

**Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 3 pm at the DMP Office (218 E. Main St.)**

**All Present:** Carma Gilligan, Charlie Beaton, Karen Sippy, Ellen Buchanan, Scott Stearns, Dan Cederberg (via Zoom).

**Absent:** Dr. Jim McKay

**Staff:** Linda McCarthy, Jack Hall, Bram Moore

The meeting was called to order by President Beaton at 3:12pm.

**Presentation on the Higgins Preferred Alternative by Aaron Wilson, City of Missoula:** Wilson introduced himself and went over the history of the project. They have been working on the project for 1.5 years now and this plan came from the Downtown Master Plan. There were many plans that came out of the plan but nothing was solidified. The goal is to see if we need to do anything to change the Higgins corridor. They want to improve safety as the highest priority and to make it multi modal. This will create a safe street for all users. The ultimate goal is to make it a post card street for Downtown Missoula. Wilson went over the preferred model. This would turn Higgins into three lanes instead of four. Currently there are no turn lanes and this can drastically improve safety. Gilligan asked if there are many crashes on Higgins? Wilson said on average there is one per week. Going to three lanes reduces crashes by 30 – 50%. The other part of the plan is to have raised bike paths instead of bike lanes on the street. They are way easier to maintain and are safer. There has also been a positive impact on ground floor businesses. The studies show that 3 lane roads are better for the businesses that are on those roads. Higgins hasn't changed that much in the number of cars using it in the last 20 years. The maximum delay from Brooks to Broadway is about 50 seconds with the preferred plan. You can move more people more efficiently with multi modal than just with vehicles. No parking will be lost north of the river and there will be 22 spots that will be lost on the south side of the river. The Beartracks Bridge was designed for four lanes but you could change it to three lane conversion to make it easier for different modes of transportation. They are still working with the State to see if this will be approved. Cederberg asked if there has been any discussion on if the state route could be moved out of Downtown? Wilson said that there has been a lot of discussion on that and it can be very lengthy approval process. Discussion ensued about the issue if this plan is about cars vs bikes/pedestrians.

**Approval of Minutes:** Sippy motioned to approve. Buchanan seconded and **November Minutes passes unanimously.**

**Review & Approval of Recycle Bin Purchase Plan:** Hall showed a Power Point of our path forward in purchasing recycle bins. The original plan was to get 13 containers and that has been bumped up to 30 receptacles in the next 2 years. The BID would purchase the receptacles with a partnership with the City of Missoula and MRA. Hall showed what the new design would be very similar to our garbage receptacles but would have the recycling decal on the containers and would be powder coated blue. The area where the containers would be needs to be looked at more. This would be the Front Street Urban Renewal District. The first year we would purchase 15 and split evenly between the BID, MRA and the City of Missoula. Year 2 we would purchase seven and 3 would be purchased from the MRA. In Year 3, five receptacles would be purchased by the BID. The total would be \$55,823 for the purchases. BID would commit to \$32,153 over three years. Discussion ensued on what the cans should have written on them. They should say exactly what we should put in them. Sippy moved to approve the recycle bin purchase plan. Gilligan seconded. Buchanan stated contingent on if MRA funding the project and also with friendly amendment on the messaging on top. **Approval of Recycle Bins was approved unanimously.**

**Reappointment of Scott Stearns to the DMP Board:** Buchanan moved. Sippy seconded. **All approved unanimously to reappoint Scott Stearns to the DMP Board.** Stearns abstained.

**Financial Review:** Hall said we currently have \$121,849 and a total of \$247,000. We are still walking through some things from the BID audit. We had \$73,000 brought in that we didn't spend last year. There is \$367,000 in retained assessments. Discussion ensued on how and if we should spend it. The profit and loss the tax assessments for November came in at \$8,800. Hall said this is little bit less than last year. There was no other income that came in except for Garbage Removal from the City. We spent some money for shipping cost for holiday garland. We will be doing some repairs on the structures that hold the holiday décor and there will be welding work.

**Review of 2022 Downtown Investments & Business Activity:** McCarthy showed the document that shows the running total of permits at City Hall. Total current investment for commercial investment is about at \$12 million. McCarthy showed the residential activity. There will be about 56 new units coming up and about \$6.6 million in investment happening. She went over the business activity report. 32 businesses opened up in Downtown this year and 7 closed.

**Update on Downtown Policing:** McCarthy shared that we have a new police officer, Amanda Hardin. Jay Gillhouse has been named Officer of the Year and an announcement will be made soon. Most of the complaints in every category is down but that may be because we didn't have a police officer for some of the year.

**Partner Updates: MDF & MDA:** McCarthy said that everyone should be receiving their MDA Membership invoices. Membership fees have gone up for the first time in three years. Teddy Bear Teas all sold out in December. We had great feedback from the new Parade of Lights. A lot of good stuff is happening in the marketing team. We are short staffed in Maintenance but we have hired a new person recently. Ray continues to carry the load but we will be getting help once Maintenance #2 is well enough to work. Foundation has been hard and we aren't getting a lot of feedback. It's been challenging to get everyone on the same page and make asks for donations.

President Beaton adjourned the meeting at 5:13pm.