

## Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission

### Minutes

August 6, 2013

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Laurie Johnson (Downtown BID), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Jason Wiener (City Council), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney), Melanie Brock (MDA), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Representative), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center), Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Jenny Montgomery (Montgomery Distillery), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative) and Melissa Gordon (Grants)

**Commission Members Absent:** Melinda Mason (WMMHC), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Michele Landquist (County Commissioner), and Caitlin Copple (Council Representative)

**Others in Attendance:** Heidi Bakula, Lauren Boling, Andy Roy, Candace Day, Steve Jackson

**Approval of Minutes:** June 4, 2013 – Susan Hay Patrick moved to approve the minutes and Sue Wilkins seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as corrected.

#### Special Presentations:

- Candace Day, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission, and board members:  
Relocation plans
  - Candy Day introduced Steve Jackson who is the Board President of Union Gospel Mission
  - They have been at their old location on Toole Avenue for 13 years
  - Their new tag line is “Living With Hope”
  - They plan to provide mentorships/internships to help the homeless return to work
  - They do not allow intoxicated people into their building
  - Steve has visited neighbors within a four block radius to let them know about the new mission
  - The mission wants to work with the neighbors and the police to make it work
  - They plan to have a neighborhood meeting
  - They want to encourage change among the people they serve and not continue serving them without any hope of changing their lifestyles
  - They are privately financed
  - No housing is being provided
  - Breakfast and lunch will be served 7 days per week

Andy Roy of the Missoula Police Department voiced some concerns:

- Will they have someone on staff that does outreach to handle any issues or trouble that may arise? Candy answered that there would be a group of staff people to help.

- Services will be terminated if the individual will not change their behavior or better themselves. Staff and volunteers are being trained to make their clients accountable.
- They serve breakfast and lunch everyday and two dinners per week. They will close by 7pm. Property should be vacant after that.
  - If people try to hide in the area near the new location services will be discontinued to that individual.
  - They mainly work with families.
  - They will have a counselor on site.

Eran Fowler Pehan commented that most problems arise after hours. Also she wants to collaborate with them so services are not duplicated.

➤ Andy Roy, Downtown Police Officer: Law enforcement activities and observations downtown this summer; discussion of ordinances

- Wants to revisit the Aggressive Solicitation Ordinance and the Pedestrian Interference Ordinance with a law enforcement perspective to make the ordinances work better.
- After the 2009 changes the core group of transients just altered their behavior in order to stay within the law.
- Most complaints are from business owners.
- His suggestion was to have a blanket “No Loitering” requirement downtown between 8am to 5pm (during times of commerce). This seems to be when groups congregate.
- The other change would be to have a blanket 25 foot rule downtown which would include 25 feet from ATMs, the bus stop, etc. Transients would not be ticket they would be asked to leave.

Keithi Worthington of the City Attorney’s office said that the ordinances did discuss different distances for different things and it was hard to enforce the way it is currently written because it is confusing. The distance prohibition should be the same throughout the ordinances.

According to Montana law sleeping outside is not a crime. Prohibiting sleeping or lying on sidewalks during business hours is fair, although it would be across the board for everyone.

Comments from the Commission were as follows:

- It’s possible that this could push people into residential areas.
- Right now the law is not effective, so this would be a welcome change.
- 25 ft. makes sense and gives people a clearer picture across the board.
- Changes will not necessarily work on the core group, but they will work on people passing through.
- Many people commented that it would be better to have longer hours to 9 or 7pm.
- To be effective it needs to be a holistic approach including compassion, education, and consequences.
- Keithi added that this would also not keep people from congregating and standing on the sidewalk.

Andy Roy added that 9pm may not work because of a shift change at 9pm for the police officers.

### **Committee Updates:**

- Crime and Prevention – Rob Scheben and Keithi Worthington
  - Report on Graffiti Forum with Melanie Brock MDA/BID; ordinance revisions (see above item)
    - Over 50 people came to the forum from the downtown area. Graffiti numbers had not changed, but it really empowered the people because they know how to respond now.
    - They are going to try and have this forum every spring.
  
- Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam
  - Mid-season update, with Laurie Johnson
    - Donations have not been good and the Power of Ten Matching Grant has ended and this may be a major factor. Need some insight on the issue from the Committee.
    - Eran Fowler-Pehan thought folks needed better information and education on the impact donating makes.
  
- Built Environment – Margaret Borg
  - MAM Art Park Plaza Update with Ginny Merriam
    - The Missoula Art Museum and MDAC have been working together on the art park and the Portland Loo (outdoor bathroom). Recently they submitted for a Department of Commerce grant that would pay for \$50,000 of the project, but they would still have to fundraise \$80,000.
  
- Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick
  - Update on Reaching Home: Missoula’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and hiring of coordinator
    - The coordinator position has not been advertised yet; however, Susan just found out that the County has entered into the contract now for funding part of the position. They have a few applications already.

### **Miscellaneous business and discussion**

Respectfully Submitted, Heidi Bakula

**Date of Next Meeting**  
**Jack Reidy Conference Room**  
**September 3, 2013**