

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission

(DRAFT)

Minutes

December 3, 2013

Commission Members in Attendance: Melinda Mason (WMMHC), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Laurie Johnson (BID), Michele Landquist (County Commissioner), Melissa Gordon (Grants), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center), Melanie Brock (Missoula Economic Partnership), Jason Wiener (City Council), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), and Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness)

Commission Members Absent: Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Jenny Montgomery (Montgomery Distillery), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative), and Caitlin Copple (City Council Representative)

Others in Attendance: Laura Millin (Missoula Art Museum), Bob Giordano

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 5, 2013, were held for later approval.

Special Presentations: None

Committee Updates:

- Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben
 - Brief update on revisions to the Pedestrian Interference and Aggressive Solicitation ordinances with look ahead to Dec. 16 public hearing. The revisions create standard distances from doorways, automated teller machines, sidewalk cafes and other featured places where panhandling is not allowed, and they make it illegal to sit, lie or sleep on sidewalks in the Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula during business hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The revisions are aimed at improving and preserving public safety.
 - ❖ Bob Giordano stated he was saddened that it would be illegal to sit on the sidewalks in the downtown area. He does not feel this will alleviate aggressive rowdy people downtown. Mr. Giordano requested more background on the revisions, and he was referred to several people who can discuss them with him.
 - ❖ Members continued discussion of the difficult revisions and their implications for quality of life for all people using downtown and for people who have no resources and frequent downtown.
 - ❖ Michele Landquist stated that the courthouse lawn is a major public safety issue. She suggested that the county commissioners may consider different amenities or rules to change the way the public space is used and to curb offensive behavior.

- Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam, Eran Fowler Pehan, Laurie Johnson
 - Brief update on recent meeting with BID board and season end
 - ❖ Only \$1,190 was collected for the year.
 - ❖ BID suggested a brainstorming session about Real Change and a new direction for the program. The committee will plan a brainstorming event with stakeholders including MDAC members along with Business Improvement District, Missoula Downtown Association and others, for January or February.
- Built Environment – Margaret Borg
 - MAM Art Park Plaza Update with Laura Millin of the Missoula Art Museum (MAM)

The discussion was as follows:

The Art Park Plaza project is a collaboration among the Missoula Art Museum; the City of Missoula including MDAC and the Parks and Recreation Department; and Adventure Cycling. It will create an art park/sculpture garden on the north side of the art museum that includes seating, outdoor art, performance space and a Portland Loo public restroom.

- ❖ The project earned initial support in summer 2013 from the Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula, the Missoula Downtown Association and Destination Missoula.
 - ❖ The art park project will create new hardscape plaza on both sides of East Pine Street between the art museum and Adventure Cycling.
 - ❖ The City will be the construction manager of the art park. Millin and the MAM staff raised an initial \$20,000 to begin design. The steering committee recently chose SPVV Landscape Architects of Spokane after evaluating responses to an RFP. The steering committee will plan a public design charrette with SPVV to be held in late January or early February. Once the design is in place, major public fundraising will begin.
 - ❖ \$130,000 needs to be raised for the Portland Loo.
 - ❖ Nancy Rittel of the Department of Grants and Community Programs is currently working on grants for this project.
 - ❖ Currently, available space is being discussed for performances and art.
- Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick with Michael Moore
 - Update on Reaching Home: Missoula’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, first Steering Committee meeting
 - ❖ The first meeting with potential members of a new steering committee was held. Members will need to be officially appointed by the mayor and the county commissioners.
 - ❖ The purpose of the committee is to educate the public on the plan, oversee its implementation and solicit funds.

- The At-Risk Housing Coalition discussed its role in the plan's implementation at a recent meeting and will meet again in January.
- A new program brokered by Nancy Harte of the City-County Grants and Community Programs office brings \$50,000 of federal money to WORD (Women's Opportunity and Resource Development) to begin a program of first-month and last-month rent assistance. Such a program was identified as a great need during the development of the 10-year plan.

Miscellaneous business and discussion: None

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
February 4, 2014