

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
August 1, 2017

Commission Members in Attendance: Eran Fowler Pehan (Housing & Community Development), Melinda Mason (Children's Mental Health Bureau), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Kathleen Jenks (Municipal Court Judge), Dave Chrismon (Downtown Ambassador), Lt. Jake Rosling (Police Department), Amy Allison Thompson (Poverello Center), Theresa Williams (Reaching Home Coordinator), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments), Tom Snyder (Downtown Business Owner) and Ryan Boyd (Salvation Army)

Commission Members Absent: Michael Moore (Downtown Business Owner), Ginny Merriam (Mayor's Office), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney) and Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services)

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of May 2, 2017 and June 6, 2017 were approved as submitted.

1. Public Comment - None
2. Introductions

Bryan von Lossberg asked for everyone to introduce themselves because of new members Tom Snyder from 5 on Black and Ryan Boyd of the Salvation Army.

3. Downtown Update

- Tom Snyder stated that the new police presence downtown had been successful and he thanked the police department for their positive impact.
- Jake Rosling stated that he had been working nights until today and he did not have much to report. He did notice that at night there had been issues with floaters on the river and the bar crowd. There had been some conflicts with the river floaters and the group that hangs out near the fish sculpture in Caras Park. There were several arrests made at the Paul Simon concert since people cut the locks on MRL property to view the concert.
- Judge Jenks said that she has been seeing many more homeless, violent, people from out of state and not as many regulars. People from out of state are being cited for multiple charges. Judge Jenks usually asks people where they are from and why they are here and many say they are here for services, but it's very hard to tell why they are here.
- Elizabeth Marshall said that she is noticing new people but there has not been an increase in incidents, but she has seen a spike in human excrement by her building.
- Cola Rowley explained that the two new Emergency Detention Units were not open yet due to funding, but the county will most likely take on the funding for the facility.
- Dave Chrismon stated that the downtown area had been looking better than it had in the last two years. At times there have been people downtown that attract others to have a party in certain areas but that is not happening. He credits the officers on the street. He has noticed a spike in graffiti but businesses are taking care of it themselves. He has been working alleys trying to rid them of garbage and cardboard.
- Margaret Borg had not had any unpleasant experience downtown in the instances when she's been downtown.
- Amy Allison Thompson has not seen an increase in violence and the numbers coming to the Poverello Center have not jumped. The Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) has been working with

downtown businesses and things are going well at the Poverello Center. The Poverello does track where people come from and they have not noticed a spike in out of state visitors.

- Judge Jenks said that she doesn't see 95% of the people that go to the Poverello Center. At this point there has been a spike in the number of people having sex downtown – top of parking garage, the courthouse lawn.
- Theresa Williams discussed the Missoula Coordinated Entry System and that it had launched on June 1st. The Coordinated Entry System prioritized housing for the most vulnerable. They are also trying to identify a person's housing status when they are arrested. Recently they had been working on case management for mental health services using state funding. She added that Sheila Moore, the downtown officer, had been doing a great job downtown. She further explained that they have been working on housing for sex and violent offenders and trying to help them with services.
- Jake Rosling asked how he could verify housing for a person since that information is confidential. Theresa thought they should brainstorm this issue to figure it out. Amy offered that Officer Rosling could ask the person in question if they had received a voucher through the Coordinated Entry System.
- Tom asked if the most vulnerable were actually getting housing. Theresa said that more data needed to be collected to make that determination. Tom wondered about helping those that are not the most vulnerable, but just needed a little help. Theresa explained that by helping the most vulnerable it cost the community less in the long run in services. Chronic homelessness needs to be addressed before homelessness can be addressed.
- Eran Pehan wanted the commission to remember how well the city of Missoula is doing compared to other communities across the United States. Eran said that she was still waiting to hear about the SAMHSA grant she applied for which would provide housing for 20-25 chronically homeless individuals, plus provide them with mental health services.
- Bryan von Lossberg stated that he thought the police staffing downtown had been very good and productive. Two officers were added last year and this year new Community Service Officers (CSO's) have been added and they would help address the trails in the area.

4. Progressive National Approaches – Nothing new to report at this time.

5. New Business

Tom Snyder said that many hotels along the east Broadway corridor were having trouble attracting customers because of the trains blowing their horns through the area and he wondered about establishing a quiet zone. Several different commission members commented on the issue of cost, liability and signage issues. I referred Tom to Jessica Miller for more information but Bryan also offered to provide Tom with that information.

6. Working Group Updates

- Crisis/drop-in/warming center
 - Eran previously reported on the SAMHSA grant and that was the only new information for this group.
- Alcohol retail sales reduction – Nothing new to report.
- Education and public advocacy – Nothing new to report.
- Evaluation of the commission's progress – Nothing new to report.

7. Discussion of additional members in key areas – Nothing new to report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Bakula, Executive Assistant