

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission

Minutes ~ June 5, 2012

Commission Members in Attendance: Rod Austin (Downtown BID), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Dan Cederberg (Attorney), Melissa Gordon (OPG), Laurie Johnson (Downtown BID), Michele Landquist (County Commissioner), Melinda Mason (WMMHC), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Alex Taft (City Council), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney)

Commission Members Absent: Barbara Berens (County Auditor), Brenda Desmond (District Court), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), David Pierce (Salvation Army), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Leanne Vreeland (St. Patrick's Hospital), Keenan Whitt (Homeward), Jason Wiener (City Council)

Others in Attendance: Melani Best, Secretary

Public Comment: No public comment

Approval of Minutes: Rod Austin moved to approve the minutes, Dan Cederberg seconded.

Committee Updates:

Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben

The committee is trying to meet with Sue Wilkins and will have a report at the next meeting.

Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam

This year was the easiest launch of the campaign, using the same poster from last fall, which have been put up. There are 100 carafes out at businesses. Sheila Callahan at Mountain FM helped with the ads. New ads were recorded with Chief Muir, Laurie Johnson, Mayor Engen, Rod Austin and Eran Pehan. Ginny showed the proofs of the printed materials and radio spots. There are 18 stations playing ads and advertising on Mountain Line busses for two months. They earned news media by doing a news release.

No one individual has time to put together a fundraising event. Susan volunteered United Way to work on the fundraising.

Susan and Rod will approach the Moseley's about renewal of their gift. There are dedicated police officers, ordinances and Laurie's job that work with this promotion.

The Poverello Center HOT Teams presentation is almost complete. They will present it at the next meeting and then it will be ready to take into the community. During the winter and spring, the programmatic pieces and program evaluation will be completed.

Built Environment – Margaret Borg

At the last subcommittee meeting, Donna Gaukler talked about locations for public restrooms. They have been problematic on the Northside by the pedestrian crossing bridge. They need to be central to downtown. The parking lot area west of the old Depot is one location as people would have restrooms during the Farmer's Market and other downtown events. Kiwanis Park could have access to public restrooms as well.

They will have another meeting with the Sweet Pea Sewer and Septic who will advise on locations and problems with maintaining public restrooms. Michael Tree from Mountain Line will also give an update at that meeting.

Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick

The Ten-Year Plan is moving along at a great pace. Maxine at Praxis has been hired to work on the meetings and the report. She has identified major components and fundamental issues of the plan. The committee has identified the major steps in the next three years and is setting identifiable goals. The draft report will be out the end of June, then there will be two public hearings. The final proposed draft has to be adopted by the City and County by the first of September. A lot of committee members will need to be on the implementations team. There will be a coordinator and staff to oversee the implementation. This will be a new position.

Miscellaneous business and discussion

HOT Teams Budget – the budget is \$50,000 a year for supplies, staffing and training. They receive a grant from mental health and United Way for \$10 - \$15,000. They have an \$89,000 in-kind match for their budget. If they are not fully funded, they will have to cut back on the hours they are on the street. The teams are spending time at the camps like Reserve Street and the Kim Williams Trail now and have been doing a lot of good work. The HOT teams continue to work downtown. There are a lot of people going through the training to go out on the street with the team members to help these folks. If news media members want to go out with a team member, they have to go through the volunteer orientation and training. The younger people are starting to come into town and they are generally more problematic and aggressive. Dogs need to be vaccinated and licensed. It is illegal to tie dogs up to bike racks / parking meters. Tickets are being given out for these violations.

Businesses are calling the Poverello Center for help from the HOT teams. The more detail a person can give, the better so corrections can be made.

Respectfully Submitted

Melani Best

**Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
September 4, 2012**