

Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2021 at 3 pm at the DMP Office (218 E. Main St.) and Zoom

All Present: Carma Gilligan, Ellen Buchanan, Karen Sippy, Scott Stearns (3:15pm), Dr. James McKay, Charlie Beaton

Absent: Dan Cederberg

Staff: Jack Hall, Bram Moore

Guests: Aaron Wilson, Annie Gorski

The meeting was called to order by President Beaton at 3:04pm

Presentation on Higgins Analysis Concepts: Aaron Wilson, Infrastructure & Mobility Planning: Wilson introduced himself and said we are looking at design options to build of improvements from Beartracks Bridge renovation. We are looking to better connect people from north and south of the river. The initial round of outreach was done in the summer of 2021. The launch for participation happened yesterday through Engage Missoula website. Wilson said they want to maximize the amount of people that participate and support the plan. He said the outcomes are to make Higgins a safer street, to make Higgins a destination, to increase economic activity and to create a post card street as it was envisioned in the Downtown Master Plan. He would like to engage business owners and residents. The goal is to develop a concept design that considers all users, improves safety for all users, provide space for people of all ages and abilities to bike and walk, and to increase opportunity for all to access the corridor. 82 businesses have engaged so far and that came from going door to door and getting on the street. Over 250 individuals have engaged through community events and the website survey. The biggest themes were around safety, parking, left turns, public transportation/trolley and to protect the look and feel of the corridor. Wilson went over the different concepts for both north and south of the river on Higgins. He then went over the next steps in the plan. We are only at the beginning and the adoption will hopefully take place in late summer or early fall. Gilligan asked if entry into the Senior Center parking lot will be an issue? Wilson said that he doesn't think it will because you will have a turning lane so you aren't holding up traffic. Stearns asked if he sees any issue with semis turning onto Higgins on 5th Street to get on Highway 12? He said they haven't quite explored that yet with MDT. Discussion ensued over questions with Beartracks Bridge.

Approval of February Minutes: Beaton spotted the word band instead of bond. Buchanan moved to approve. Sippy seconded and February minutes were unanimously approved.

Financial Review: Hall said there is nothing out of the ordinary. We did not receive reports from the city so we do not have the tax assessments. It's about \$9,000 more from what the sheet says. Most of the DDPO of the funds are coming from the MPC this month. There will be another payment coming in for that this month. There are some snow removal contracts that have come in. We have paid our rent to the DMP. We have had some maintenance for the BID trucks and some expense for streetscape maintenance. Nothing too much out of the ordinary. BID is sitting at about \$245,000 for the balance. We will make the quarterly payment to the DMP April 1. Stearns and Hall have started meeting once per month so that someone on the Board is made aware of the reconciliations and check statements. It's just to have another set of eyes on what is being paid out. Hall announced that Chief White has appointed a second DDPO that will be starting in May.

Preparing the Budget FY2023: Discussion on Top Priorities: Hall said that we need to have our first draft to the City by May. Hall said we need to prioritize what we need to talk about for the next FY. Buchanan asked how we are using the Business Development salary? Hall said we aren't doing anything with that right now. Shifting priority to recycling was discussed. It would be about \$65 more per receptacle for the City contract.

Downtown Master Plan Updates:

- **Front & Main Conversion:** Buchanan said that there was presentation at the Membership Luncheon. We are working towards 90% plans. These plans should be done early fall. We want to be ready for some serious federal money when it comes available. We are having a tug of war between biking safety and public transit and general transportation.
- **Alley Activations:** Sippy said that they had an opening of the new murals in the alleys at Allez! Patio heaters were brought in and several people came in. The GM of The Wren, Eric Nelson, would also like to be able to rotating murals in their alley that is shared with the Elks Lodge.
- **The North Riverside Parks and Trails:** Sippy said that at the last meeting that this is not the right time for the bond. The mayor thinks that there are other things that take precedent right now. We have momentum now and we need to take advantage of that. We are on a holding pattern at the moment and are not moving forward with fundraising right now.

Mission Work: Clean, Safe & Economic Vitality: Hall added that there is a lot of trash that has come into view since the snow has melted. Staying ahead of trash has been an issue with an uptick in tourism.

Partner Updates: MDA & MDF: Hall said that Winter BrewFest happened a couple weeks ago and we ran out of beer and kombucha. We are still doing sponsorship sales for summer events. The Garden City Brewfest is happening May 7. The Roots Fest committee will start meeting later this. The Foundation met yesterday and purchasing shade from USA Shade was approved. We are hoping to have shade by late June in Caras Park. The MDF will be participating in Missoula Gives in May. Denise Higgins has been hired as the Director of Giving and will be heading that campaign. Robert Giblin is still on contract through late March. He has gotten the AARP grant for River City Roots Fest.

New Business & Announcements: No new business.

With no new business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.