

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission
Minutes
March 5, 2013

Commission Members in Attendance: Rod Austin (Downtown BID), Michele Landquist (County Commissioner, Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Keenan Whitt (Homewood), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Laurie Johnson (Downtown BID), Melissa Gordon (Grants), Melinda Mason (WMMHC), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), and Jason Wiener (City Council)

Commission Members Absent: David Pierce (Salvation Army), Leanne Vreeland (St. Patrick's Hospital), Alex Taft (City Council), Brenda Desmond (District Court), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Barbara Berens (County Auditor), Dan Cederberg (Attorney), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), and Keithi Worthington (City Attorney)

Others in Attendance: Bob Giordano

Public Comment:

Bob Giordano of Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation (MIST) discussed rehabbing the Higgins Street Bridge and the downtown master-plan. The former Public Works Department supported 3 lanes with a 2 lane bridge on Higgins. He believed it was a positive project, but it would require more citizen discussion in order to adequately how pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles will be impacted. He also wanted the environmental impact to be addressed.

Rod Austin added that there would be future meetings with the public and all three concepts currently being discussed support the master-plan.

Approval of Minutes: Susan Hay Patrick moved, and Keenan Whitt seconded, the motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2013, as corrected.

Special Presentations

- Rod Austin farewell – his last day is March 15th.

Committee Updates

- Crime and Prevention – Rob Scheben and Keithi Worthington
 - Update
They are currently working on getting their subcommittee together and want to see an anti-graffiti ordinance in the near future.

➤ Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam

Susan Hay Patrick recommended that the program be rebranded as Real Change. She was also looking into more ways to generate funds and expand the program beyond the downtown area.

There was discussion that the Moseleys and the Henry Bennett Sayer Foundation were not very supportive of the current program; however, they need to be educated on what is reasonable for the community to accomplish.

The main entities contributing to the Poverello Center include Real Change, The United Way, and certain mental health programs. There is support for the Real Change campaign but maybe it needs to be revitalized to gain more interest.

➤ Built Environment – Margaret Borg

▪ MAM Art Park/Portland Loo Update

The Capitol Improvement Program (CIP) request to create the park has been submitted. If the City approves the CIP it will still require further funding which could be generated through grants. The Missoula Art Museum and the City of Missoula are in the process of looking for outside contributors as well. The name of the park will be the Missoula Art Museum Plaza. Ginny Merriam asked Keenan Whitt to join the Built Environment Committee with Margaret Borg.

➤ Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick

▪ 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness - Update

The vetted plan is going to City Council for hearing and approval. The working group will convene shortly and the plan is to hire a coordinator by July 1st. Half of this position will be funded by the Mayor's budget. Comments were to make sure that duties of the coordinator are not duplicated by another organization, job description will need to be discussed further since it does not necessarily live up to the promises of the plan, and there were possibly parts of the job description that needed to be added or deleted.

Michele Landquist indicated that she was not sure if the County Commissioners would support funding this position at this time due to some problems that have recently come up at the county. Jason Wiener stated that he would call Dale Bickell to discuss the issues.

Miscellaneous business and discussion

Rod Austin would like the committee to look into how 911 handles transient problems as far as placing callers on hold for long periods of time and not calling them back when they've hung up. Jason Weiner added that he wanted MDAC to follow-up on those complaints.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Bakula

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
April 2, 2013