

Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 3pm
at the DMP Office (218 E. Main)

Present: Karen Sippy, Charlie Beaton, Carma Gilligan, Dan Cederberg

Absent: Dr. Jim McKay, Scott Stearns

Guests: Garrett Brown and Rod Castro

Staff: Linda McCarthy, Bram Moore, Jack Hall

The meeting was called to order by President Charlie Beaton shortly after 3:05pm

Downtown Policing: Garrett Brown: McCarthy asked Officer Brown to go over how the job has been and what challenges he has had since taking the job. Brown has been patrolling the commuter trails pretty hard over the last month and trying to clear out the parks around the Downtown area. Not as many people have been sleeping Downtown and the key problem people are still in town but haven't been Downtown as much. Brown said that they are trying to work with business owners to see what issues they are facing Downtown. Brown added that they are working with a local bike shop to help catch bike thefts. Castro thinks that about 75% of bicycle thefts are happening Downtown. They are trying to identify habitual offenders and to deal with those issues. They are finding that a couple of people are stealing a majority of the bikes. Brown said that it would be great to try to get people to register their bikes so they could be returned if they get stolen. Without a serial number for the bikes, it is extremely hard to return bikes to people. Hall asked what the majority of tickets were for in the first couple weeks. Brown said that they were mostly seeing disorderly conduct, warrants, public intoxication and public urination. They are trying to give out more warnings than tickets. Brown said he would like to see more businesses call him even if it's just an annoying thing and may not be a law enforcement thing. He will come over and point them in the right direction for services.

Approval of Minutes: Sippy motioned to approve May BID Minutes with edits. Gilligan seconded and the May BID Minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Review: Hall stated that we are looking good for end of year finances. In checking/savings, we have \$364,934. After final invoices we should end the year with around \$350,000. The Clean Team contract from June still needs to come in. These financial will change just a little bit but should be very similar. Profit and Loss for Tax Assessments came in at \$382,627. We are about \$7,000 down from last year. Hall added that we don't have any contracts outstanding for power washing. We did go over budget on insurance from last year and that was mostly a budgeting issue. We will come under budget for FY2023.

BID Budget Presentation to City Council: July 26: McCarthy said that the presentation will be happening tomorrow and we will have updates at a later date.

Execution of the Garbage & Recycling Contract: McCarthy said that this has not been executed because it has not been reviewed by City Council.

Brief Review of BID Ratepayer Meeting: Sippy said that she thought that having it during breakfast was great. It was nice to have the Downtown Police Officers there to answer questions. Beaton thought that it was really positive and it was just the right amount of time. We would like to have more people but that may show that they are okay what is happening and trust us.

Review of BID Ratepayer Survey Results: McCarthy said we had 35 responses. The rate wasn't great but that is normal. 61% of responders have owned their property for more than 20 years and about 80% have full buildings. 88% know that we have a Master Plan. 94% are aware of the Transportation Plan. From the survey, it looks like people are getting their information from all sorts of media. Most people are feeling safe around Downtown. Downtown Clean Team ranks really high and Downtown Marketing is second. Business retention ranked pretty low. McCarthy went over several categories and responses. We asked about their awareness of the MDF and over 90% are aware. Most people are excited about Riverfront Park improvements when it comes to MDF projects and Downtown Master Plan implementations. BID ratepayers would like to see more major retailers, specialty grocers and more retailers. Gilligan thought it was an excellent survey and we got a lot of information. Discussion ensued about getting more people to fill out the survey.

RAISE grant Acquisition & Next Steps: McCarthy said that the City did get the \$25 million grant for Safety and Mobility. First thing that will happen that the US Department of Transportation and City of Missoula need to come together and get a contract. The immediate commitment is to continue the dialogue.

Mission Work: Clean, Safe, Economic Vitality: Clean Team is doing lots of work. They are trying to get a handle on the weeding around downtown. We don't have any policing reports right now since we haven't had a DPPO for most of the year. McCarthy reported that there has been just over \$4 million in Downtown investment.

Partner Updates:

- **MDF:** Looking for Director of Giving position. There isn't a ton going on. We have two murals going up right now.
- **MDA:** Hall said the MDA is full swing. We have weekly events and the MDA Membership BBQ next week. Roots Fest in 5 weeks. We still have 50 members that haven't paid dues.

Beaton adjourned the meeting shortly before 5:30.