

Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 3pm
at the DMP Office (218 E. Main) and on Zoom

Present: Ellen Buchanan, Carma Gilligan, Karen Sippy, and Scott Stearns (presiding)

Absent: Charlie Beaton, Dan Cederberg, Dr. Jim McKay

Guests: Jill Bonny, Aaron Wilson

Staff: Linda McCarthy, Brandon Dewey, Jack Hall

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Stearns at 3:10pm.

Overview of Poverello Center Projects and Programs: Jill Bonny introduced herself and reviewed recent happenings and programs at the Poverello Center. The capacity at the main shelter on Broadway is currently 130 of 150 beds. They are seeing numbers at or close to capacity for the winter. The winter shelter on Johnson Street sleeps up to 165 individuals. Last year, this shelter slept an average of 70/night. This year they are seeing 120 consecutive night stays.

Jill explained that the Johnson Shelter is a low entry barrier, compared to the Broadway shelter. They do not require check-in times and conditions are different. 1-2 hot meals are provided daily. Jill noted that food supply is challenging in this area. The Johnson shelter will close in April. The winter shelter is necessary annually if we cannot offer additional year rounds space. The Johnson shelter costs \$800k every six months to staff and operate.

Jill reported that without the Crisis Services Levy, future plans are somewhat unknown. Collaboration is happening with the city to try to fund some level of services.

Jill shared more about the Community Care Team, which is based out of Partnership Health Center and takes treatment to the streets for some medical services. This group does some housing navigation work and there is working being done to get people housed in the new Trinity Apartments.

The board held a discussion about the presence of the Dedicated Downtown Police Officer (DDPO) and the use of BID resources. Jill shared that she felt the DDPO is a great service and the best success was experienced when the DDPO could build rapport with clientele in the community. The City's hiring of security services for the area has changed patterns with issues.

Jill discussed the Homeless Outreach Team which provides services for those who are shelter resistant. This program has a huge relationship-building piece and is an educational component in the community. There are five members on the team, with ARPA funding helping to expand the program.

Jill also reported on plans for the Clark Fork Motel. The Poverello Center will move its veteran housing program into this building in the next year. Federal funding and State CDBG helped make the project possible.

Jill shared that other states have the ability to bill Medicaid for medical respite programs. Montana does not allow that. There is now a coalition for homelessness and they are working at the state level to lobby and change policy. HB 380 would allow shelters to apply for funding to support their programs. They are also working on an amendment HB 5 to change some appropriations of up to \$5.0M.

The board held a discussion about homelessness in other communities and data improvement. Jill reported that ATG is building a database pro-bono for the Poverello Center to use.

Jill explained more about the Authorized Camping Site and Temporary Safe Outdoor Space. She noted that 400 housing units are expected to be available in the city over the next year.

When asked about the long-term outlook, Jill noted that programs grew and expanded with COVID money. They now have to pivot to sustaining a level of service and deciding what stays and gets cut if funding is not available.

Jill noted that the Poverello Center has been here for 49 years.

The board thanked Jill for attending the meeting and sharing the information that she provided in the discussion.

Request For \$40,000 for RAISE Grant Match: Higgins, Front & Main, NRSP&T Projects: Buchanan briefly introduced the item and shared her philosophy of using BID funds for Master Plan Implementation.

Aaron Wilson provided an overview of the project and what it means for Downtown Missoula. The advantages and strategies for the RAISE grant were discussed. Aaron explained that there are a lot of competing projects that could potentially get funding, however, this project pulls together goals for the entire community. Many of the Downtown projects are shovel-ready.

Aaron reported that the project is expected to cost approximately \$25M. Construction would not likely happen until 2025. There is no grant match requirement, however, it is believed that community commitment and some match will help the success of an application.

Other partners include Parks & Recreation with at least \$100,000, MRA has committed \$1.0 Million, and \$10,000 has been committed from the Missoula Downtown Foundation.

Sippy moved to approve \$40,000 from the Master Planning Funds to match the grant. Buchanan seconded the motion.

A lengthy discussion about process and budgeting and fiscal year crossover ensued. The board agreed that the funds could be committed without specificity of the fiscal year that they would be expended, as it could be budgeted for in subsequent fiscal years if not in the current year.

Stearns called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

The board held a brief discussion about federal advocacy and supporting documentation for the grant.

Approval of Minutes: Stearns called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January board meeting.

Sippy moved to approve the January minutes. Gilligan seconded the motion. In discussion, Stearns noted “urban removal” under Goal Setting should read urban renewal. There were no objections to the edit.

Stearns called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Non-Action Items: McCarthy updated the board on a couple of items of importance:

- 1) Survey link: Board members were reminded to please fill out the survey that was previously emailed out.
- 2) We need to think about the annual ratepayer meeting details such as the date and possible program.

Hall shared that recycling containers are ordered.

The remaining business was postponed to the next regular meeting due to weather and deteriorating travel conditions.

Buchanan moved to adjourn. Sippy seconded the motion. Stearns called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30pm.