

Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2021 at 3 pm at the DMP Office (218 E. Main St.)

All Present: Scott Stearns, Dan Cederberg, Charlie Beaton, Dr. James McKay, Ellen Buchanan, Karen Sippy, Ellen Buchanan, Carma Gilligan

Staff: Jack Hall, Bram Moore, Linda McCarthy

Guests: Missoula Police Chief Jaeson White

The meeting was called to order by President Beaton at 3:05pm

Brief Overview of Missoula Policing and discussion on the Downtown Policing Program: Missoula Police Chief Jaeson White said that we have had two BID police officers slated since 2020. There was some changeover in 2021 and have struggled to fill the second DDPO position since fall of 2021. Officer Alexis Berger will be starting soon. White explained that the struggle to hire for position was because the schedule changed and very ideal hours for police officers. It was a struggle to get people out of patrol because the schedule was so nice. No one applied for the BID DDPO position. White explained he had to do some extra work to get the DDPO position to have the same hours. Gillhouse will stay with the same hours and Berger will also be doing four 10-hour shifts. This means that we will have an officer Downtown during some evening and weekend hours. White stated one of his goals is to make Berger more front facing with business owners Downtown. White also said that the Mobile Support Team was moved over from Fire Department oversight to the Police Department. He said that he will be asking for funding for a social worker that will be able to work with the DDPO's. White announces that calls for service have decreased by a couple thousand across the city but violent crime is on the rise. Violent crimes have doubled since 2020. Domestic violence is very prevalent and the drug trade is rampant. White said they are working on getting funding for people to get help for addiction. Law enforcement has taken 20 pounds of meth off the streets in the first three months of 2022. A program to help users is still being planned. Fentanyl use has been way up in the last few years. White also said that staffing has been an issue and they haven't been fully staffed for many years. The DDPO position morphed away from being on the beat Downtown because Gillhouse and Krastel were so successful helping the unsheltered in crisis. White wants to get back to what the job should be. White stated that without the BID funding it would be very difficult to fund the DDPO. Sippy asked if Gillhouse wasn't at the POV as often as he is if those issues would be coming Downtown? White said that he believes they would.

Approval of March Minutes: *Sippy moved to approve the March minutes. Gilligan seconded and the March minutes were unanimously approved.*

Review & Potential Approval of FY2023 City Narrative: McCarthy said that she is looking to get the City Narrative approved. It shows the categories and not the details. There are two different budgets that go with BID. City Narrative goes over the big picture categories and we can review the details of the budget next month or the following month. *Cederberg motioned to approve, Buchanan seconded the motion, and the FY2023 City Narrative was approved unanimously.*

Financial Review: Hall said that you will see in the Profit & Loss statement that tax assessments have gone down a little bit because the MPC got a tax refund from the City. He said the Police Officer revenue is up because we haven't been paying a second officer since August 2021. We have bought a bus ticket for an unsheltered person to get back home. Hall added that there have been some repairs done on the snow plows. We have bought seven more garbage container lids. We are sitting at \$116,142 in the bank. We have some carryover in our budget and discussion ensued on if and how we should be spending that.

Discussion: Project/Program Priorities for the Downtown BID: McCarthy said we had a finance committee meeting and the question is which projects we should be prioritizing. McCarthy showed a document of what the MDF has project wise. Many projects are based around wayfinding, décor and Downtown improvements. McCarthy went over some of the ideas that staff and board have been talking about recently. She then went over the Implementation section of the Master Plan to share what has been talked about in the planning process. Stearns asked if we could figure out a way to prioritize these ideas so we can add them to the budget. Discussion ensued about what we should prioritize and why we should prioritize those things.

Downtown Master Plan Updates: McCarthy said that we need to put together a presentation for the City Council to let them know what's going on. Payne Block may be becoming prevalent soon. The old Missoulian building will move forward.

- **Front & Main Conversion:** Buchanan said that it is close to being done and announced to the public.

Partner Updates: MDA & MDF: We haven't gotten the hot power washer out yet because it's too cold. The Clean Team is sweeping up leaves and are sprucing up the tree wells. McCarthy went over some documents that she included in the BID board packet. The foundation is participating in Missoula Gives and our goal is to make \$10,000. The MDA is ramping up for event season. We are announcing the Roots Fest line up on Friday. The Garden City BrewFest is happening on May 7. We have a little under 100 members that still haven't paid dues. We are hanging flowers in mid-May.

New Business & Announcements: No new business.

With no new business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18pm.