

Minutes
Business Improvement District
October 11, 2012

Board Present: Andrew Ferrin, Garry Hackett, George Wheeler, Rebecca Hughes, Sheila Rice
Board Absent: Philip Riedel, Kris Harrison
Staff Present: Joan Redeen
Guests Present: Alison Fried

I. **Call to order:** Andy called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

I. **Guests:** There were no guests present at the meeting who wished to address the Board.

II. **BID Board:**

Discussion followed on board attendance. The Board instructed Joan to draft a letter to Philip to inquire if he'd like to remain on the board as this is his fourth absence.

III. **Approval of minutes from 9-19-12 meeting:** Sheila motioned to approve the minutes from the 9/19/12 meeting. George seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

IV. **Financials:**

Bank Signature Cards: Additional board members signed the Stockman Bank signature card. The only remaining board member to sign is Philip.

Monthly Financials: Joan provided July, August and September financials to the Board for review.

V. **Grant Programs:**

Façade Grant Criteria: George discussed the changes proposed to the grant. Joan noted that her goal will be to have a draft of the revised façade grant program to the board by the November board meeting.

Joan reported that Mauri Novak contacted the office. His original estimate was \$335,000. He is now at \$455,000 in expenses on the project, not counting his time on the project. The board requested that Mauri submit his time worked on the project. Joan added that Mauri thinks the project will be done by early November. Garry motioned to increase Mauri's residential grant from \$33,530 to \$50,000. Sheila seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.** Joan noted that the final payout for Mauri would be \$33,235 with the increase in total grant, due to the fact that we already did a partial payout of \$16,765 to Mauri in August.

Status of Stockman Bank façade grant and possible payout date was discussed.

VI. **Old Business:**

Beautification: 1st Ave N Underpass: Joan reported that the project is done, with the exception of sealant. The estimate to seal the wall is approximately \$3,600. There are three sealant options available: using a polyurethane sealant for about \$1,000 which would need to be re-applied every year; the heavy duty anti-graffiti sealant that we can power wash graffiti off of (but the mural could only be removed via sandblasting) this option is about \$1,500; and lastly the Golden Artists option of a soft gel gloss then covered by a varnish that costs about \$3,600. In consulting with several artists the Golden Artists product is the best option. Joan noted that when the project began she had not anticipated sealant and the artists involved have noted that the mural could safely sit through this winter and be sealed next spring. MDT has been asked to contribute and informed of the costs involved. In addition two grant applications were submitted to cover the costs but no response has been received as of yet. Discussion followed on budgeting. Joan noted that the BID budgeted \$40K for art projects this year. Sheila motioned to approve the BID covering the costs of sealing the mural. Garry seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.** Alison inquired if the public has been invited to be involved in the project. Joan reported that a generous community member stopped in the office and donated \$150 toward the project, after seeing the KFBB bit. In addition one of the artists was in a restaurant and the waitress handed the artist \$10 to put toward the sealant. Discussion followed on hosting a social in the spring to recognize the artists involved as well as potentially solicit funding

for the project. Alison also suggested banners be hung from the overpass to recognize those involved and invite others to participate.

Downtown Sound System: Joan reported that she hasn't heard anything more from the electrician. She added that she will follow up with him so the system is up and running in time for the holidays.

Graffiti Removal: Joan reported that the two tags have been removed, for less than the original bid as the tags were not as involved as they originally appeared. Joan added that she's continued to try and connect with the County attorney.

Joan informed the Board that she continues to work on getting a mural installed on the back of Amazing Toys. The artist has given an estimate of \$250 and the property owner has agreed that they will contribute \$125 toward that with the BID contributing the balance.

Pocket Park - Roberts: Joan noted that there is nothing new to report at this time. The BID is currently holding \$6,269 in funds for the park project; the BID will be matching up to \$10K. That figure includes the property owner's contribution of approximately \$5K and the balance is from their fundraiser with Davidson Companies.

Gibson Park: Joan noted that the Board approved, via e-mail, a donation of \$2K to Recreational Trails, Inc. for the new entryway being installed on the corner of Park Dr and 1st Ave North. The donation was made and a thank you note from Doug Wicks was provided to the Board.

Downtown Partnership: Sheila reported that the Partnership elected her as Chair, Joan as Vice-Chair, Martin as Secretary and Brett Doney as Treasurer. The term for these officers is until June 30, 2013. The Board of Directors is not full yet as there are still four member-at-large positions to fill. Those positions will be filled from the general membership. Discussion followed on the membership policy and how it is being crafted to be accessible for everyone. Joan noted that if she is not present at the partnership meeting a BID board member cannot vote in her place as the Bylaws do not allow for proxy voting, at this time. The next meeting of the partnership is Wednesday, October 24th at 9am – Joan noted that she will not be present at that meeting.

Downtown Great Falls Association: Joan reported that DGFA is looking at re-structuring their dues in 2013. They would include sponsorship levels in membership, to simplify the process. Joan added that Brian Kaufman has been appointed their new Vice-President.

Downtown Safety Alliance: Joan reported that there have not been any meetings of the safety alliance. Bethany is working on rolling out the Coins for a Cause program.

Johnson Hotel: Joan noted that there is nothing to report at this time.

Montana Downtown Conference: Joan continues planning of the Montana Downtown Conference that takes place in Great Falls October 24-26, 2012. As of yesterday there were 69 registrations. Board members registered are Andy Ferrin, Garry Hackett, George Wheeler and Rebecca Hughes. Sheila registered through NeighborWorks and will be in attendance on Wednesday only. Joan provided board members with name badges. Board members will be asked to moderate; a schedule will be provided to the board so they can let Joan know what presentations they will attend so she can be sure she has a moderator during each session. D/T Chicks will be used as volunteers.

Parking Commission: Joan reported that the Downtown Access & Circulation Study is moving forward. They are preparing a parking survey. They are planning a Charette for November 7th.

Work Plan: Joan reported that the BID continues to work the Work Plan.

VII. New Business:

No new business at this time.

VIII. Public Comment:

No public comment at this time.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:59am.

Andy Ferrin, Chair

Joan Redeen, Staff

Date: _____

Date: _____