

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission

Minutes

February 3, 2015

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), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Melinda Mason (WORD), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council), Jason Wiener (City Council), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner) and Susan Hay Patrick (United Way)

Commission Members Absent: Jon Wilkins (City Council), Caitlin Cople (City Council), Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative), Melissa Gordon (Grants), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador), Jenny Montgomery (Montgomery Distillery), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army) and Melanie Brock

Others in Attendance: Heidi Bakula (City of Missoula) and Bob Giordano (MIST)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 7, 2014, December 2, 2014 and January 6, 2015 were approved as submitted.

1. Public Comment

Bob Giordano of the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation (MIST) discussed the four-lane or three-lane conversion that would affect Broadway, Madison, the downtown area and Toole Avenue. He believes that a three-lane with a dedicated turn lane will work better than a four-lane design especially for pedestrians and accidents with vehicles. The three-lane design will include a dedicated bike lane which will eliminate cyclist/car door accidents. Bob asked if the commission had any interest in preparing a letter in favor of the three lane design. Ginny Merriam stated she would discuss it with the commission.

2. Special Presentations - None

3. Committee Updates

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

Keithi Worthington explained that the alcohol sales restrictions for a list and single serve sales were vetted by the mayor and the police chief. Currently she's been visiting with other communities to discuss how they implement packaged liquor sales with business owners. The quandary is how the commission would market this to local businesses. Melanie Brock and Ginny Merriam discussed giving retailers recognition by joining the "Responsible Alcohol Retailers Program." Melanie is currently designing a sticker for a window and a button for employees of businesses to wear in order to receive recognition for their efforts. The committee is hoping that businesses will volunteer to join the program, especially downtown businesses since downtown disturbances are usually alcohol related.

The next task will be to have it vetted by the Missoula Downtown Association (MDA) and the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID). Dan Cederberg explained that MDA and BID want to hear more specifics about the program. Ginny wants to get the program up and running by spring and try

to get some news coverage. Keithi explained that it would take at least nine months to determine if the program is effective.

Jason Wiener had questions about how the list would be generated. Keithi explained that it would be comprised of people who had received multiple intoxication related violations and the decision would also be confirmed with Andy Roy the downtown police officer. The list will only be available for local businesses and not posted for the general public.

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

Ginny Merriam discussed the search for a Business/Marketing Student intern for the commission from the university. Only one application has been received and that person would be interviewed today. The intern will be housed at the Missoula Downtown Partnership office and work with both MDA and BID.

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

The art park design was presented last year to BID and MDA and was met with some apprehension. Concerns were taken to the police chief, the parks director, the parking director, the mayor, Ginny Merriam and Rob Scheben. Rob came up with some good solutions to take back to BID and MDA and after discussing the issues the two agencies were comfortable with the solutions.

Ginny Merriam discussed that it was now time to fundraise since grant money and money from the city will only pay for half of the construction of the art park.

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

Michael Moore stated that many of the funds available to support housing for the homeless were drying up. WORD has put a hold on any available funds, the YMCA no longer provides applications for people to apply for money for stable housing for six months and the Human Resource Council is taking applications but there is a waiting list.

Project Homeless Connect was a success and they served 300 – 400 people. There were people there representing 110 services and 200 volunteers. Not as many homeless folks came this year like they did in years past.

Michael met with a developer in town to discuss tax credits and different ideas for funding and Michael will be discussing it at the Reaching Home committee meeting.

- Updates on other projects
Downtown Police Officer Project – Dan Cederberg & Jon Wilkins

Dan Cederberg discussed the possibility of hiring three community service officers (CSO) which was recommended by the mayor and the police chief. The CSOs had no arrest authority which would not be as helpful to Andy Roy, the downtown police officer. This idea was presented to the BID with a mixed reception. The BID asked Dan to look for money for another police officer but the BID does not have any extra funds at this time. Another idea would be three CSOs and one sworn officer.

Help 10 People – Bryan von Lossberg

Bryan Von Lossberg stated that he would continue going to Crisis Intervention Team meetings and he wondered if Cola Rowley would like to join him.

Van for Homeless Outreach Teams – Jason Wiener and Eran Fowler

Jason said the new vans are on there way and they were still waiting to hear about the old vans.

4. Commission Member Comments

- Cola Rowley of the Missoula County Commissioner’s Office introduced herself as a new commission member taking Michele Landquist’s place. She discussed a fund she thought would be helpful to the commission’s efforts called the Social Innovations Fund. It is available to non-profits and other organizations and could be used for grants for local government. Michael Moore of the Missoula United Way will partner with her to look at funding needed to support Missoula’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
March 3, 2015