

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, June 3, 2009 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Ed Childers, Dick Haines, John Hendrickson, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Dave Strohmaier, Pam Walzer, Jason Wiener, Jon Wilkins

Members Not Present: Lynn Hellegaard

Other Present: Tessa Johnson, Keenan Witt, Scott Brodie

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes from [May 27, 2009](#). Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC & STAFF COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEM

1. Letter in support of the Salcido Center and its effort to secure funding from the State of Montana ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 06/01/09)
REMOVED FROM AGENDA

Tessa Johnson, Program Director at the Salcido Center, stated they are able to serve people who are chronically homeless and also able to help people who have mental illness and other sorts of chronic conditions in their lives. They have helped people get employment, medical needs and housing. They have a phone that the people can make and receive messages from; they can store their personal belongings in the facility, access the internet, and use the rest room without bothering anybody. The funding they are requesting the letter of support for is the Recovery for Mental Illness Grant.

Dave Strohmaier asked about the centers funding and if they do not receive the funding, what will happen to the center.

Tessa Johnson stated this is one of their original funders and they are always pursuing other funding as well.

Jon Wilkins asked what the police department's opinion of the center is. He stated that he has heard from one businessman that he felt there had been fewer people gathering on the courthouse lawn.

Scott Brodie stated the department supports the intent of the Salcido Center.

Jon Wilkins suggested that the committee members go to the Salcido Center and have a look for themselves.

Jon Hendrickson asked if there are any other non-profit groups that are competing for this same money.

Tessa Johnson stated she was not aware of any other.

Ed Childers asked if the funding is targeted towards start ups or on going places and who else is competing for this money.

Tessa Johnson stated the funding is very open and hope that letters of support will help with decision to grant the Center the money. She stated she is not aware of who else has requested this grant money.

Bob Jaffe asked what the budget is for the Center and what other sources of funding they have.

Tessa Johnson stated this is their primary funding source. The funding is for a 16 month period and they are requesting \$175,000.00 and at this time, this represents their sole source of funding.

Jason Wiener asked how the services of the Salcido Center are measured as a mental health solution.

Tessa Johnson stated they do not consider themselves a mental health solution, they are a presence of services so people can access them at a time that they are comfortable to do so.

Renee Mitchell stated her concern is if the center encourages more of this kind of behavior and makes it more comfortable for people. She asked how they are going to curb the behavior to make it better, to encourage these people.

Tessa Johnson stated a lot of these people have been traumatized in their past and the Center has been able to reach some of these people that others have not been able to.

Dave Strohmaier stated the Salcido Center offers is a part of a multi-faceted way to address pan handling, homelessness, quality of life issues in downtown Missoula. He stated there are not many other options for folks to go to in the day, so this helps the folks who are in need of assistance and enhance the quality of life for everyone who uses downtown Missoula.

Jon Wilkins stated he does support the Center. He asked how many staff work there and how many have mental health degrees.

Tessa Johnson stated there are 3 full time and 1 part time paid staff members. They also coordinate with volunteers as much as possible. She stated that at this time, she is the only one with a mental health degree, but training is always being given.

John Hendrickson stated he would like to know where the clients are from.

Tessa Johnson stated that they do not have specific data to answer that question but the majority of people are from this area.

Pam Walzer stated she is willing to sign the letter to help all concerned.

Bob Jaffe asked for more information about their budget.

Tessa Johnson stated they operate with minimal expenses at this time and are hoping to be able to expand their services in the future.

Keenan Witt, Development Director for the Poverello, stated the Poverello has been helping to fund the Salcido Center and that it is difficult. She stated that a lot of the population that receives services from the Center does not go to any other facility for help.

Dave Strohmaier stated he would have a letter of support drafted for signatures of those who want to sign.

Jon Wilkins suggested they have better communication with other non-profit groups in town.

V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
2. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Mike Painter)
3. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)

4. An [ordinance](#) amending Chapter 10.42 of the Missoula Municipal Code entitled "Bicycles" that would require minors to wear headgear while bicycling on streets, roadways, sidewalks, alleys and trails; and holding responsible the parent or guardian of a minor found to be in violation of this ordinance. ([Alternative Ordinance](#)) ([PS&H](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 2/26/07)
5. Update on the Police facility project. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Mark Muir)(Referred to committee: 05/12/08)
6. An [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Chapter 6.09 entitled "Missoula Cat Ordinance" section 6.09.010 through 6.09.090 to amend definitions, to limit the number of cats over the age of four months that a person, family, or household can harbor, keep, or maintain to five and to enact other general amendments. ([PS&H](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 01/12/09)
7. An [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 6 entitled "Animals" generally amending Chapter 6.04 entitled "Animals Running at Large" and Chapter 6.08 entitled "Dogs and Pet Shops," increasing the fee when an animal is impounded and establishing a fee for a boarding kennel license. ([PS&H](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 01/12/09)
8. Discussion on the MRL herbicide program within the city limits ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe)
9. Consider two ordinances concerning Aggressive Solicitation and Pedestrian Interference ordinances ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier)

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM. Submitted by Leslie Willis.