

## Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission

### Minutes

March 3, 2015

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Melinda Mason (WORD), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council), Jason Wiener (City Council), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Caitlin Copple (City Council), Melissa Gordon (Grants), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center) and Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army)

**Commission Members Absent:** Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative), Jenny Montgomery (Montgomery Distillery), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center) and Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney),

**Others in Attendance:** Heidi Bakula (City of Missoula) and Martin Kidston (Missoulian), Marcus Thebul (NBC MT)

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of February 3, 2015 were approved as submitted.

1. Public Comment - None
2. Special Presentations - None
3. Committee Updates

➤ **Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben**

Packaged Liquor Sales Project –

Keithi Worthington explained that she is still meeting with downtown businesses and the meetings have been positive so far. The big concern of downtown businesses is lost revenue. In April she will have more information and feedback to bring back to the commission.

Another issue that has come up with Officer Andy Roy is that transients are using dogs or puppies to panhandle. If these dogs are just visiting the area there is no requirement to license meaning there is no way to verify vaccinations. Keithi is looking at a possible ordinance that addresses this issue.

➤ **Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam**

Intern Proposal for University Student Education Project -

Ginny Merriam said the intern candidate that first applied did not work out, but the new candidate is a marketing student and the interview will be very soon. A university teacher named Carol Bruneau is also interested in having her students develop a non-profit marketing plan for Real Change. Jason Wiener is concerned since his experience with students is that they need a lot of guidance, but an intern wouldn't. Other concerns were that the students would need a dedicated staff person who could help with vision and the framework. It's possible that the teacher could provide the direction. Ginny will follow-up with Carol and tell her that the Commission does not have a dedicated staff member available.

➤ **Built Environment – Margaret Borg & Ginny Merriam**

Art Park Update –

Ginny Merriam explained that this group is now planning a fundraising strategy inviting eight people to be on the fundraising team. There is one more meeting to look at design to make sure all the questions are answered and the Parks and Recreation Board will be naming the park. Ginny expects that this fall

or next spring the curb work could be done which all was dependent upon donors signing on to the project. It is also important to contact the People's Market organizers in order to coordinate the project. The person that owns the private market by Sweet Peaks would also need to be contacted.

➤ **Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick**

Reaching Home Update from Michael Moore -

Michael Moore said that for the most part everything is still brewing. Partners for Reintegration who place prisoners back into society had a public meeting discussing renting out private houses as a business for prisoners to share. Churches might possibly take housing off the market and use it for emergency housing. Union Gospel Mission can house eight woman and children at this time. Churches may have faith based restrictions.

➤ **Updates on Other Projects**

Downtown Police Officer Project – Dan Cederberg & Jon Wilkins

At this time Police Chief Mike Brady is interested in hiring community service officers. Some council members are interested in budgeting for another downtown police officer. Power and authority are major issues with community service officers, they cannot arrest anyone or carry a weapon, they can only write tickets.

Ginny Merriam suggested that Dan Cederberg and Jon Wilkins meet with the police chief and the mayor.

Help 10 People – Bryan von Lossberg

Bryan von Lossberg stated that the Crisis Intervention Team board is meeting soon and he planned on attending. Keithi Worthington stated that she could run a report of the top 10 – 15 repeat offenders.

Van for Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT) – Jason Wiener and Eran Fowler

City Council just approved a resolution to allow the city to donate a 1997, 15 seat, Dodge van to the Homeless Outreach Team, making it much easier to transport patrons of the Poverello Center to various appointments. With this van the HOT team will have better presence since a HOT team logo with a phone number will be on the van.

#### **4. Commission Member Comments**

Keithi Worthington discussed a bill that was going to the legislature regarding public intoxication. At this time the City of Missoula is neutral because the ordinance would require that intoxicated people be taken somewhere and all Missoula has is a jail. This ordinance would give cities jurisdiction to create their own ordinances. The City of Missoula wants to continue to pursue wet housing to provide treatment options and to keep from arresting people and putting them in jail.

A comment was made about a group from Billings coming to speak to MDAC on new ideas to address homelessness and Ginny would look into getting ahold of them. MDAC members also asked if Ginny could line up a discussion with the Grants Department to discuss possible grant opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heidi J. Bakula  
Executive Assistant

**Date of Next Meeting**  
**Jack Reidy Conference Room**  
**April 7, 2015**