

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
October 6, 2015

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Andrea Marcoccio, Jason Wiener (City Council), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner) and Travis Mateer (Poverello Center)

Commission Members Absent: Rob Scheben (Police Department), Tara Maus (Montgomery Distillery), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Jon Wilkins (City Council) and Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador)

Others in Attendance: Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office) and Jeff Hill

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of September 1, 2015 will be reviewed at a later date.

1. Public Comment – Jeff Hill, a downtown business owner, expressed concern over parking. He fears more parking spaces will be removed in the future because of the Art Park Project. He is also concerned about the transient population passing through the downtown not connected to the Poverello Center.
2. Special Presentations – Presentation to Law & Justice Interim Legislative Committee, Public Intoxication Issues Facing Local Government and SB 360 – Keithi Worthington and Ginny Merriam

Ginny Merriam discussed the trip she took with Keithi Worthington to the legislative committee in Helena:

- The City of Billings' representatives from the MAPP Program (Motivated Addiction Alternative Program) asked Missoula to support their local option that would support a bill for public intoxication and create a drop-in center for their addicted population.
- Unfortunately the Law & Justice Interim Committee was not interested in collaboration, they thought Ginny and Keithi were there to talk them into funding a program and they were argumentative and not interested in finding a solution to the problem.
- Regardless of the committee's views, Billings will continue working on a bill for public intoxication. Currently Billings is using the laws related to open container and criminal trespass.

3. Discussion/Refining/Planning/Strategies for winter projects and sign-up

Ginny Merriam asked for discussion on possible working groups and tasks the commission could work on through the winter and spring.

- **Additional sworn police officer dedicated to downtown**
 - Rob Scheben spoke to Nancy Rittel at Grants and Community Programs about applying for the grant the police department has applied for in the past.
 - Jason Wiener recommended asking for the additional officer in the budget as an unfunded request to see city council would be interested in pursuing it. MDAC could file the request.
- **Crisis/drop-in/warming center/detox center with staff**
 - Liability seems to be the main issue when it comes to different agencies volunteering to detox someone.
 - Cost of detoxification is also still a problem.

- In questioning why Missoula did not have a detox center Jason said he could approach a potential provider and discuss it with them. Ginny will contact Rimrock in Billings and find out how they run their detox program for indigent people.
 - Since the sale of Community Hospital the hospital now has a fund set up for reinvesting in the community. Michael Moore and Jason will approach them.
 - Find out what it would take to get some beds at the Western Montana Mental Health Center. Sue Wilkins will approach them.
- **Economic impact of indigence**
 - Ginny will contact Rachel Whitfield at the county for statistics based on the Jail Diversion Study being conducted.
- **Dog licensing**
 - Dan Cederberg will be attending an Animal Control Board meeting to discuss transients and the dog licensing issue as far as rabies vaccinations and changing the 60 day licensing requirement to two weeks.
- **Advocacy and Education Committee**
 - MDAC could do some education and reach a larger population about over-service with college kids, possibly at Griz games.
 - Travis Mateer arranged to be on KBGA, the college station, to discuss panhandling and giving to panhandlers.
 - Laurie Johnson was not at the meeting but the suggestion was made to talk to her about teaching grade school/middle school kids about panhandling.
 - Set something up at local bars to give to the HOT team (Homeless Outreach Team) instead of panhandlers.
 - Find a way to donate to the HOT team by texting.
- **Parking meters repurposing**
 - Rob Scheben is in the process of acquiring some old meters from the city parking commission.
- **Alcohol retail sales reduction**
 - The no-sell list and the packaged liquor sales ideas were on hold.
 - MDAC could direct its attention to the over-service of alcohol but a police officer has to witness over-service in order to issue a citation. Also there needs to be a political will to enforce over-service.
 - The Department of Revenue is not necessarily interested in local over-service reports unless they include a citation from a local police officer.

4. Nomination/election of chair and co-chair

Eran Fowler-Pehan agreed to take on a leadership position on MDAC. It's also possible that Bryan von Lossberg would be co-chair. Ginny Merriam asked everyone for recommendations and they would be voting at the November meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

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