

Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at the DMP Office (218 East Main)

Present: Tim France, Carma Gilligan, Charlie Beaton, Dan Cederberg, Ellen Buchanan

Absent: Scott Stearns and Kirk Bodlovic

Staff: Linda McCarthy, John Corwin, Robert Giblin & Bram Moore

President France called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

Approval of June Minutes: Giblin asked to change that we have 6.5 million square feet in the district on second sentence on Update on BID Renewal from the June BID Board Meeting. Beaton motioned to approve, France seconded and all approved.

Financial Review: Giblin stated that our cash position is currently at \$144,532 in the bank. This is up from a small amount from last year. The negative from police office revenue is from waiting on payment from the Missoula Parking Commission and the negative expense from homeless outreach comes from the BID still needing to pay out. Giblin added that we are in good financial shape. Buchanan asked if we will get our new taxable values soon. Giblin answered that these usually come in early September.

Downtown Master Plan & September Adoption: McCarthy stated that we are getting ready to post the schedule for Dover Kohl & Partners visit on the Master Plan website. We will have a special meeting for the MDA and MDF boards to adopt plan. Dover Kohl will be pack in town the week of September 17 – 20. The City Council and County Commissioners will hopefully adopt plan in October. Invitations will be sent out to people who are needed at specific meetings. McCarthy added that around fifty comments came in during the public comment time period. Many of those comments were about the flood plain near Wyoming Street. The plan has been adapted to show that. Other comments were about how the plan would be paid for once adopted as well as if taxes will be going up. McCarthy is hoping that the adoption will go smoothly. France asked to explain who the Blue Ribbon Committee is and McCarthy said that is will be led by Donna Gaukler and will act like a fundraising committee. The Blue Ribbon Committee will take a deeper dive on parks from the California Street Bridge to Missoula College. McCarthy added that we should reach out to the people who are worried about the river protection.

BID Renewal: Corwin stated that we currently have 65% of BID Renewal Petitions returned and signed. Technically we reached our minimum of 60%. Last Friday (8/16), all but a dozen were mailed out to the property owners who had not been reached yet. BID Renewal will go to council in October. Mid-September will we be doing more outreach. There will be a three-week public protest period after it goes through council.

Holiday Décor: Dr. Steve Kimpel gave BID a \$10,000 donation for holiday décor. He is concerned that our holiday decorations were not looking good because of the construction with the Residence Inn building. The same problem may occur because of the new Radius Gallery building being built on Higgins. There could also be problem with the Higgins Bridge being under construction. Dr. Kimpel would like to talk to BID about that issue as well as wrapping lights around trees and elevating our holiday décor downtown. He would probably give time and money for this project. McCarthy added that this is why we have a street décor committee. McCarthy would like to explore the idea of having string lights around the trees and elevate the look of holiday décor Downtown. Buchanan thought it would be a good thing to get messaging out to the public about how Downtown is progressing and how changes are taking place. Giblin asked if BID should pay for all the lights or could this be a partnership with businesses and property owners. Beaton is not sure if this is realistic for the 2019 holiday season. Buchanan thinks we should meet with Dr. Kimpel to see what his vision for holiday décor Downtown is. The flower bed at the corner of Higgins and Broadway has become a problem. People

really like the aesthetic part of the corner with the flowers but water is not available and the street vendor has left as well. Panhandling has also picked up there since the flowers were removed and the vendor has stopped being on that corner.

Mission Updates: McCarthy stated that there has been much more garbage Downtown since college has resumed. The owner of the Studio Pandora thinks this may be the worst year for panhandling. Beaton thinks that he has seen much more people with mental illness this summer than panhandling. Many more transients were in town around August 1. McCarthy added that Officer Krastel is typically working from 5am-3pm Tuesday through Saturday. She also informed that the Levasseur Street townhouses has a big area covered in graffiti and we cannot take it off. If we use a power washer, it is feared that all the paint will come completely off.

Partner Updates: MDA, MDF & DMP: McCarthy updated the board that the MDA is down to the last two weeks of Out to Lunch and Downtown ToNight and that the River City Roots Festival will be taking place this weekend. We have recently partnered with ROAM and brought over coffee and bagels for the residence. There is a 70% occupancy at ROAM. Planning for holiday events will begin in September. The Unseen Missoula tours will be adding a tour on North Higgins this fall and there will also be someone off tours for Missoula music history during the River City Roots Festival. They are hoping to also get a one-off tour during Halloween. McCarthy added that the strategic planning session will take place Wednesday, October 30 at Stockman Bank and Colleen Rudio is facilitator. The Montana Downtown Conference is taking place October 23 – 25. A majority of attendees so far are from out of town.

New Business: Gilligan asked if we are going to get involved in electric scooters. Buchanan said that the city council has stopped that conversation and it has been put in moratorium.

France adjourned the meeting at 4:42 pm.