

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**May 7, 2013**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Michele Landquist (County Commissioner, Keenan Whitt (Homewood), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Laurie Johnson (Downtown BID), Melissa Gordon (Grants), Melinda Mason (WMMHC), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Jason Wiener (City Council), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney), Melanie Brock (MDA), Caitlin Copple (Council Representative), and Dan Cederberg (Downtown Representative)

**Commission Members Absent:** Susan Hay Patrick (United Way)

**Others in Attendance:** Lea Young (Amira Rug Gallery), Andy Roy (Downtown Police Officer), and Travis Mateer (Homeless Outreach)

**Approval of Minutes:** Keenan Whitt moved to approve and Rob Scheben seconded the motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2013, as corrected by Susan Hay Patrick.

**Public Comment:**

Comments from Lea Young:

- ⤴ Owns Amira Rug Gallery and Hunter Bay Coffee Roasters
- ⤴ Feels that the homeless population downtown can be very threatening to her employees - Hunter Bay employees sometimes lock the front door
- ⤴ Has come to work with her door at Amira Rug Gallery covered in feces and windows have been broken causing \$800 in damage
- ⤴ An employee at Noteworthy was recently assaulted by a transient at the bus stop
- ⤴ Finds it very hard to run businesses with these problems downtown
- ⤴ She is not sure of how to make people downtown aware of the problem
- ⤴ Ginny added that there are more problems during early spring and the best thing to do is to all the police

Travis Mateer with Homeless Outreach:

- ⤴ Receives notice when certain individuals are released from jail and tracks safety concerns
- ⤴ He indicated that if there was a problem downtown the best thing to do is to call the outreach hotline first so it can be addressed by the outreach program before it escalates
- ⤴ He suggested that a good deterrent is to install cameras around businesses
- ⤴ A non-punitive drunk tank would be a great idea so transients do not end up in the ER or in jail

**Other comments from the Commission:**

- ⤴ Missoula Downtown Association will come to downtown businesses with a power washer for a fee – business owners should be made aware of this service
- ⤴ Owners need to remind their employees to not guess when to call 911, just call so the police are made aware of the problem
- ⤴ Currently the only resource the city has for these issues is jail, but with detoxing this can become a liability for the city
- ⤴ Quality of life officers will be used to saturate the downtown and the issues discussed will be their focus – it however may only happen this year
- ⤴ The biggest issue out there is alcoholism and not homelessness, there is no solid addiction treatment for those without income even if they want to be helped
- ⤴ There is a gap in patrols downtown in late winter to early spring
- ⤴ There will be radio spots in the near future targeting college students since they seem to be the ones giving money to transients and not discourage panhandling – this will also extend into fall orientation for students

**Andy Roy – Downtown Police Officer:**

- ⤴ There is more frustration from business owners than he expected
- ⤴ The majority of problems downtown do not involve the homeless, they involve transients who choose the lifestyle and do not respect themselves or anyone else
- ⤴ Officer Roy endeavors to set boundaries and if the boundary is crossed they know they will be arrested
- ⤴ Would like to see a tweak in the ordinance regarding the blocking of sidewalks
- ⤴ The job downtown should start in March and be managed by two people instead of one

**Committee Updates:**

- Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick
  - ⤴ 10-Year Plan Update
    - ◆ Currently the plan was being moved toward implementation, the City and County both adopted it
    - ◆ Alcohol is a major issue; however it is not currently addressed in the 10-Year Plan. The Human Services Committee will be working on the issue in the future.
    - ◆ They want to expand the working group of stakeholders to bounce ideas off of
    - ◆ They hope to have the new coordinator hired by July 1<sup>st</sup> – this person will work at United Way – the County CAO, the City CAO, and United Way will equally supervise – the position will be paid with grant money
    - ◆ The sub-committee hopes to have private funding along with government funding for the program

- Crime and Prevention – Rob Scheben and Keithi Worthington
  - ⤴ Graffiti Project
    - ◆ A graffiti forum will be held on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am in the basement of First Interstate Bank – this will be promoted by Missoula Downtown Association, the Business Improvement District and the Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission
    - ◆ Goals are to educate the public to call 911, quantify what graffiti cleanup costs Missoulians - repair and prosecution
    - ◆ Using a graffiti van to deal with graffiti immediately would be a great idea, but there is no money available for a van
    - ◆ Discussing a possible anti-graffiti billboard
  
- Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam and Laurie Johnson
  - ⤴ Season-opener update and potential changes
    - ◆ There is a request to re-brand the program to “Real Change” instead of “Real Change Not Spare Change”
    - ◆ Donations will be requested and will be tax deductible – the Missoula Downtown Foundation is moving the program forward, MDA will build the website, and the new look will be presented to the BID board for approval
    - ◆ The Missoula Downtown Foundation will be the fiscal sponsor – 501C3 for “Real Change”
  
- Built Environment – Margaret Borg and Ginny Merriam
  - ⤴ MAM Art Park Update
    - ◆ There is enough money available to create the plaza, but no art, no landscaping and no loo
    - ◆ The project had great support from council

**Miscellaneous business and discussion**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heidi Bakula

**Date of Next Meeting**  
**Jack Reidy Conference Room**  
**June 4, 2013**