

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes**  
**April 7, 2015**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Melinda Mason (WORD), Jason Wiener (City Council), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Caitlin Copple (City Council), Melissa Gordon (Grants), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney) and Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army)

**Commission Members Absent:** Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative), Jenny Montgomery (Montgomery Distillery), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council) and Jon Wilkins (City Council)

**Others in Attendance:** Heidi Bakula (City of Missoula) and Martin Kidston (NBC Montana)

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of March 3, 2015 were approved with corrections.

1. Public Comment - None
2. Special Presentations - None
3. Committee Updates

➤ **Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben**

Packaged Liquor Sales Project – Keithi Worthington provided the following information.

The action today is to adopt the suggested guidelines. Many of these suggestions came from local business owners. Participating businesses will receive a sticker as recognition for participating in the program. MDAC is recommending voluntary compliance for a period of six months to gauge effectiveness. After the trial period MDAC will be able to gauge if alcohol related offenses have decreased by looking at offense records from the court.

*The following guidelines will be distributed to businesses in the Business Improvement District (BID), businesses that are close to the BID that could be easily accessed by the target population, and businesses on Reserve that are currently experiencing problems.*

**1. Single-Serve Guidelines**

- a. Permanently remove from sale Steele Reserve, Colt 45 or Natural Ice in any form.
- b. Remove single serving cans over 12 oz (would cover 16 oz, 24oz and 40oz) that are 5% or higher in alcohol concentration. Also recommend that they not sell in 2-or 4-pack form.
- c. Remove from sale all bottles with a 5% alcohol content or higher that have a sales price of \$3.99 or lower.
- d. Remove from sale pint bottles of cheap vodka, whiskey, etc. (need to establish a price)

The majority of business owners do not want to adopt the single-serve guidelines since the majority of purchasers are not causing problems. They believe there will be an increase in theft and panhandling plus people can always take a bus across town to get what they want.

## 2. *No-Sell list.*

- a. *Top 15 individuals who have the most citations and negative police interactions in the last six month period. This list will be compiled using public record information from the Municipal Court, including sentencing information which includes a no-alcohol restriction and/or confirmation by Downtown Officer(s) that alcohol use is a significant contributing factor to offenses committed by the individuals on the list.*
- b. *Names, nicknames, descriptions and photos (when available) of the offenders will be provided to businesses that sell or serve alcohol, and businesses will be requested to not serve alcohol to these individuals.*
- c. *A new list will be generated every six months and sent to the cooperating businesses. If an offender has no citations in 6 months, they will be removed from the list.*

Alcohol servers must attend a mandatory state program in order to serve alcohol. One thought would be to tack on an extra half hour on to their training in order to provide information on how to respond to intoxicated people and people on the no-sell list.

If patrons of the businesses have complaints about being on the list they can be referred to Keithi or Rob Scheben. As it turns out, most businesses have generated their own no-sell list.

Ginny Merriam asked MDAC if they are interested in supporting only the no-sell list and everyone agreed that was the action they want to take. Since single-serve guidelines are not acceptable to all retailers MDAC will not pursue this – unless retailers are interested in doing it on their own.

### Next Steps

1. The pilot program for the no-sell list will begin on April 30, 2015 and end on October 30, 2015. Keithi or a volunteer will then go back to Missoula Downtown and the Business Improvement District Board and tell them what MDAC has come up with.
2. MDAC needs to decide on a name for the program. Ideas were as follows:
  - Partners for Responsible Alcohol Sales
  - Alcohol Retailers Partnership
  - Partners in Alcohol Sales Enforcement

The tentative name is the Retail Information Sharing Committee.

Follow up issue: Education – Many businesses showed an interest in training or education for their staff. Topics of interest include training on handling belligerent or intoxicated people, how to refuse service, crime hot spots within a business, safety issues for staff, etc. MDAC will explore this further.

Ideas for the program name will be taken back to the retailers; Ginny Merriam will think about logos, stickers or signs and prepare a press release. Keithi Worthington will write a one page description of the program.

Business owners also want to see the creation of an information sharing committee similar to the Loss Prevention Committee for Reserve Street businesses regarding risk awareness and crime prevention.

➤ **Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam**

Intern Proposal for University Student Education Project -

Ginny Merriam explained that they have had no luck finding an intern so the subcommittee will be getting together on Thursday, April 9, 2015 to discuss where to go from here.

➤ **Built Environment – Margaret Borg & Ginny Merriam**

Art Park Update –

Ginny Merriam stated that the subcommittee and Missoula Art Museum are almost at the fundraising stage but they recently lost their fundraising chair. The Business Improvement District is holding an open house and Ginny is going to bring the art park drawings with her to show all the attendees.

➤ **Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick**

Housing First Update from Michael Moore –

On March 26, 2015 the Missoulian published an article titled “Leaders Explore Wet Housing Options for Chronically Inebriated Homeless People.” Michael Moore explained that the League of Women Voters asked him to come to a meeting about the homeless issue which then turned to a question and answer period above and beyond what he expected. Michael spoke to them about the tiny house idea, the housing first program and wet housing in an attempt to respond to their questions. He reminded them that these were just ideas and may not come to fruition. The article in the Missoulian was taken out of context.

Jail Issues and Grants Report from Cola Rowley

Cola Rowley explained that she just found out that Missoula is a finalist for the Pay for Success grant and she will find out if Missoula is chosen on April 20, 2015.

Cola is currently working on a project to convert former County Attorney Margaret Borg’s data on jail overcrowding to a digital format for research purposes. A meeting with several elected officials will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss jail overcrowding. Other grants being considered are through the MacArthur Foundation for over incarceration. The Pay for Success grant is a financing model not a grant. Wet housing will also be discussed for jail overcrowding purposes. Emily Bentley and Cola are working with the Western Montana Mental Health Center on wet housing issues.

➤ **Updates on Other Projects**

Downtown Police Officer – No update.

Will be meeting with the Mayor and Jon Wilkins on April 17, 2015.

**4. Commission Member Comments**

Ginny Merriam asked the committee about what they would like to learn about if a Grants and Community Programs representative came to a meeting. Suggestions made were grants for housing, crime prevention and rental assistance. Also an explanation of what CDBG grants may be used for.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heidi J. Bakula  
Executive Assistant

**Date of Next Meeting**  
**Jack Reidy Conference Room**  
**May 5, 2015**