

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
November 1, 2016**

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Eran Fowler Pehan (City of Missoula), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Melinda Mason (Children's Mental Health Bureau), Judge Kathleen Jenks (Municipal Court Judge), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council) Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Lt. Jake Rosling (Police Department), Michael Moore, Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador) and Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney)

Commission Members Absent: Jon Wilkins (City Council), and Keithi Worthington (City Attorney)

Others in Attendance: Clint Burson (The Chamber), Theresa Williams (Reaching Home Coordinator), Amy Allison Thompson (Poverello Center) and Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of August 2, 2016 and September 13, 2016 were approved as corrected.

1. New Business

Eran Fowler Pehan introduced Theresa Williams who is the new Reaching Home Coordinator. United Way and representatives from the city and county will be reconvening the group now that Theresa will be on board with MDAC. The 10-year Plan to End Homelessness needs to be reviewed for any updates or tweaks. Theresa has been involved with the Crisis Intervention Team, Housing First, and worked at the Poverello Center. She was also a coordinator at Safe Haven.

Eran and Bryan von Lossberg stressed the need for MDAC to work toward finding a way to build a 24-hour drop-in center in Missoula and that possibly being the number one goal of MDAC in order to succeed with other programs in Missoula. MDAC would need to be one of the ambassadors providing factual information since it could be difficult to convince the local community to support.

MDAC also needs to organize a meeting for all the integral organizations to attend in order to provide services and work together to make a drop-in center work in the community.

2. Discussion and reporting on work groups

MDAC members discussed the various work groups and determined which could be dropped from the projects list for 2017.

- Additional Police Officer (STRIKE) - Dan Cederberg said this can be dropped from the list since the city hired new officers that will start in April of 2017.
- Dog Licensing – Dan said after speaking to Jeff Darrah at Animal Control they determined that the goal can be accomplished with the existing ordinance language. Dan will continue to work on the project and follow-up with the group.
- Economic Impact of Indigence (STRIKE) – Eran Fowler Pehan and Bryan von Lossberg met with Keithi Worthington about the data. Bryan von Lossberg thought this topic should be placed under the drop-in/crisis center work group. Ginny Merriam discussed the importance of the data since it would be used to fund the drop-in center.

- Advocacy and Education/Parking Meters (STRIKE Parking Meters) – Eran explained that this group is part of the group on hiatus as part of the Real Change program. They need to decide if Real Change will be reborn or if it will turn into a different program. Ginny suggested that they look at a new education committee.
- Alcohol Retail Sales – Michael Moore and Margaret Borg discussed that it was still a major issue but the approach was problematic. Retailers have no will to participate since they are making money off the products in question. Others discussed ticketing for over-service or at least using the no-sell list. Unfortunately the no-sell list showed a disproportionate amount of Native American offenders. MDAC would like to get the Native American community’s input before putting this list into use with downtown retailers. Bryan recommended possibly setting up another Skype call with Billings to see how their program is working in order to move forward again.

Bryan asked commission members to be thinking about items to add to the list for 2017.

3. Comments from Board Members

Loreen Hamilton let the commission know that the Salvation Army is opening a new Teen Drop-in Center in an attempt to meet the needs of unattended and at risk youth in our area. Partnership Health Center is also helping teens get medical care. This is strictly a day center since the Salvation Army cannot house underage youth without parental consent. They are serving youth from 13 – 18 years of age. The opening celebration of the drop-in center will occur on Thursday, November 3rd from 3 – 5 pm.

Officer Jake Rosling went to a neighborhood meeting about the Poverello Center. The neighborhood is interested on statistics of the number of calls to the neighborhood and if they have escalated since the Poverello Center opened. Jake said that the majority of the calls were for the local trailer parks and that the community has the wrong misconception about the problems in the neighborhood. Bryan von Lossberg said that he and many other council members have been involved with this discussion since the Poverello Center affects Wards 1, 2 and 3.

Bryan asked if commission members would think about whether or not the over-riding goal of the drop-in center would be the major goal of 2017, or if there were other things members wanted to work on.

Dan Cederberg made a few suggestions.

- Develop a measuring tool to determine if MDAC is making progress.
- Create a travel and treatment fund. This money would be used to send people to treatment in another town. Cola Rowley mentioned that Missoula County gives \$40,000 per year to the Salvation Army for travel and treatment.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

Next Meeting will be December 6, 2016