

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes
December 1, 2015**

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Melinda Mason (Children's Mental Health Bureau), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council), Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Jason Wiener (City Council)

Commission Members Absent: Andrea Marcoccio, Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center) and Tara Maus (Montgomery Distillery)

Others in Attendance: Kathleen Jenks (Municipal Court Judge), Cyndi Kennedy (Grants) and Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 3, 2015 were approved as corrected.

1. Public Comment - None
2. Discussion and reporting on work groups

- **Appointment of New MDAC Members** – Ginny Merriam and Eran Fowler Pehan

Ginny Merriam made the suggestion that the commission should come up with a process for appointing new members. If there is an interest, a few people from the commission, possibly both Eran Fowler Pehan and Bryan von Lossberg, should interview them to see if they fit in with MDAC's general mission and then recommendations for appointment can be made to the mayor.

- Eran noted that the commission should look at the current membership and determine which group in our community is not being represented.
- Ginny discussed Dana Kingfisher's and Gerri Stiffarm's interest in being appointed.
- Eran suggested someone from the hospitals and someone from Partnership Health Center.
- Jason Wiener suggested a local policy person from the county or the state might be helpful.
- Eran mentioned a health student from the university and she will contact the Dean of the School of Health.
- Judge Kathleen Jenks asked to be appointed.
- Eran suggested Tara Callahan from St. Pats Hospital who works in the preventative care area.
- Mel Mason suggested Sue Englert from Community Hospital.

- **Additional sworn police officer dedicated to downtown** – Group Leader: Dan Cederberg
- Nothing new to report.

- **Crisis/drop-in/warming center/detox center with staff** – Group Leader: Michael Moore

Michael Moore met with community members about possible ideas for a long term or short term drop-in centers. Loreen Hamilton of the Salvation Army talked to Michael about a short term drop in center; however staffing will be an issue. Michael also looked at the fairgrounds for a drop-in/warming center and spoke with Catholic Charities (CC) of Spokane about their interest in setting up a shelter/drop-in center in Missoula. CC would come in with their own money to set up a place in Missoula for a possible

night shelter with an unlimited stay. They could house people overnight and it would run under a senior resident model and the residents act as their own security. Michael wants to go to Spokane and visit with folks from Sacred Heart Hospital.

This type of model would be helpful to police officers as well since they could drop off people late at night that needed shelter. A facility in Missoula would be fairly small but could be a 24 hour shelter.

- Eran was asked how the cold is currently affecting the Poverello Center. She said they currently had 150 people, 120 were general population and the rest were veterans – during really inclement weather, the majority of staff's evening is spent removing intoxicated people from the shelter. Hospitals get many folks this time of year who are faking symptoms to get out of the cold.

Jason suggested that just having a winter shelter would set the wrong precedent. Eran said that they need to figure something out in order to have public buy-in and support for a permanent, year round shelter.

- **Economic impact of indigence** – Group Leader: Keithi Worthington
 - Nothing new to report.
- **Advocacy and Education Committee / Dog Licensing / Parking Meter Repurposing** – Group
 - Dog Licensing – Nothing new to report.
 - Advocacy and Education – The work group will be meeting in December and will report in January.
- **Alcohol retail sales reduction** – Co-group Leaders: Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben
 - Will hold a meeting before the holidays.
 - Billings recently passed a law banning single serve alcohol sales. MDAC should continue to pursue this in Missoula.
 - Kathleen Jenks would like to revive the no sell list to be distributed to retailers and possibly create alcohol districts.
 - Eran said retail is driven by sales and several retailers flat out refuse to participate and that's why MDAC should pursue over service of alcohol complaints. The highest sales tend to be in the mornings and the afternoon in large volumes.

3. Comments from Board Members

Michael stated that it would be good to have a contact at the Western Montana Mental Health Center (WMMHC) for the Medicaid expansion program. Tamara Knotts could possibly come to the group and talk about Medicaid expansion and detox. WMMHC is ready to offer a few detox beds.

Eran said that Travis Mateer is leaving the Homeless Outreach Team and the Poverello Center in late February

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room, January 5, 2015