyle, Commission Secretary

Introductions and Welcome: Ginny Merriam called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: None

Success story from Eran Fowler:

The Poverello Center staff have been watching a well known homeless man's health extremely deteriorate over the last couple of weeks. He had been in a personal care home before and left against health professionals orders, so it is almost impossible to get someone admitted a second time. Travis worked with the long term care facility and they agreed to allow him back into the facility. The Poverello Staff worked with the man who finally agreed to go back to the facility. He has been there for a couple of weeks now. This case was extremely difficult because there were many agencies working on it: he is over 65 so guardianship came into play, Tribal leaders were trying to get him to come back to the reservation where they have no treatment facilities and then the local agencies. This man is in the top two of people the police get complaints about, the top five in fines owed and the top percentage of the medical charity with Saint Patrick Hospital.

Keithi asked if this process could be streamlined. County Attorney Kathy Solberg should be included in any discussions about the process. There has to be a clear health risk and diagnosed mental issues to get someone involuntarily committed. A person cannot be diagnosed if they are intoxicated, and they have to be sober for six to eight weeks so there is a documented pattern of medical history.

Committee Updates:

Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben

Keithi will run the numbers of offenses on September 15. She said the City of Bozeman has no payment plan for their municipal court. If a citizen shows up in court without their fine, they are put in jail until someone pays the fine. Their collection rate is about 85 percent. This has seemed to be a big deterrent.

Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam

***Discussion of Real Change season wrap-up promotional events**

The Power of Ten ended on September 5. It is important to make this event meaningful to mark the difference of where the money is going this year. The funder agreed to fund the project again this year because it was funding the Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT). The funders are not interested in being public; they just want the money to be used in a meaningful way that helps with the problem. The carafes are usually left out for a time after the cutoff date (Labor Day weekend), and at Worden's year round. There was \$600 in the account before Memorial Day. There is currently \$2,716.80 and the carafes have not been collected since the weekend. Once that money is counted, there should be over \$3,000, so the full match will be received.

It was discussed to have an informational board at Sunday Streets on September 11. The Poverello Center and HOT Teams will have a table and they will have information on it.

Eran said she could compile the United Way's numbers and get a report to the Mosley's. An additional report will be available in December. She will send the Mosley's a copy of that report with a letter.

Below are ideas for an event:

- News Coverage – Ginny will promote with media (quote from John Horner, President of MDA)
- Laurie Johnson will prepare the check
- Not at the Poverello Center
- United Way offered the area around their building
- Has to be different than in the past as the check will not be going to agencies
- Staff report to City Council
- Recognize business owners – invite Tim France to talk along with Susan
- HIP Strip has been calling and is very complimentary – possibly get someone from there to speak
- Speakers: Susan Hay Patrick, Tim France, someone from HIP Strip, Eran Fowler and Travis, Rod Austin (present check also)
- Talking points: change to the program this year; less problematic downtown; more sleeping at the Poverello Center
- Lunchtime event – if done on Wednesday, most Council members will be available
- Needs to be distance between the final Poverello Center process meeting and news event

This is what was determined:

- News event at noon on Wednesday, September 21
- Will be on the lawn area of the United Way
- Business owners and Council members will be invited
- Speakers: Susan Hay Patrick, Tim France, someone from HIP Strip, Eran Fowler and Travis, Rod Austin (present check also)
- Talking points: change to the program this year; less problematic downtown; more sleeping at the Poverello Center

Infrastructure

No Update

Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick

No Update

Miscellaneous business and discussion

Mayor Engen and Ginny spent about three hours with Sue Wilkins at the Missoula Correctional Center. She is very enthusiastic about her work and wants to work with the City on a misdemeanor probation program. Tina Schmauss in Municipal Court is an advocate for it also. Ginny will talk to Margaret Borg about another meeting with Judge Loudon.

Respectfully Submitted

Melani Coyle

**Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
October 4, 2011**