

Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 3pm
at the DMP Office (218 E. Main) and on Zoom

All Present: Dr. Jim McKay (Zoom), Carma Gilligan, Scott Stearns, Charlie Beaton (Zoom), Karen Sippy, Ellen Buchanan

Absent: Dan Cederberg

Staff: Linda McCarthy, Jack Hall, Bram Moore

The meeting was called to order by President Beaton at 3:10pm.

Getting to Know Officer Amanda Hardin, new Downtown BID Officer: Hardin gave a brief overview of her career. She moved here from Texas. Worked with an agency in Dallas County prior to moving here. She was in the detective division. She has been in Missoula for about three years and has been on patrol for the most part. Hardin had a lot of interest in meeting the Downtown business owners. Her and her husband own a business Downtown. Started the current position in December and dealt with a person and suffered a herniated disk so she is currently not working. Once healthy she will be back on the streets.

Business Development with MEP's Christine Littig: Littig went over the report that she sent to the board. She went over corrections over the previous report that she shared last year. Littig went out quite a bit in September to meet and chat with as many business and business owners as possible. She pulled back during the Holiday season to let the businesses be able to do their thing. She checked back in last week to check in with many businesses to see how their holiday season went. There was a lot of positivity and that a lot of business owners communicated that 2021 was a very successful year and there was a lot of worry for 2022. It felt like a rollercoaster over the last year but every single business that they were very comfortable with how 2022 ended. Many felt that 2021 was probably an anomaly. Many people had leftover COVID money and they were worried about 2022. Most said that they ended in very comfortable position. You won't find those kinds of visits on the Neon report. Through the MEP protocol a Neon report needs to be at least a one-hour long conversation and most of the talks she had were 20-30 minutes. The Neon report is a software specific to the MEP. McCarthy asked if we could add a column to the report on what are the challenges of each business. There are some confidentiality things that she cannot share because of a non-disclosure agreement. As a team, the MEP is still focusing on the Payne Block. They are vetting businesses and developers to see what we could get in that space. MSU has been given money to operate training center around the state to develop nurses. MEP wants to see if they can be part of that and assist in some way. MRA has hired MEP to vet developers for the Payne Block project. They have been vetting grocers to see if anyone could move in or relocate to that location. There is a lot of positivity in the community at the start of 2023. We have heard that the new community of people that have moved into town are shopping locally and making new connections.

Approval of Minutes: Sippy moved to approve the minutes. Stearns seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Review: Hall stated that we are halfway through the fiscal year, and the BID has about \$430,000 in current assets. The BID audit is officially closed. We have \$73,000 in net income this year. Reviewing the Profit & Loss Statement, the BID has about half the tax assessments come in so far. Snow removal has come in a little bit more with the season. We paid just over \$2,200 in holiday décor repairs for the holiday décor racks. We spent just over \$3,000 on 45 brackets to be fabricated and powder coated. Sippy asked what how the \$10,000 is used for the Homeless Outreach Team, and McCarthy said that we are part of the funding source to fund that program, which is primarily salaries. Several other agencies also help.

Update on Downtown Maintenance: McCarthy shared that DMP has again lost the second maintenance manager. This time for a health incident that doesn't allow him to continue. McCarthy wondered if we should be scaling back our services and not do garbage and snow removal on weekends. Gilligan said that it is critical to have Saturday service especially for the bar crowd. Discussion ensued to see if we could contract that out through other organizations.

Goal Setting for 2023-24: McCarthy stated we need to start thinking about goals for the upcoming fiscal year. One big issue is if we should renew the police contract or not. Or go back down to one officer instead of two. Stearns said that the big ones for him are Clean Team contract renewal and Downtown Police Officer contract. We've talked about adding more funds to the Urban Renewal District, talked about adding more help for graffiti, adding more funding to help with a second maintenance manager. We could add funding to street décor on Orange Street bridge. Stearns would like to see some money go to HOT Team. Beaton would like to finish our wayfinding project. Discussion ensued about what projects we want to focus on and where we could invest our money. Sippy talked about how she supports going after big federal funding instead of smaller public art grants. Sippy added that she would like to see better lighting in Downtown alleys.

Partner Updates: MDF & MDA:

- The MDA Awards Banquet is tomorrow. Staff shared the 2022 DMP Year in Review video, which pays tribute to the late Mayor Engen.
- The MDF has started a Downtown Arts & Culture Impact Grants Program and allocated \$15,000 for giant murals and alley activation projects.
- The DMP Annual Report is completed, posted and has been shared with all board members.

President Beaton adjourned the meeting at 4:57pm.