

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
August 4, 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), Jason Wiener (City Council), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney) and Tara Maus (Montgomery Distillery)

Commission Members Absent: Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Melinda Mason (WORD), Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador) and Melissa Gordon (Grants)

Others in Attendance: Rachel Whitfield (Pay for Success Program), Linda McCarthy (Missoula Downtown) and Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of June 2, 2015 and July 7, 2015 were approved as submitted.

1. Public Comment – None

2. Special Presentations

➤ Cola Rowley gave the commission an overview of the Jail Diversion Advisory Board

- The board is made up of city and county officials.
- Cola and Emily Bentley are the co-chairs.
- Montana Senator Cynthia Wolken is on the steering team.
- Jail Diversion efforts only include non-violent offenders at this time.
- One of the tasks is to bring all the agencies together to make sure they are collaborating and are not competing for the same grant money.
- Currently they are working on a master plan to incorporate misdemeanor probation, mental health services, Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) scoring and what the community is interested in.
- Rachel Whitfield is the Project Analyst through the "Pay for Success" program and is pulling statistical data for the project. Rachel described the program:
 1. Pay for Success is an investment model program for social innovation funding, management, services and intervention.
 2. Looking at gaps in social services and those who have been booked into the detention center three times in the last year.
 3. She is looking for any available data from the police department, the court system and local hospitals.
 4. The target population should be established by September and quarterly reports will be sent to the MDAC commission.
 5. By the end of December she will have an idea of what the cost savings will be by not sending people to the detention center.

MDAC is interested in tying in with the Pay for Success program with its efforts to fund a second downtown officer and the “No Sell” list for alcohol downtown.

➤ Follow-up on the Skype Discussion with Billings City Officials

Keithi Worthington identified the key issues that were discussed about the transient population with the City of Billings:

1. Costs – quantify what costs are incurred by the hospital, fire department and the police department in policing and treating the homeless population.
2. Alcohol Consumption – substance abuse, not conduct, is the key issue which over service of alcohol greatly contributes to.
3. Native Americans – there is a high incidence of citations issued locally to Native Americans for intoxication and they are under represented on the MDAC commission and for city services.

It was suggested that MDAC is in need of a Western Montana Mental Health representative to guide the commission. Ginny Merriam suggested that MDAC form a sub-committee to look at these issues and appoint a chair and a vice chair. In the coming months MDAC needs to look at what they are doing that no other commission was working on and to elect officers for the new sub-committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
September 1, 2015