

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission
Minutes
June 4, 2013

Commission Members in Attendance: Keenan Whitt (Homewood), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Laurie Johnson (Downtown BID), Melinda Mason (WMMHC), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Jason Wiener (City Council), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney), Melanie Brock (MDA), Caitlin Copple (Council Representative), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), and Susan Hay Patrick (United Way)

Commission Members Absent: Dan Cederberg (Downtown Representative), Michele Landquist (County Commissioner), Melissa Gordon (Grants)

Others in Attendance: Heidi Bakula, Charles Mills, and Sue Bradford

Approval of Minutes: May 7, 2013 Minutes - Caitlin Copple moved to approve the minutes and Keenan Whitt seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Public Comment: None

Committee Updates:

- Crime and Prevention – Rob Scheben, Melanie Brock, Laurie Johnson, and Keithi Worthington
 - Graffiti Program Update – Rob Scheben & Keithi Worthington
 - Graffiti Forum Preview – Rob Scheben & Melanie Brock
 - A graffiti forum will be held on Thursday, June 6th at 8:30 am at First Interstate Bank. Keithi, Rob and Laurie will discuss:
 - Prosecution tools pros and cons
 - Prevention – lights, cameras, calling police at time of incident to catch people in the act
 - Volunteers who are making a huge difference with graffiti
 - Types of graffiti
 - The criminal mindset
 - Role of the Business Improvement District (BID) and the resources available for businesses that are tagged

- Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam and Laurie Johnson
 - Update - New Logo, New poster, Ads and New Look – Ginny Merriam & Susan Hay Patrick

Ginny Merriam gave the following report:

- There are new collection boxes that will be replacing the wine carafes
- The new name of the program is “Real Change, Be Part of the Solution”
- An ad will be placed on the side of a Mountain Line bus
- There is a webpage on the MDA website
- Radio spots and new posters were created
- Potential of a few parking meters when the city gets new meters
- Laurie at the BID will help empty the meters with another volunteer
- A Hot Team will be walking around Downtown Tonight, at Caras Park on Thursdays from 5-8pm, to talk to people about the Real Change campaign and they will offer to give donation boxes to businesses

- Human Services: Reaching Home Update – Susan Hay Patrick and Jason Wiener

Susan Hay Patrick is looking for people to serve on the Reaching Home subcommittee. The city council approved its portion of the new coordinator position funding to manage the Reaching Home campaign. Currently she is waiting on the county to pass approve the other half of the funding for the position.

➤ Built Environment – Margaret Borg and Ginny Merriam

- MAM Art Park Update – Margaret Borg

Margaret Borg met with Laura Millin of the Missoula Art Museum (MAM) and they discussed the following:

- The museum is interested in adding and changing the landscape of the new sculpture park by moving the traffic lanes to accommodate a larger park
- MAM intends to seek out more funding for the project
- Doug Harby of Public Works has contacted the Loo supplier about cost and transport of the Loo
- The CIP from the city will not cover the cost of the Loo and transport, the Loo itself is \$90,000 – need to discuss how to raise more money
- Eran Fowler Pehan of the Poverello Center suggested that this is very much on the minds of the community who would be very appreciative of the loo
- The Missoula Downtown Association, the Business Improvement District and Destination Missoula all support the project and are donating funds

3. Miscellaneous business and discussion

- Upcoming Rainbow Gathering – Melanie Brock

Melanie Brock introduced Charles Mills representing the Rainbow gathering. Charles wanted to give some basic information about the gathering, that it's a family event without alcohol and people will most likely stop in Missoula but they will move on to the main temporary camp which is near Deer Lodge at a campground off of the

Dempsey Exit on Racetrack Creek Road. They will be alerting local officials if the temporary camp moves to another location.

Sue Bradford, a local Missoula teacher who is involved in the gathering, asked the committee if she could answer any questions. The people coming through will not be causing any problems and the homeless population of adults and kids would be setting up camps and helping support each other. At this point a site for the event had not been chosen. Representatives have met with local law enforcement and they have their own peace police at the camp.

The Rainbow gathering was started by Vietnam Vets in 1972. The event will take place July 1 – 7 and they are expecting 20,000 people over one 24 hour period. After that there will not be as many people.

It has become evident that some people prey upon and discriminate against the gatherers. The majority of the people who come are middle class and not homeless and will spend money in the area.

Laurie Johnson of the Downtown Business Improvement District stated that there were already many people gathering in Missoula and there were recently problems with the gatherers stealing food from an event in Caras Park.

Eran Fowler Pehan from the Poverello Center announced that they were launching the Help Build Hope campaign the following night from 5:00 – 6:30 pm and the old Trails End Building was now bulldozed.

- New Appointment – Sue Wilkins of Missoula Correctional Services

Miscellaneous business and discussion

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Bakula

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
August 6, 2013