

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
May 5, 2015

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Melinda Mason (WORD), Jason Wiener (City Council), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Melissa Gordon (Grants), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services) and Tara Maus (Montgomery Distillery)

Commission Members Absent: Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council), Caitlin Copple, Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army) and Jon Wilkins (City Council)

Others in Attendance: Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office), Se and Kaewta (Southeast Asian/Mansfield Center Visiting Fellows) and Dave Crismon (new Downtown Ambassador)

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of April 7, 2015 will be reviewed at a future meeting.

1. Public Comment - None
2. Special Presentations

➤ **Grants and Community Programs Overview – Cindy Wulfekuhle**

Cindy Wulfekuhle explained that Grants and Community Programs is a joint city/county office which all city/county offices have access to. The Grants Department works with outside agencies and partnerships that provide services except for relationship services which they provide. They currently oversee 100 different grants. Nancy Rittel heads up the analysis until and looks at projects and assigns work to others in the department.

Different agencies can apply locally for Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) and HOME funds but the Grants Department does all the reporting. The Poor Fund is maintained by Missoula County. Normally an ad is placed in the paper and the county takes applications for the grant money. The funds are used for basic needs such as food, shelter, etc. A citizen review committee appointed by the county then reviews the applications.

Cindy requested MDAC to submit a list of topics Grants can use in order to find available related grants. Right now MDAC is interested in grants for an additional downtown police officer. Cindy explained that several grants can be used to fund a single request. Rates of social funding have declined every year. Staffing costs have gone up for maintaining various programs, which is worrisome.

Once Cindy receives a list from MDAC she will look into available grants and get back to MDAC to see if they are worth pursuing.

3. Committee Updates

➤ **Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben**

Liquor Sale Guidelines

Keithi Worthington explained that the roll out of the No Sell List has been delayed until May 15, 2015 because it still requires a little more leg work. MDAC also needs to decide on a name for the program so the sign/sticker can be printed. All commission members decided on “Partners for Responsible Alcohol Sales.”

Once Keithi receives the data from municipal court the next task will be to acquire photos since mug shots cannot be used. To start off she will provide each retailer with a packet and then updates will be sent by email.

Formation of New Retail Committee

Rob Scheben initiated a discussion with local business owners for an Organized Retail Crime Committee. At first mainly the larger box stores were interested but the news spread and now many smaller retailers are interested in forming their own committee. Rob will be facilitating the meeting and provide safety training, information on shoplifting, burglary and surveillance. Rob just needs to help them work towards finding a place and an agreed upon time for the meetings.

➤ **Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam**

Ginny Merriam explained that the committee met in April and decided that they wanted to work towards one single message instead of working on multiple campaigns. The main issues are not giving money to panhandlers and giving the money to the Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT). This was proposed to the Business Improvement District Board and Finance Committee (BID) – don’t feed addiction, stop addiction, give a donation directly to the HOT team and not to panhandlers. Erin Steele of United Way is helping with strategic solutions to come up with new branding for the program. The BID gave MDAC \$5,000 towards rebranding the Real Change program. Erin is looking at what picture conveys this idea. The BID is okay with disseminating more cafes to collect donations but the Real Change committee is thinking about taking a break and BID said they were fine with that too. There was some discussion about a mechanism that allows people to donate to the HOT team online or by phone.

➤ **Built Environment – Margaret Borg & Ginny Merriam – No Update**

➤ **Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick – No Update**

➤ **Updates on Other Projects**

Additional Downtown Officer – Dan Cederberg and Jon Wilkins

Dan Cederberg reported that after he met with the mayor and Chief Brady he was told that it would not be possible to get a new officer in the upcoming budget year, but possibly in FY17. Currently the police department is three officers short.

Unsworn officers are not a great option because they only carry pepper spray and a radio and only have so much authority; however the mayor and the police chief believe they are a better option since three unsworn officers can be hired to every sworn officer.

Sue Wilkins stated that she was talking to Jon Wilkins and he suggested reserve deputies from the sheriff's office. Jon will follow-up with TJ McDermott and Cola Rowley will talk to TJ too.

There was further discussion on a possible campaign to encourage the public to call 911 when they witness an incident with an intoxicated inappropriate behavior. Ads on the radio or a billboard might be good options.

4. Commission Member Comments

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
June 2, 2015