

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission
Minutes (Corrected)
December 4, 2012

Commission Members in Attendance: Rod Austin (Downtown BID), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Michele Landquist (County Commissioner), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Alex Taft (City Council), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Keenan Whitt (Homeward), Jason Wiener (City Council) Barbara Berens (County Auditor), Brenda Desmond (District Court), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Laurie Johnson (Downtown BID)

Commission Members Absent: David Pierce (Salvation Army), Leanne Vreeland (St. Patrick's Hospital), Melissa Gordon (OPG), Melinda Mason (WMMHC), Dan Cederberg (Attorney), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney)

Others in Attendance:

Public Comment: No public comment

Approval of Minutes: Barbara Berens was in attendance at the October 2, 2012 meeting. Michele Landquist moved to approve the minutes dated October 2, 2012, as corrected, Rod Austin seconded.

Committee Updates:

Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben – No Update

Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam – No Update

Built Environment – Margaret Borg –

- Update on the collaboration with the Missoula Art Museum on the Art Park with Portland Loo

The committee was looking for a location between the XXXs and the intersection of Higgins and Broadway. Currently they were considering a spot near Jimmy Johns. The idea came when the Missoula Art Museum (MAM) began renovating the amenities near the art museum. Laura Millin's development ideas for the area around MAM led to a discussion with the City for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. This led to a discussion with the Streets Division.

Laura Millin of MAM also discussed an art park idea with Steve King and Doug Harby of Public Works. Doug Harby of Public Works is working to get the project off the ground. Funding will be the biggest issue. MAM has an architect and landscape architect that

will donate their time or charge very little. Steve King, the City Public Works Director, indicated that it would be a \$200,000 project and the City could only provide around \$50,000. More information will be provided in the future.

Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick

- [Presentation on the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness](#)

After review the plan goes to the City Council and the County Commissioners for approval. The committee will ask that the plan be approved and that the City and County hire a staff person to oversee and carry the plan and set up an advisory steering committee. Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick gave a presentation on what they showed at the public meeting. (See the presentation linked above.)

After the presentation Jason explained the goal was to see changes in 10 years. Seed money was also an issue and would have to be raised. Public donations and private matches would be needed. One of the more important aspects of the plan was to have a single point of entry for anyone needing services. The City would have to also discuss making it easier to build more affordable, available housing by making some possible regulatory changes.

Susan encouraged everyone to read the plan and encourage others to read the plan in order to involve more people implementation. The committee should be informed ambassadors and this would be the first step.

Jason stated that the plan had brought new people into the conversation about homelessness, with new ideas. The federal government wants to see cities use the model. Susan further stated that some providers have been cynical about having bankers, private citizens, and landlords at the table but it's really been helpful to have these parties involved.

Rod Austin suggested possible improvement districts for the type of housing being requested since it could be built beside transit systems and have no parking requirements. Susan added that the current challenge was among existing housing service providers. Ginny Merriam remembered a conference on affordable housing for realtors, it was a speaker from Denver that came and discussed SRO's. It would be a good idea to do this again. Possibly also look at other cities. Brenda Desmond added that a staff person could set up target meetings with other cities to get it more focused.

Ginny asked what role elected officials could play to get other elected bodies more open to implementation. Alex Taft asked about the plan requiring participation of public funds and asked how funds would be allocated. Jason stated that they were familiar with CDBG and HOME funding, but they needed to work with other agencies and identify other streams of revenue.

Jason also added that he hoped the document would be like a master plan with brief descriptions of staff responsibilities. There will be implementation questions, how the committee envisions the plan, and who would be on the committee as far as staff. A staff person would be essential for this program. Non-profit organizations will have to be brought together to accomplish the plans goals. Susan thought the challenge would be to get folks to acknowledge that their services need to be improved. This would also be a City/County effort. United Way has taken the lead in the private sector in fundraising. Brenda stated that the current service provider set up is too complicated.

Ginny asked if the program could reside in United Way and have a United Way employee run it. Susan said yes, there were other United Way organizations that raise money and support City/County plans. Keenan Whitt added that the United Way organization also added credibility. The City/County share the funding for the employee and United Way manages the employee.

Miscellaneous business and discussion

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Bakula

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
January 1, 2013