

MISSOULA PARKING COMMISSION

Minutes

March 5, 2009

A Board of Directors' meeting was held in the Jack Reidy Conference Room, 140 W. Pine at noon. Those attending the meeting were Board members Rod Austin, Theresa Cox, John Smith, Tom Wilkins, Carol Williams and Anne Guest, Director. Also in attendance were the following: Linda McCarthy, Missoula Downtown Association; Ellen Buchanan, Director of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency; Matt Ellis, Missoula Osprey; Nancy Wilson, UM Office of Transportation; Bob Giordano, MAST; and Scott Sproull from Hide and Sole.

I. Call to Order – Tom Wilkins

The meeting was called to order by Board President – Tom Wilkins.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made.

III. Public Comments and Announcements

Nancy Wilson referred to the Downtown Master Plan (DTMP) and specifically to the statement about returning W. Broadway to four lanes. Crandall Arambula, consultants on the DTMP, state that this discussion will take place later as the community discusses specifics of the Plan. Nancy hopes that the Parking Commission will support having Broadway remain three lanes as it is currently designed.

Bob Giordano supports the three lane configuration as well and would like for it to continue to Madison Street. He has studied both configurations of lanes (3 vs 4) and has looked at the side streets. There are important dynamics influencing the two designs. He supports the public process and looks forward to having more discussion not only regarding Broadway but regarding the protected bike lanes too. All in all, he supports the Downtown Master Plan.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. February Board meeting held 2-5-09. The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Board meeting held 2-5-09.

V. Presentations

A. Downtown Master Plan – Linda McCarthy, Executive Director of the Missoula Downtown Association and Ellen Buchanan, Director of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency

Linda began a Power Point presentation of the general concept and process of the Downtown Master Plan (DTMP) and acknowledged that the Parking Commission Board of Directors participated a lot in the public process.

She went over the purpose of the DTMP and the elements of the plan with several discussion points. The process began in 2007 with a Steering Committee. A Request For Proposal was sent out to obtain a consultant. There were 36 responses, 6 were interviewed and Crandall Arambula was selected. She reviewed the make-up of the Steering Committee which represented a wide spectrum of the community.

The public visioning process occurred in 2008 involving 4 interactive workshops and approximately 2,000 participants. The Plan raised \$450,000 for the consulting services including \$25,000 from Big Sky Trust. It was a true private-public partnership. She then referred to all the financial contributors.

Linda reviewed the recommended adoption process and timeline ending with adoption by the City Council. Then she addressed the 2035 Capacity Diagram, the Fundamental Concepts, Retail Hot Stop and finally Management Strategies of the responsible parties i.e. parking rates and fines with City Council approval.

Linda then asked for the Parking Commission to approve the Downtown Master Plan. With little more discussion the following motion was made by Theresa Cox and seconded by Rod Austin: **I move that the Parking Commission show its support of the Greater Downtown Missoula Master Plan with formal adoption today and subsequent request for the Planning Board and City Council to adopt the plan. A letter of support to the Planning Board and Council will follow. The motion was passed unanimously.**

John Smith acknowledged the comments made in the Public Comments and said that he appreciated their interest in attending our Board meeting. Matt Ellis agreed that the bike lanes issues be discussed in a future public process. Tom Wilkins referred to a conversation with Phil Smith who does not support the protected bike lanes.

Draft a letter to Planning Board and to City Council stating we approved and recommend that they adopt it.

VI. Action Items

A. Downtown Master Plan - Adoption – see minutes above.

VII. Non-Action Items

A. New Business

B. Old Business

1. Front Street Parking Structure Update -

Ellen said that we have a meeting tomorrow to regroup with the First Interstate Bank. Mike Hickey has been working with Gordon Construction and CTA to look at the possibility of building parking under the Howard Building and extending it under Pattee Street to access the corner lot at Pattee and Front Streets. The Bank would pay for the land and build their own parking.

Conversations with the Holiday Inn have centered around signage and off premise signs. The current sign is located at Broadway and Pattee Streets. Rod Austin brought up the recommendation in the DTMP to eliminate all the riverfront parking. His feeling is that we would then need to build additional parking to make up for that loss in inventory.

VIII. Director's Report

A. Financial statement – None

B. Next meeting date – April 2nd (Jack Reidy Conference Room)

IX. Other Business

X. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Anne P. Guest
Director