

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
November 7, 2017

Commission Members in Attendance: Melinda Mason (Children's Mental Health Bureau), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Dave Chrismon (Downtown Ambassador), Ginny Merriam (Mayor's Office), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments) and Ryan Boyd (Salvation Army)

Commission Members Absent: Michael Moore (Downtown Business Owner), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney), Kathleen Jenks (Municipal Court Judge), Tom Snyder (Downtown Business Owner) Eran Fowler Pehan (Housing & Community Development), Lt. Jake Rosling (Police Department), Amy Allison Thompson (Poverello Center), Theresa Williams (Reaching Home Coordinator), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney) and Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services)

Others in Attendance: Sam Harkness (MSW Practicum Student), Anne Higgins (MSW Practicum Student), Haley Anderson (Intern) and Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of September 12, 2017 were approved as submitted.

1. Public Comment - None

2. Introductions

3. Downtown Update

- Elizabeth Marshall said that, based on reports from tenants, 911 responded more consistently to staff phone calls and not as well to resident phone calls.
- Ryan Boyd said that currently the Salvation Army is working on Toys for Tots, bus tickets and rental assistance. The bus money is available in October but in order to get a bus ticket a rider must have a support system at the end of their route.
- Dave Chrismon stated that things had slowed way down and it did not seem like people were giving money to transients as often as they had been. The resource officers were working and the scheduling seemed like it was adequate. Dave's biggest concern is when someone is passed out on the sidewalk. He encourages them to sit up and move along. Dave gives bags and leashes to those who have dogs. Dave spends the majority of his time working the parking meters and educating the public about them.
- Dan Cederberg thought that overall the downtown area had been better since the last time MDAC met.
- Bryan von Lossberg wondered if 911 call data was easy to get. He asked if Cola Rowley could ask for the data for the central business district (CBD) for a month. He wanted to review the raw data but he was not exactly sure what to ask for. Cola said she would get the information. Dan Cederberg suggested looking at data from the masterplan instead of the CBD.
- Bryan discussed planning for the new year. He thought that the commission should discuss what its priorities are at the December meeting as far as education and advocacy, alcohol retail sales, livability index, drop-in center, etc. What did the commission want to focus on?
- Dan Cederberg suggested that the commission contact the foundation involved with Community Hospital that has the grant program. This might be the right time to look into the grant opportunity.

4. Progressive National Approaches – Nothing new to report.

5. New Business

6. Working Group Updates

- Crisis/drop-in/warming center – Nothing new to report.
- Alcohol retail sales reduction – Nothing new to report.
- Education and public advocacy
 - Bryan von Lossberg stated that there had been no campaign for 2016 or 2017. MDAC needed to think about what they wanted to do in the future, the mayor was willing to provide financial resources if that was needed.
 - Ginny Merriam explained that there had been a program called Real Change Not Spare Change for 15 years but there was a general feeling that the campaign was negative and that a more positive campaign needed to be implemented.
- Evaluation of the commission's progress
 - Dan Cederberg discussed the Livability Index. He had statistics from many agencies but needed help transforming the information into something useable. He spoke to Dustin Holic of the social science research lab. He asked if Dustin could provide information on what the cost would be for his time, but Dan needed to send him an email about what was wanted. Dan will circulate an email to MDAC members to get input from the commission.
 - Ginny Merriam stated that the mayor's office was working on a statewide survey about quality of life and the mayor wondered if Master of Public Administration (MPA) students could be used for this process.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Bakula, Executive Assistant