

**Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

**Present:** Tim France, Alan Newell, Carma Gilligan, Ellen Buchanan, Craig Aasved

**Absent:** Charlie Beaton

**Staff:** Noreen Humes, Robert Giblin, Tom Aldrich, Linda McCarthy

### **Meeting Commencement & Introduction of Guests and Public Comment**

Ben Weiss (Director) and intern Kevin Nelson (intern) of The Missoula Bicycle/Pedestrian Program (BikePed) gave introductions.

### **Presentation on Bicycle Parking**

Weiss gave background on the program. 30-60 new bike racks are installed Downtown on a yearly basis. Requests are continuous, thus the BikePed office has researched and inventoried the various parking zones throughout Downtown. Using Nelson's GIS talents, the inventory and mapping has been complete. The maps were shown. The first shows rack capacities at various locations within the BID boundaries, showing 255 locations and a capacity of 1382 bikes. The second map showed the conditions of each rack rated on a good-fair-poor scale. The final map showed the bike racks compared to the minimum Title 20 requirements for bike rack design: meeting, exceeding or not meeting code. Inappropriate parking takes place in areas not to code owing to the lack of adequate racks. Title 20 is married to the car parking requirement insofar as one short term bike space should be allocated per 10 car parking spaces. Often one bike rack easily fulfills that requirement. The Hip Strip exceeds the required bike racks per the code, yet lacks them for actual use given the cycling culture in the area. Weiss spoke to efficiency in rack design. Typically, simpler and smaller racks are more effective. Weiss encouraged board members to provide feedback to his office, especially requests for racks in front of businesses. The cost is shared. The racks are made locally and cost roughly \$100 total. The BikePed office also installs them and makes sure all ordinances and regulations are met. Non-profit organizations and government agencies are provided the racks for free. Weiss fielded general questions about bicycles in Missoula. Abandoned bikes can be tagged and removed courtesy of the BikePed office. Weiss added the old parking meters, scheduled to be removed when the new system is implemented, can easily be converted to bike parking. Buchanan suggested new racks should be powder coated black to match the aesthetic of Downtown, with retrofitting potentially being funded by the BID.

### **Approval of March Board Minutes**

**Aasved moved to approve the March minutes as presented. Buchanan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### **Finance Committee Report**

Giblin presented, discussing the contributions to the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and the Real Change programs. The effectiveness of Real Change marketing was brought into question, and it was suggested a portion of that funding should be allocated to the HOT Team. One new idea for Real Change is a small number of banners placed Downtown. Another is an educational approach, targeted towards the student population. Were some funds rechanneled, the HOT Team would be tied into the Real Change program. Removal of the collection jars has also been discussed, given the time and financial commitment they command not being justified by their income. The Finance Committee will meet with the Real Change committee to brainstorm. The BID's commitment to the HOT Team is a high priority.

### **Project Updates**

**Wayfinding-** Buchanan reported the Wayfinding's current priority is putting together bid documents. The challenge is scheduling implementation in a coherent flow with patchwork funding. Some phases are already funded but others are

not. It would be best to have a single fabricator and installer. The Downtown piece is largely funded thanks to the BID, MDA, and TBID.

**Front & Main Conversion-** Buchanan spoke to the Front & Main conversion, detailing funding and building phases. The cost has risen since the initial proposal from WGM group in 2003. Cost effectiveness for phasing the project is being assessed. The impact for such a conversion is akin to building an entire new street. Parking impacts are also being assessed.

**Sidewalk Dining Update-** Humes attended City Council the previous night and reported. City Council passed the ordinance with three amendments. They included: 1. Violation does not entail jail time. 2. Allows restaurant owners to store outdoor furniture outside if it doesn't impede walkways. 3. Barrier definitions will allow boundaries to be demarcated on the corners only if desired.

Smoking was also discussed as a piece of the ordinance. It was left out. People can smoke within sidewalk dining areas at the discretion of the bar owners. The compromise in the ordinance, regarding sidewalk width, says five feet is the minimum width to allow sidewalk dining.

### **Mission Reports: Clean, Safe, Business Development, Master Plan**

- McCarthy reported the Clean Team will begin working on mulching/flower bed work the following week. Private property owners seem to be removing graffiti from their buildings. McCarthy has reached out to Chief Brady regarding stats and heard nothing.
- Cederberg reported new information taken from his meeting with Missoula Police. There will be no new police officer for Downtown this year. However, there will be community resource officers (CROs), who are essentially uniformed patrol with only radios and pepper spray. Two School Resource Officers (SROs) will be assigned to Downtown with staggered schedules. The CROs will remain assigned to parks and trails. Regarding the policing contract, Cederberg recommended moving forward with the additional funding. First, assessment of the cost of a 10-year officer should be assessed with Chief Brady, per Laurie Johnson's recommendation. Roy is a 15-year officer while others have been more novice, so 10 years seems like a good mean. The priority is to maintain Officer Roy.

### **Ratepayer Reception Review**

The reception was well reviewed and the casual structure was well-liked. Attendance was low but there were a few new faces. Buchanan suggested the BID must be doing a good job if no one is coming out to complain. The reception was less costly than the previous year. The parking presentations were well attended. The surveys were circulated. Filling vacant storefronts, addressing transient problems, and safety were high priorities. The open structure allowed more mingling among property owners. Badlander catering didn't charge for their service and will receive a formal thank you.

### **Play It Missoula Update**

Humes presented. Covering structures are being researched. The debut of the pianos has been postponed until June with the exception of one as a prototype to test covering. Humes is sorting out funding for the project. One covering idea is re-using old Caras Park Equipment, such as the old walls or party tents. Hume encouraged attendance at the galleries where the pianos are being painted.

### **Barbara Wold Update**

Humes reported on the Barbara Wold event planning. Flyers have been distributed thoroughly, online registration is ready, and a press release will go out later in the week.

### **Next BID Board Meeting Tuesday, May 19: Montana Special Olympics BBQ**

The May 19 BID Board Meeting will take place at 1 pm due to the Montana Special Olympics Barbecue.

## Announcements & New Business

- Cederberg spoke to the lawsuit filed by Midnite Development, naming the BID as a defendant. The suit claims work on the 2010 North Higgins Improvements Project caused cracks in the marble on the building face. Filed several years ago, it was assumed the suit would be settled with other parties. Cederberg stated that in his opinion the suit held little merit regarding the BID because the BID had no involvement in any part of the project that might have resulted in the alleged damages. Cederberg suggested no further action was needed by the BID at this time. The issue has been turned over to an insurance carrier.
- McCarthy will forward the appropriate documents to the city regarding the expansion of the BID into the West Broadway corridor.

*The meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.*

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