

MISSOULA PARKING COMMISSION

Minutes

October 6, 2016

A Board of Directors' meeting was held in the Missoula Downtown Partnership Conference Room, 218 E Main Street at noon. Those in attendance were Board members Pat Corrick, Heidi Kendall, John Roemer, and Joe Easton. From the Parking Commission office were Rod Austin, Director, and Tiffany Brander, Administrative Services Manager. Also in attendance were Dalton Allen and Drew Rieker, JCCS, Tom Bensen, Arts Missoula, and Clint Burson, Missoula Chamber. Members of the public included Anne Guest, Sue Thompson, Gene Senne, Nancy Senne, Morgan Sanden and Cody Cowart. Steve McArthur and Kirsten Vorreyer were also in attendance participating as Strategic Planning Facilitator and note taker.

I. Call to Order:

Heidi Kendall called the meeting to order.

II. Introduction and Welcome to those in attendance:

III. Public Comments and Announcements:

Morgan Sanden (employee at Bagels on Broadway) - I have been meaning to come down here and talk to you. There are a few things I'm having issues with the new meters. I just don't come downtown anymore between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. There are other places I can shop where I don't have to pay. The meters have driven me away from shopping downtown. A few people like them and some people find them complicated. The fees are higher than me and the others would like. Based on the numbers I heard we brought in \$500,000 or so but if you add in the cost of the meters we are down from where we should be. I think we have fewer people coming downtown than we used to and businesses are suffering from that. I can't walk or bus to work because I work at 5 a.m. so the meters feel like a tax for being employed downtown and shopping downtown. When we hit a new year I will have been hit at \$250 more on parking fees but I don't make \$250 more. It makes working downtown undesirable. I understand these (the meters) are in place and we won't tear them out but as a consumer and employee downtown they have affected the way I interact with the downtown.

Sue Thompson (owner of Bagels on Broadway) - I am here to let you know it's not getting one bit better. We are in the 4th quarter and it's really sad. I have pages of parking meter surveys. There is an 83% disapproval and lots of people aren't coming downtown. There is no short term parking. People aren't meeting there they aren't coming. I am going to be blunt, I will be down roughly six figures it does not compute - I can't do it. We are struggling. This is the one thing that has changed (the meters). I hear it every single day. It devalues our business I can't even sell it. What if someone came and took their business away from you. Customers don't want to park

a long ways away, pay a lot and walk to get a coffee and bagel. What it is doing to small businesses is really sad. People are moving out we can't do it.

John - to clarify you said there is no short term parking. Meaning no park and go parking anymore. Is that correct?

Sue Thompson - Yes the young people hate the meters they don't want to deal with it. They go other places with free parking. We have tried to get more people to come and they think nothing will change and they can't make it at noon. It's really sad and I think it might be the end of downtown. I know that's not what you're hoping for but you couldn't have done something more destructive and especially this particular type of meter. I know meters are needed but this particular type is a problem.

Gene - (Co-owner of the Missoula Import Market) our business is down about 25 to 30 percent. We are not getting our daytime business. People just don't like change but for the time being it's been really detrimental. For Sue they grab a coffee and bagel and go they don't want the hassle and expense of parking in order to do that. We can find parking we just don't like the parking meters and I can see how it has affected us. I think it's true for all of the retailers downtown.

Nancy - (Co-owner of the Missoula Import Market) - Our revenue is down. You will have a lot of parking if we (small businesses) all move out of the downtown. There is a meter on Ryman street in the middle of the block that makes it hard for anyone to walk past if someone is at the meter. Can it be moved back and turned the other way? More times people want to get through but they can't if someone is standing at the meter. I agree with everything everyone has been saying. No matter how nice your parking structure is no one will use it if there are no businesses. Nancy - You should also put up a sign for where there is one hour free parking. If it's not already full.

IV. Approval of Agenda:

There were no motions to amend the agenda and it was unanimously approved.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Joe Easton moved to approve the minutes with no changes. Pat Corrick seconded his motion and the **Minutes of the Board Meeting held on August 4, 2016 were unanimously approved.**

VI. Director's Report:

Rod Austin briefly presented the Director's Report.

VII. Financial Statement:

Jim Galipeau, JCCS was not available to attend the meeting and there was no financial statement given.

VIII. Communications and Presentations:

1. Request for 2017 First Night Missoula funding-

Tom Benson presented a request for funding for Arts Missoula's First Night 2017 as it has done for many years in the past. The request was for \$3,000.00 and assists the program with their First Night Shuttle Bus throughout the festival. Heidi Kendall asked Tom if this event remains an alcohol free event and he replied that there will be one event this year at the Top Hat and alcohol will be served at that event only. **Pat Corrick moved to approve the \$3,000.00 funding as requested. Joe Easton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved to provide \$3,000.00 to the 2017 First Night Missoula.**

2. Strategic Planning Session

A strategic planning session was facilitated by Steve McArthur and notes were taken by Kirsten Vorreyer. The notes from this portion (24 pgs.) are attached to the end of this document.

IX. Action Items:

A. **None.**

X. Non-Action Items:

A. New Business – None.

B. Old Business – None.

XI. Setting of next meeting date and adjournment:

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2016 (Jack Reidy Conference Room).

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Brander
Administrative Services Manager