

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission

Minutes

June 3, 2014

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Laurie Johnson (BID), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Melissa Gordon (Grants), Melanie Brock (Missoula Economic Partnership), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), and Jon Wilkins (City Council)

Commission Members Absent: Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Melinda Mason (WMMHC), Michele Landquist (County Commissioner), Caitlin Copple (City Council), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative), Jenny Montgomery (Montgomery Distillery), and Jason Wiener (City Council)

Others in Attendance: Heidi Bakula and Brent Dobak (Downtown Ambassador)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of May 6, 2014 were approved as submitted

Special Presentations:

- None

Committee Updates

- Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben
Potential new programs with Municipal Court
 - Members of the subcommittee met with Judge Jenks about the community service program for minor violations, repeat offenders and the homeless. Judge Jenks was concerned about how many beds the county jail has available to city offenders. There seems to be a disconnect between municipal court and justice court about who is currently being housed at the jail from the city versus the county and it has not been tracked properly.
 - County statistics show that 80% of the inmates housed at the jail are mentally ill, but that could be an illness that a person could function with on a daily basis.
 - Judge Jenks would like to hold certain individuals pre-trial once cited since most will not reappear.
 - Community service currently exists but it's hard to get people to show up for that. It is a never ending cycle.
 - Currently Judge Jenks is working on some innovative sentencing tactics.
 - The homeless seem to be one of the most troublesome populations and they are the first ones to be released from jail.
 - Keithi is looking into possible ways to curtail the sale of alcohol downtown. Ending alcohol sales after a certain time is being discussed with downtown vendors.
 - Currently Keithi and Rob are looking into who should approach the county about disconnects in communication between the city and the county about the jail. It would be helpful to get this information to the new sheriff although there are many issues prohibiting good communication.

- Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam
Season launch; new ads and promotions
 - New signs to promote real change were shown. Susan Hay Patrick, John Engen and Travis Mateer have recorded radio ads educating the public about Real Change.
 - Different places have room for advertising on the backs of bathroom doors (restaurants and bars) and that is being attempted for Real Change promotion.
 - It was suggested to put the information in the neighborhood council newsletters to make them all more aware of the issues.

- Built Environment – Margaret Borg
No update

- Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick
Report on Reaching Home Steering Committee meeting (10-Year Plan to End Homelessness)
 - There has been significant progress in moving the plan forward. Two different subcommittees are being created, one on Housing Development, and one on Prevention and Rapid Re-housing. Mayor Engen and Commissioner Curtiss are also appointing a Housing First Task Force to examine housing options for Missoula's hardest to house and most housing-resistant population. Members will include representatives of organizations that work with this population regularly.
 - A single point of entry is being developed called CHRIS – Community Housing Response Information System.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
July 1, 2014