

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes  
September 13, 2016**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Eran Fowler Pehan (City of Missoula), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Judge Kathleen Jenks (Municipal Court Judge), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council), and Lt. Jake Rosling (Police Department).

**Commission Members Absent:** Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments), Melinda Mason (Children's Mental Health Bureau), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador), Jon Wilkins (City Council), and Rob Scheben (Citizen).

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of February 2, 2016, March 1, 2016, April 5, 2016, May 3, 2016, and June 17, 2016 were approved as submitted.

**1. Attendance**

The commission discussed the recent lack of meeting attendance. According to the bylaws, no quorum is required to approve minutes or conduct other business. The commission discussed recruiting new members to increase the overall size of the group. Ginny will bring the recommended names before Mayor Engen. Some possibilities were Amy Allison Thompson of the Poverello Center, Parking Director Rod Austin, Lydia White, Theresa Williams, and a representative from St. Pat's Hospital.

**2. Discussion and reporting on work groups**

*Additional sworn police officer dedicated to downtown* – Two new sworn officers were approved in the FY17 budget but will likely not be hired and trained until winter. The two compliance officers were not approved. The commission will invite Chief Brady to attend the October meeting and discuss how he intends to use the officers.

*Crisis/drop-in/warming center* – This has not been an active work group and the team needs to be rebuilt. Once the new Reaching Home coordinator, Theresa Williams, is on board, she can help move the work-group forward.

*Dog licensing* – Dan Cederberg will be taking a draft to the Missoula Downtown Association advocacy meeting and will report back in October.

*Economic impact of indigence* – This project has stalled because staff has not had time to gather the needed data. The addition of a hospital staff person to the commission may help with obtaining information, but hospital staff still need to spend time scrubbing data before releasing it to the City, in order to comply with HIPAA regulations. It may be possible to partner with the University of Montana to gather the data, or to use information gathered for the jail diversion plan.

*Advocacy and education committee/parking meter repurposing* – MDA cannot start selling the old parking meters until all meters of that style have been removed from service, because there is a universal key that opens all meters. Money from the sales will be used for the Downtown Foundation. The sale of the meters was approved by the City Council.

*Alcohol retail sales reduction* – There has been no new action on this item. However, Chief Brady may be able to direct officers to ticket retail sellers for overserving, the same way they do at bars. There would need to be specific direction for this to occur.

### **3. Public education regarding appropriate responses to nuisance/illegal behavior**

The commission previously discussed a photo of a man sleeping in a doorway, which had been posted on Facebook and received sarcastic comments. Linda McCarthy had volunteered to draft a response regarding using images like this as an opportunity to inform citizens about when to call 911 or the HOT Team and the types of response to expect from each. Bryan will contact her and request she bring a draft for the commission to discuss in October.

Respectfully Submitted, Jessica Miller, Citizen Services Manager.