

**Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, July 21, 2015 from 2-5 pm at the DMP Office**

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

**Absent:** Alan Newell, Robert Giblin

**Staff:** Linda McCarthy, Noreen Humes, Leidy Wagener

**MEETING COMMENCEMENT & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Laura Millin (Missoula Art Museum), Margaret Bjorg, Jim Sayer (Adventure Cycling) were introduced. Sayer distributed save the date cards for Adventure Cycling's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Wagener was introduced as Operations Coordinator.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**MAM Art Park Update and Request for Funding**

Millin reported that promotion and fundraising are underway and asked for the endorsement of the BID as well as possible funding from BID. Millin presented the principal changes to design of the Art Park and showed a visual rendering of the proposed park. They are at the engineering stage now will soon have construction documents with the goal of starting construction in March 2016. Parking modifications were discussed, and Millin gave an overview of the substitute parking spaces found within a four-block radius. Parks & Recreation and the Missoula Police Department were also consulted on the design of the park. Millin reported the redesign included many positive improvements and that they are pleased with the result. When asked, Millin reported the total budget is around \$570,000, which may change after consulting with engineers. Consultations with all parties involved are ongoing. When asked about impact that construction will have on the People's Market, Millin noted the Market start date may be changed due to construction, but noted communication with Market representatives will continue as the project moves forward. Buchanan asked about status of fundraising, and Millin reported that with the city's contribution and grants already raised, they are just under \$300,000. CIP, TIIP, and DNRC grants were some of the contributors. Discussion ensued regarding other smaller grants and project details. Buchanan asked about launch of public fundraising campaign, this will hopefully happen this fall or winter. France inquired about the specific amount MAM was seeking from the BID, and Millin noted she was open to any amount the BID would be willing to contribute. Discussion ensued, and McCarthy suggested the request be referred to the BID Finance Committee for a final recommendation to be voted on at the next BID Board Meeting.

**Buchanan moved to formally endorse the Missoula Art Park, Beaton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES**

Gilligan ensured that proposed changes were made to minutes.

**Cederberg moved to approve the May minutes. Gilligan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### **REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO ATTEND IDA CONFERENCE SEPT 30 - OCT 3**

McCarthy presented a proposal to attend the International Downtown Association conference in San Francisco, which will cost \$2,000 from the Business Development budget. Kristen will also attend, paid for by MDA.

Noreen and Topher will attend the Montana Downtown Conference.

**Buchanan moved to approve the funding for the trip. Aasved seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### **NON-ACTION ITEMS**

#### **UPDATE ON 218 E. MAIN STREET**

McCarthy gave an update on the Missoula Downtown Association (MDA) partnering with Bitterroot Valley Bank (BVB) to purchase the building, noting the bank closed on the property on July 15. McCarthy presented details on the agreement and what the MDA's investment will be. The MDA/BID agreement will be revisited at the end of the year. Discussion ensued. Cederberg was lauded as being the facilitator of the partnership between the MDA and BVB. Buchanan inquired about MDF's ability to contribute to overview; that contract will be reviewed this fall.

#### **UPDATE ON MAYOR'S DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MDAC)**

Cederberg reported that MDAC had a teleconference with representatives FROM Billings, Montana about wet housing and detox programming. Billings has about 70 repeat offenders who are participating in the detox program, noting after the fifth criminal offense, individuals are required to serve 90 days in jail. Cederberg invited the board to meet with MDAC regarding the potential of developing a similar program in Missoula. McCarthy asked about the role of the Billings BID in their program and what the Missoula BID's role would be in such a program. Money will be needed to build the detox center. Cederberg also reported on the No Sell List and the problems that came up before the launch of that program. Efforts toward implementing the program are ongoing.

**FINANCE REPORT** - McCarthy presented in the absence of Giblin and Newell. There is approximately \$45,000 carryover on unspent funds from last year. The quarterly payment to the Downtown Partnership was made after July 1. France brought up Master Plan funding going to Missoula Art Park, and discussion ensued. McCarthy asked if the BID wants to fund fiscal projects on the ground. Discussion ensued about allocating funds towards the Art Park, including potential amounts, where the funds would come from, and the potential to spread the contribution over two budgets (FY 2015 & FY 2016).

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

**Playing Pianos:** Humes presented on new covers for pianos, one cover is up and the other two are currently being made. Beaton reported that Roxy location is very popular. Humes asked if people are playing with the covers on. Feedback on covers was generally positive. A sign to indicate that pianos can be played with covers was suggested. A piano will be at the Western Montana Fair. MDF is discussing a piano donor party at the October First Friday. Humes is coordinating storage of pianos for winter and also piano donations (seven individuals want to donate pianos to the program). Gilligan asked about how the Poker Tournament fundraiser went, and Humes said it was a success despite beautiful spring weather that likely had a negative impact on attendance. The tournament will continue as an annual event.

France noted that businesses on North Higgins have very busy this summer and that events are a major contributor.

**Riverfront Triangle:** McCarthy presented on the rollout of the Riverfront Triangle last month. Feedback was positive, but public involvement needs to be determined. Gilligan expressed concerns about parking, which is proposed to be underground. Aasved reported on St. Patrick Hospital's involvement in the project and on its current projects in the area. The timeline for construction is unknown, but everyone involved in the Riverfront Triangle study was pleased with the proposed project, especially as it relates to the number of goals in the Downtown Master Plan that will be accomplished with this project.

#### **MISSION REPORTS**

**CLEAN:** BID is acquiring two new recycling containers from Community Medical Center. Graffiti on rooftops has increased, but is not being pursued due to safety issues regarding rooftop work.

**SAFE:** Ambassador Statistics were distributed with the board packets. Discussion was had around the downtown police officer, scheduling and communications. Communication improvements were discussed and needed.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:** McCarthy reported on new businesses openings in downtown, noting lots of movement and developments happening. She referenced a couple of meetings with developers, some new parcels that have been recently listed and new business openings. When asked, the sidewalk dining ordinance is working and many businesses have implemented sidewalk dining areas.

**MASTER PLAN:** McCarthy reported that next project is the Higgins Bridge renovation, a meeting is set with MDT regarding bike and pedestrian improvements. One complaint was filed about Front & Main conversion. Lots of new projects are breaking ground and underway right now.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEW BUSINESS**

Cederberg noted the Montana Department of Revenue's recent appraisals and wondered if others had received their notices of valuation. He wondered how to use them as a way to measure BID success. Discussion ensued regarding measuring success with annual appraisals.

Humes reported on database restructuring and how it could be used for this purpose.

*The meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.*