

**Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 3 pm at the DMP Office (218 E. Main St.)**

**All Present:** Karen Sippy, Dan Cederberg, Carma Gilligan, Charlie Beaton, Ellen Buchanan

**Absent:** Scott Stearns, Dr. James McKay

**Staff:** Linda McCarthy, Jack Hall, Bram Moore, Kristen Sackett

**Guest:** Officer Jay Gillhouse

The meeting was called to order by President Beaton at 3:08pm.

**Overview of Summer Season by Officer Jay Gillhouse:** Gillhouse gave an overview of how the summer went for him and from his perspective things got very busy. Most of the issues he dealt with was dealing with homelessness. His goal is to minimize the negative impact that they may have. Gillhouse said there have been both wins and challenges along the way. He has been working with the Missoula courts to see how we should be dealing with different people. He is not sure what kind of citations he should be writing. Gillhouse is trying to build bridges with people who want to be helped out. It became very busy with people that did not want help but we cannot just ignore those people. The 200 block of Ryman became a popular place for people to hang out. It then became too much of a problem and a health issue (urination, defecation). People were sleeping there a lot and the idea of power washing the sidewalk every other week has helped out. It's becoming clean and people are not sleeping there as much. Gillhouse said that in the past he would be spending most of his time at the Poverello Center but the Chief of Police has changed how it manages him and is not needed as much there. He has been working with Parks & Recreation and doing some major cleanups around the river front parks. Once these cleanups are scheduled, the Hot Team and Mobile Support Team are alerted. Gillhouse will also come in early in the morning and move people along. It hasn't been too hard to keep people moving and cleanliness has been a lot better. Gillhouse explained that he has been working closely with social workers and the Mobile Support Team. Theft, property destruction and violence against people has gone down drastically. He is very rarely dealing with property crimes or violent crimes. He is mostly seeing public intoxication and he tries to just move those people along as best he can. Missoula is lacking some resources to deal with many issues. There are no treatment centers in Missoula who could help with detox. People are going in and out of the hospital but what they need is a treatment center where people can medically detox. Gillhouse represents CIT Montana and at the end of August he represented Missoula at the national conference in Pittsburgh. People are coming together across the world to share ideas in how to deal with the mental illness crisis. The winter shelter will open again in November. Sippy said that she has heard that the Bitterroot Trail has been affected by homelessness recently and people aren't using the trail as much. Specifically, Sippy has heard that the MRL Park has been affected. Gillhouse said that for the most part it's the same people causing the issues all over town. They have just moved to another area. The Temporary Safe Outdoor Space (TSOS) is moving near the Missoula jail. TSOS is going really well because they have rules and requirements to use the space. One thing Missoula needs is a facility that doesn't turn people away. Discussion ensued about a program that would send repeat offenders to jail and treatment centers. Missoula doesn't do this for several reasons but one is that we do not have those types of facilities and the other is that Missoula judges will not give jail time for City Ordinance violations. Cederberg asked if a program to subsidize cameras for businesses would be helpful? Gillhouse thinks it would be but you would have to invest in high quality cameras to catch who is responsible. Gillhouse gave an update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Downtown Police Officer position. They have started a shift bidding program to try to reopen the position. The police department will reopen the position in October. The Chief of Police will appoint someone to the position if no one applies for the position. The position carries a reputation as only

dealing with homelessness, substance abuse and mental illness. Most officers do not want to deal with those kinds of problems.

**Approval of Minutes:** Cederberg moved to approve July Minutes. Sippy seconded and the July Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Financial Review:** Hall said that we have \$190,000 in different accounts. There have been a couple expensive months but mainly its payroll, MEP contract and Homeless Outreach contract. Tax assessments came in for the amount of \$4,109. There is nothing out of the ordinary right now. The rent and utilities have been made for July and August. Insurance is just a twice a year payment for Maintenance. The Clean Team contract was a little more expensive. Hall went over the BID Cash Flow and said it was a little under where we should be. Gilligan asked what the \$100 expense was for? Hall said that was for a bus ticket to get a homeless person home.

**Discussion on Engaging Dover, Kohl for Underbridge Playground Design:** McCarthy explained we have a subcommittee to help design the underbridge of Beartracks Bridge. The committee just doesn't have the resources to make a design for the project. Many ideas have been talked about but we don't know how to put those ideas to paper. Dover Kohl helped with the Master Plan and North Riverside plan. We have no idea how much it would cost at this point. McCarthy added we can't really go for grants because we only have concepts. Buchanan said we should talk to Dover Kohl and see how much it would be to come up with a conceptual design. Discussion ensued about what is happening with Payne Block and if Dover Kohl will take part in the planning. Beaton said that we should have a conversation with Dover Kohl at least.

**Discussion on Recycling Containers & Expansion:** McCarthy said Leigh Ratterman came to her and said that they have come up with funding to purchase some recycling containers and have figured where they want them to be placed. The BID would most likely be the ones maintaining and placing the cans where they should go. Buchanan said that we need to see what the containers look like. Beaton brought up that we need to do something with the one's we have now. They don't look great and the signage is outdated. Beaton said that we should have Ratterman send them some more information and we can have a separate committee meeting.

### **Mission Work: Clean, Safe, & Economic Vitality:**

- **Downtown Master Plan Updates:** Buchanan said that there is a lot going on Downtown. We are trying to keep the group involved. Front and Main conversion project may have another public input session. It will take several more months before it gets done. The other question is when will the bridge be done. We do not have an answer for that. We did finish up the Caras Park project and we had a dedication ceremony.
- **Planning & Project Updates:** Discussion ensued on what is happening with the substation project.

### **Partner Updates: MDA & MDF**

- **MDA Marketing & Promotions:** Sackett went over what the Marketing Committee has been working on. She has been working with the Pintler Group to help with marketing. She showed the video for the DMP made to show people what we do. During the summer we try to get people Downtown through our summer event series. We had over 36,000 people get on our website from June through August which is about a 3.6% more than last year. The bulk of our traffic is in the summer time months. Sackett said we used a lot of paid advertisement to get people to see what we are doing Downtown and to get people Downtown. She said that Out to Lunch and Downtown ToNight were huge successes. We saw a lot more people come out. We made money on both events. She said that we put most our money in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for holiday events. We are going to use the Put Your Money Where Your Heart Is marketing slogan again for the holiday season. The Parking Commission will be allowing free parking Downtown for Black Friday. We will start pushing gift cards. McCarthy added that we are also updating the DT Guide.
- **MDF Fundraising Campaign:** McCarthy announced that the MDF has taken on a \$1 million campaign and that more details will be coming about that.

**President Beaton adjourned the meeting at 5:07pm**