



NEWS ADVISORY

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For immediate release

Missoula's New Parking Director: Rod Austin

Former long-time Missoula resident Rod Austin will begin a new job as director of the Missoula Parking Commission March 1.

Austin is a University of Montana graduate in business administration and has worked in Missoula, Shelby and Rudyard in bank management and lending; as the business development manager of Missoula Osprey owners Mountain Baseball; and most recently as the director of operations of the Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula (BID) from 2008 to 2013. Austin was a very active part of downtown Missoula for 12 years, serving on the boards of the Missoula Downtown Association and the Missoula Parking Commission and as president of the MDA board and chair of the Parking Commission board.

"We are delighted to have Rod Austin returning to Missoula to be the new director of the Parking Commission office," said Parking board chair John Smith. "Rod's past experience as a parking board commissioner, his work at the Missoula BID and his career in banking will stand him well to handle the many challenges he will face directing a very vibrant and active parking program."

Austin was the first director of the BID, which is funded by property owners in the downtown area and works to enhance investment, security and commerce. During his successful tenure, he worked on the Downtown Master Plan, established a meticulous maintenance and cleanliness program and led the district to a 10-year renewal approved by more than 75 percent of its ratepayers. Austin worked with nearly every City department to collaborate and solve problems ranging from snow removal to downtown policing.

"The hiring of Rod Austin is a real coup for our community," said Matt Ellis, Parking Commission

board member and long-time collaborator with Austin on work downtown. “He has demonstrated his love for and commitment to Missoula through his many years of service, not only in an employment capacity but as a volunteer as well. He truly wants our community to be a better place to live, work and play. To get someone like him, who knows and values our community from day one, is a huge asset.”

Austin relocated to Florida in 2013 to explore a business opportunity and has been teaching high school full-time. When the parking services director came open following the retirement of Anne Guest, he could not resist the chance to serve Missoula again.

“Missoula is a magnet for me,” Austin said. “It’s one of the best places in the country to live. I love the way people have a voice in Missoula. And it’s one of the most compassionate communities I’ve ever seen.”

The Missoula Parking Commission is a component unit of the City of Missoula overseen by a five-member board of directors. Its FY 2016 budget is nearly \$1.9 million, which comes from parking operations revenue.

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