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**Great Falls Tourism Business Improvement District**

**Minutes; Presentation meeting**

**1pm – May 17th, 2012**

**Holiday Inn – 400 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. So.**

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**Chair**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Date**

May 17, 2012

**Facilitator:** Robert Dompier - Chair

**Minutes:** Karen Venetz – Administrative & Marketing Director

**Board members present:** Robert Dompier, Sandra Johnson-Thares, Pam Volk, Ryan Carroll, David Buckingham, and Scott Shull

**Board members absent:** Malissa Hollan

**Quorum present:** Yes

**Guests:** Andy Ferrin & Gary Hackett; Business Improvement District (BID), Jim Olson, Elizabeth Moore, David Moore; Big Sky Harley Group

**Meeting called to order:** 1:05pm

**Approval of minutes:** Minutes to be reviewed at the Board of Director meeting on May 24, 2012

**Approval of financial report:** Financial report to be reviewed at the Board of Director meeting on May 24, 2012

**Public comment on agenda items:** None

**Agenda topics:**

- **Request for funding presentations**
  - BID – Andy Ferrin and Garry Hackett @ 1pm
    - Mr. Ferrin and Mr. Hackett presented a request for funds to assist with funding of the art project for the 1<sup>st</sup> Ave North BNSF Underpass. The project is the BID and Downtown Partnerships working to create lasting change in the downtown and create new opportunities for businesses, residents and visitors. It is well established that outdoor artwork makes a downtown more vibrant and interesting. By making this a gateway entrance, it helps to make downtown more vibrant, which in turn draws people to Destination Downtown.
      - A motion was made to fund the project with a \$1000 grant. The motion died for lack of a second.
        - Discussion; The Board felt the project very worthwhile and made the following suggestion. request BNSF to donate money to each high school and solicit art students to paint the art project in exchange for the funds for their art classes.

- Big Sky Harley Owners Group – Elizabeth Moore @ 1:20pm
  - Ms. Moore, Mr. Moore and Mr. Olson presented a request for funding to assist with the 2013 Montana State Hog Rally. The event would be held either June 20 – 22, 2013 or July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend 2013. The decision on the location and date will be made at a meeting held on the final day of the 2012 rally in Butte. The event will be three days with a Great Montana Trail Drive theme. The event is very organized. The event was held in Great Falls in 2008 with record attendance of 749. 547 were from outside of Great Falls. The rally coordinators believe if Great Falls is selected the event will be even bigger than 2008.
  - Ms. Venetz mentioned she had been working with this group since December of 2011. The group was pleased to have an organization approach with willingness to help bring the event to Great Falls.
    - A motion was made to fund the event with a \$1500 grant. The motion was seconded. The motion carried with unanimous consent.
- Great Falls Public Schools GFH & CMR State A Tennis – submitted by Karen Venetz for Gary DeGooyer @ 1:40pm
  - Mr. DeGooyer had submitted a request for funding the State A Tennis tournament to take place May 23-26, 2012. This is a Montana High School event which the Great Falls schools are part of. The tournaments are held at the CMR Tennis Courts, Meadowlark Country Club Courts and Elks Riverside Courts.
    - A motion was made to fund the sporting event with a \$1000 grant. The motion was seconded. The motion carried with unanimous consent.

**Checks issued:** checks were signed by Robert Dompier and Sandra Johnson-Thares

**Meeting adjourned:** 2pm

**Next meetings:**

May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	August 2012
May 24, 2012 @ 10am at the Holiday Inn – Board of Director meeting	June 21, 2012@ 1pm at the Holiday Inn – Request for Funds meeting  June 28, 2012@ 10am at the Holiday Inn – Board of Director meeting	July 19, 2012 @ 1pm – location TBD - Request for Funds meeting  July 26, 2012 @ 10am – Location TBD – Board of Director meeting	August 16, 2012 @ 1pm – location TBD – Request for funds meeting  August 23, 2012 at 1am – location TBD – Board of Director meeting