

# Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission

## Minutes ~ October 4, 2011

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Rod Austin (Downtown BID), Margaret Borg (Attorney), Barbara Berens (County Auditor), Eran Fowler (Poverello Center), Laurie Johnson (Downtown BID), Melinda Mason (WMMHC), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Leanne Vreeland (St. Patrick's Hospital), Jason Wiener (City Council)

**Commission Members Absent:** Brenda Desmond (District Court), Melissa Gordon (OPG), Leslie Halligan (County Attorney), Julie Hilley (Owner, MKLauren), David Pierce (Salvation Army), Vacant (Food Bank), Keenan Whitt (homeWORD), Dave Strohmaier (City Council), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney)

**Others In Attendance:** Melani Coyle, Commission Secretary

**Introductions and Welcome:** Ginny Merriam called the meeting to order.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** September minutes were approved

**Committee Updates:**

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

#### **Update from subcommittee meeting on September 27**

The committee met and discussed if it would recommend tweaking the ordinances to include jail time. The committee decided against that as the numbers from 2010 to 2011 have steadily declined in every ordinance. The behaviors seem to be changing, and the committee decided "why fix something that is working". If the ordinances are reopened, there will be questions about it that have arose since they were passed . It is better to leave them alone

Officers are dedicated to their area and are very specific when speaking to citizens. The downtown BID officers wrote 240 tickets and the bike officers/walking police wrote 250 tickets. Below are the numbers of tickets written for ordinances:

<u>Ordinance</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
• Soliciting from highway (state ordinance)	92	131
• Soliciting from roadway (city ordinance)	119	159
• Aggressive panhandling	14	2
• Pedestrian Interference	69	114

The Housing Outreach Teams (HOT) have been very important with interacting with the chronically homeless. They will be looking for funding to continue. The Downtown Foundation (BID & MDA) are working on grant funding, and this is one of the programs they will be working on for funding. Requests for funds from city and county budgets need to be discussed in January, when they start the budgeting process. Commissioner Landquist and OPG have been very supportive of funding for the HOT teams. Other cities fund their HOT teams with partnerships with human service providers, city government and hospitals. They will begin an education outreach to St. Pats and others so organizations are aware of what they do.

The Police Department is waiting on a grant they submitted to be able to continue to fund the downtown officer. The BID and Parking Commission are committed to their portion of the funding. The City portion is 50 percent and will have to be discussed during the next budget session.

The committee discussed things they should work on in the future. One thing is the misdemeanor probation program. Once the Judge is back fulltime, they will meet with him and the Court Administrator about the program. Sue Wilkins met with Mayor Engen and Ginny regarding the misdemeanor probation program she administers. There could be more than one option. Community service is a good option. It is not bad to give officers the option of writing a ticket vs. going to jail in the case of a person being dangerous to the safety of the citizens. Margaret said she would vote against jail time. Rod said he would vote no to jail time as long as the numbers continue to decrease. There has been good feedback from business owners. Caution needs to be exercised as this is only one year's number. There needs to be another year's number to be able to compare them.

St. Patrick's Hospital didn't see a change of impact with the HOT teams. They didn't know about the program and they are now looking at stats to see if there is a change. Education to the hospitals and MESI would be good. They need to know that they are not seeing everyone because the HOT teams are running interference.

#### ***Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam***

##### **\*Discussion of Real Change season wrap-up promotional events**

The wrap-up media event for the promotion received good television coverage. Rod was great as the emcee and Travis did a great job for the HOT team. The donor is happy with the outcome of this year's promotion. It raised \$13,000 of which \$10,000 is the donation from the foundation.

The Real Change committee will work on funding through the winter. The Mosley's like to see a mix of funding. Public education is very important.

An event fundraiser was discussed. The fundraising luncheon's that organizations have are successful. There are table captains who invite others to sit at their table. The event has to drip with the mission, show a video, etc. An envelope is then passed around for donations. St. Pat's was suggested for location and catering. A raffle was discussed, but no specific item was determined.

#### ***Infrastructure***

No Update

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

There are two public hearings for the 10-Year Plan. Thursday, Oct 6 at 1:30 and Thursday, Oct 13 at 6:00, both in Council Chambers. There was a detailed questionnaire that went to over 100 people and organizations, which are being compiled at the United Way. The public meetings will be a place to elaborate on responses to the questionnaire. Jason is the chair for the meetings. Members of the working group want to hear from as many people as possible. They are hopeful that people will listen to one another and be respectful. There will be an opinion page in the Missoula from the Mayor and Jean Curtiss.

#### **Miscellaneous business and discussion**

Respectfully Submitted

Melani Coyle

**Date of Next Meeting  
Jack Reidy Conference Room  
November 3, 2011**