

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes**  
**May 2, 2017**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Ginny Merriam (Mayor's Office), Eran Fowler Pehan (Housing & Community Development), Melinda Mason (Children's Mental Health Bureau), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Michael Moore, Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council), Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments), and Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner)

**Commission Members Absent:** Kathleen Jenks (Municipal Court Judge), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Lt. Jake Rosling (Police Department), Amy Allison Thompson (Poverello Center), Dave Chrismon (Downtown Ambassador), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Theresa Williams (Reaching Home Coordinator), and Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney)

**Others in Attendance:** Jessica Miller (Mayor's Office), Ed Gydas (Police Department), Richard Stepper (Police Department), and Lindsay Potter (student)

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of April 4, 2017 were approved as submitted.

1. Public Comment

None.

2. Downtown Update

- At the recent BID/MDA luncheon, there were discussions regarding 911 dispatch issues at Five on Black. The committee determined that there was a police response to the 911 report, but staff were not informed of the resolution. The committee would like to discuss communication opportunities and invite Tom Snyder, owner of Five on Black, to join MDAC. Adrienne Beck at the County should be included in discussions involving 911.
- Elizabeth Marshall stated that she was pleased with the Police Department regarding the Crisis Intervention Training officers and appreciated the clarification on what the officer can and can't do.
- Two new officers began on April 1, which will fill some gaps in coverage.

3. Progressive National Approaches

- The San Antonio Public Works Department gives jobs to homeless individuals and partners with a non-profit to pay them.

4. New Business

- Lindsay Potter performed a literature review for livability indices as an independent study at UM. In order to find quality of life information, she searched for panhandling, crime, homelessness, safety, and mental illness. Police presence affects quality of life. The summary of the literature review will be sent to the committee. Some surveys are available through the Police Department and would require approval from Chief Brady.
- Captain Stepper introduced Ethan Smith, the new crime prevention officer.

## 5. Working Group Updates

- Crisis/drop-in/warming center
  - A SAMHSA grant application has been submitted. If the grant is received, the City would receive \$2 million over five years to provide a full array of treatment for 15 people per year. We will know the grant's status by July 1.
  - A group is traveling to Spokane to see what the community is doing with their crisis center.
  - Rapid City, SD has a restoration center, which is a one-stop jail diversion solution and includes a detox facility.
- Alcohol retail sales reduction
  - This committee is currently dormant.
- Education and public advocacy
  - Messaging can be reinvigorated into a broader public educational campaign. Information can include discouraging anti-social behaviors, how to say no to panhandlers, and how to keep the area safe and clean. Brochures can be handed out at hotels and tourism hubs. Public education can have the same effectiveness as citations and jail time. Education materials can also include the consequences of giving, such as what the money is used for.

## 6. Discussion of additional members in key areas

Respectfully Submitted  
Jessica Miller  
Citizen Services Manager