

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission
Minutes
December 2, 2014

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador), Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Melinda Mason (Word), Jason Wiener (City Council), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council), Melissa Gordon (Grants) and Jenny Montgomery (Montgomery Distillery)

Commission Members Absent: Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Caitlin Copple (City Council), Melanie Brock, Michele Landquist (County Commissioner), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative) and Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney)

Others in Attendance: Patrick Weasel Head, Heidi Bakula (City of Missoula)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 7, 2014 will be reviewed at a later date.

1. Public Comment

Patrick Weasel Head read a statement (attached). He wanted to know what the city was doing in light of the events in Ferguson, Missouri. Are we proactively addressing the issue? Ginny Merriam suggested that we schedule an appointment for him to meet with the mayor and the police chief. Jason Wiener offered that the city police have had specialized training and they react differently when it comes to such issues. Mr. Weasel Head feels that any training the police have had should be made more apparent to citizens.

2. Special Presentations – None.

3. Committee Updates

- Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben
Packaged liquor sales project

Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben are currently working on guidelines regarding packaged liquor sales and the “No Sell” list. One question is how will the “No Sell” list be generated? An offender list could be generated from municipal court of alcohol related offenses but how would that list be distributed to local businesses? Keithi will set up a meeting with Rob Scheben, Mike Brady (Police Chief), John Engen (Mayor) and Dan Cederberg (downtown attorney involved with local businesses) to discuss these issues.

Keithi discussed the generation of the list with Tina Schmaus in Municipal Court. The list could possibly be conditioned by the court. Margaret Borg suggested that those already under prohibition to consume alcohol or to go into bars could be added to the list. Bryan Von Lossberg suggested looking at other communities that have used this method to check on effectiveness. Keithi commented that the only real way to track effectiveness is by ordinance which is not being considered at this time.

- Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam
Intern proposal for university student education project

Ginny Merriam explained that the Real Change subcommittee wanted to hire a marketing intern from the university. This intern will most importantly work on a marketing campaign to discourage college students from giving to panhandlers. The intern will be housed at the Business Improvement District office. This intern will report directly to MDAC before any plan is initiated.

- Built Environment – Margaret Borg & Ginny Merriam
Art Park update

Ginny Merriam reported that the preliminary design had been presented to the Art Park subcommittee. Issues were parking space loss, park maintenance and policing the area. The intention is to have a design with good lighting and no hiding places for crime to occur. Ginny said that they just received a Tourism Infrastructure Grant for \$50,000.

- Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick
Reaching Home update from Michael Moore

Michael Moore explained that he had written a report and would be presenting it to city council and the county commissioners. So far he had lined up 40 – 50 presentations to give to different groups in the area. The media had done several stories, most recently the 3rd Street Trailer Court.

The report discussed the Community Housing Referral and Information System (CHRIS) which is a single point of entry for the homeless and it is a part of the 211 call-in system. Existing agencies are currently trying to standardize their system to be like 211. The biggest issue was finding money for those at risk of losing their housing. The rental assistance program is now up and running through the Human Resource Council and the YWCA.

The city council recently voted for a reintegration system especially for those just released from prison. The Department of Corrections and Missoula Interfaith Collaborative are working diligently on this. Currently there is a housing voucher bill being introduced at the legislature.

Michael is looking into a pilot program to build housing for recently released prisoners and rent would be approximately \$400 per month. Michael McLeary of Bozeman owns and builds housing of this kind and he's had very good luck with people not reoffending. Guests or alcohol are not allowed in the buildings. Rental assistance and vocational training are the two main roadblocks.

Michael also discussed a homeless outreach task force for youth. He is looking into a grant for more beds for youth homes.

Michael discussed the Tiny House Program. This is a program to build 200 square foot housing on private or personal property. These houses would only be sleeping quarters with electricity and there would be a communal bathroom and kitchen. He is currently talking to the county about property. This would be viewed as transitional housing. He is already working with a company called Energetics.

He had a conversation with David Bell of ALPS and he is interested in helping build housing. David discussed insuring the first month's rent. He could possibly offer up to 10 revolving loan accounts which could house 20 or more people and ALPS will donate the premium.

➤ Updates on other projects

- Downtown Police Officer Project – Dan Cederberg & Jon Wilkins

The mayor mentioned possibly having a civilian for this position instead of a police officer and wondered if this person would need to issue tickets.

- Help 10 People – Bryan von Lossberg

Bryan Von Lossberg will be attending a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) meeting with Erin Kautz and will update MDAC at its next meeting in January.

- Van for Homeless Outreach Teams – Jason Wiener and Eran Fowler

Jason Wiener explained, after working with Jack Stucky, the city now has a method to dispose of property which is vetted by the attorney's office. In order for city property not to go through the legal auction process a 2/3 vote from city council is required. Jack is currently in the process of purchasing two new vans so two old vans will be available soon. This will expand Travis Mateer's ability to link those who need help to local appointments and services.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
January 6, 2015

Tuesday, December 02, 2014

Greetings: In light of what has been recently happening in Ferguson Missouri, and what our nation has seen with multiple police and community issues, and when I hear of persistent problems of disproportionate police force in communities of color and a disturbing lack of accountability plagues several of the cities, I would like to know what the City of Missoula and the Missoula Police Force is doing to be proactive so that the “Fergusson” issue does not happen in our community.

I also saw where our president, Barack Hussein Obama, in promoting New Community Policing Initiatives, indicated several steps to help communities to proactively address these issues:

1. Develop a local community task force on 21st Century Policing
2. Train departments on diversity
3. Wear body cameras

And then there are options for police force to:

4. Use smart pistols equipped with technology that alerts police dispatchers whenever the gun is unholstered or fired, to bring back transparency to what actually happened.

In ending, there does seem to be a lack of confidence in the fairness of the justice and law enforcement system among disenfranchised individuals. Doing something proactive might change this understanding.