

**Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 21, 2014**

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

**Absent:** Alan Newell, Charlie Beaton

**Staff:** Linda McCarthy, Noreen Humes, Laurie Johnson, Brent Dobak

**The meeting commenced at 3:05 pm with Introduction of Guests**

- Bill Wyckman, Downtown Property Owner
- Mike Brady, Missoula City Police Chief
- Andy Roy, Missoula City Police
- Caitlin Cople, Missoula City Council Member Ward 3
- Martin Kidston, Missoulian Reporter

**MAM Art Park Viewpoint: Guest Bill Wyckman**

Bill Wyckman owns the property to the west of the MAM that borders Higgins Ave. and Pine Street, and he leases the parking lot just east of and behind his building. His concerns about the proposed MAM Art Park centers around the loss of 17 on-street parking spaces and the restriction of traffic flow on East Pine Street. He distributed a list of 23 downtown business owners who agree with his concerns. Discussion ensued about the various ways folks access downtown, the divergent priorities of parking vs. walking, the focus on creating a more walkable city center, and how perceptions of where and how consumers park are different. It was mentioned that a parking structure north of Broadway would be helpful to businesses, customers and employees in this area of Downtown Missoula. Wyckman suggested MAM use the boulevards for the display of sculpture, rather taking parking spaces away from the public for this purpose. Wyckman noted his support for the public restroom but encouraged the BID Board to not support the MAM Art Park in its current form.

**Overview on Broadband Study & Next Steps: Guest Caitlin Cople**

Councilwoman Cople gave a presentation on the recently-completed broadband study commissioned by BREDD (Bitterroot Economic Development District) and the City's focus on broadband that began in 2012 in order to add capacity to the work of MEP. The study indicates Missoula has a gap in broadband services that is impeding its ability to compete with other communities who have public access to broadband services. According to the study, Missoula is fiber rich but connecting from buildings to the network is expensive, sometimes as much as \$20,000 per connection. Small to medium sized businesses are currently using DSL and cable and cannot afford the current high cost of more reliable, faster and more consistent services. If Missoula wants to attract big data companies, or even provide our current local businesses and schools with 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology, we must provide better and less expensive access to broadband infrastructure. MCPS and UM are both engaged in this discussion. With the goal of creating a centralized, fiber-rich network that has Downtown Missoula as the central part of the project, the Missoula City Council and County Commissioners have voted to proceed with the recommendations put forth in the Magellan Report. This recommendation include implementing broadband-friendly policies and permitting fees; maintaining and sharing accurate records; developing education and adoption strategies; and investing in a 60-mile self-financed, open-access community fiber. The Broadband Task Force has expanded to include the service providers and plans to send out an RFP in December to build/connect and manage a robust broadband network that best serves the needs of all Missoula. The cost of this next analysis will be \$70,000. Cople concluded her presentation by encouraging the BID Board to help fund

the next phase, asking for \$10,000. The BID Board agreed to make a decision on its investment at the November Board Meeting following review and recommendation by the Finance Committee.

#### **Downtown Safety & DDPO Contract: Guests Mike Brady & Andy Roy**

Chief Brady detailed on-going concerns about Downtown Missoula safety and how important Andy Roy's position is to address these issues. The Mayor's Downtown Advisory Committee (MDAC) has an explicit goal of adding a second dedicated downtown police officer. MDAC's other two goals are to work with the business sector to limit specific "high voltage" alcohol sales and to acquire a vehicle for the Homeless Outreach Team. Chief Brady also emphasized the need for continuing education on reducing the distribution of change to panhandlers and noted the challenges with the Real Change program as it relates to education of new UM students and new residents. Discussion ensued on Officer Roy's needs for occasional assistance and how those needs vary depending upon the month and the time of day. Coverage during the summer months, in tandem with the School Resource Officers (SROs), will change slightly next year to increase efficiencies and safety. Animal Control problems and potential solutions were also discussed. Chief Brady communicated the City's commitment to maintaining and enhancing downtown safety. It was noted that the City of Missoula is fortunate to have a dedicated officer for Downtown and Officer Roy does a great job.

#### **Approval of September 16, 2014 Board Minutes**

Gilligan requested the term "and design" be added to the motion regarding the creation and payment for the new storefront signage. No additional changes were requested. Cederberg moved to approve the minutes as revised. Buchanan seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **Financial Report: September, 2014 & FY2014 Year End**

McCarthy noted the financial documents included the year-end financial statements for FY 2014, as well as the first quarter report for FY2015. The Finance Committee reviewed all the documents in its monthly meeting, and the City's FY2014 Audit is underway.

#### **Downtown Partnership Strategic Planning**

McCarthy reported that the DMP Strategic Planning update will take place on Wednesday Nov. 5 from 1-7pm and will include all board members and staff of the DMP triumvirate. Colleen Rudio will facilitate the planning session.

#### **Old Business**

Brief updates were given on the studies for the Front and Main Conversion and the Conference Center.

*The meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.*