

Business Improvement District
March 10, 2016

Board Present: Andrew Ferrin, Kris Harrison, Travis Neil, Garry Hackett, Jason Madill, Sheila Rice
Board Absent: Mauri Novak
Guests Present: Brad Livingston, Max Grebe, Julianne Dellorso
Staff Present: Joan Redeen

I. **Call to order:** Andy called the meeting to order at 8:58am.

II. **Guests:** No guests wished to address the board.

III. **BID Board:** Joan reported that Mauri Novak's term is up on the board on 6/30 and he has said he'll not be seeking reappointment. Max Grebe has joined us this morning as he will be applying to serve on the BID board.

Joan made the board aware that Mayor Kelly has been inviting the City's boards and commissions to attend a City Commission meeting to be recognized for their service; she added that the BID board should be prepared for that invitation in the future.

IV. **Approval of minutes from 2-11-16 meeting:** Sheila motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the 2/11/16 meeting as presented. Jason seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

V. **Financials:**

Monthly Financials: The bank rec for February was just completed; financials will be provided to the board via email before the next board meeting.

VI. **Grant Programs:**

CTEP: Joan reported that construction is scheduled to start on Monday 3/14 on 3rd Street alongside Bert & Ernie's. Weekly construction meetings will be held in the NWGF Learning Center at 509 1st Ave South at 9am; meetings last about 10 minutes and provides an update on the status and where they anticipate being. Joan added that the BID approved over \$134,000 and we've funded \$67,100 so far. The City has reported that the total amount from the BID will only be about \$75,000 so the BID owes the City about \$6-\$7K. She noted that United Materials came in so low on the bid and we are able to complete everything that we wanted to accomplish with this project.

Grant Applications: Joan reported that Brush Crazy has submitted partial receipts; they've been advised to submit another written extension or final receipts for payout on their grant.

It was noted that the Rocky Mountain building will need to provide an update by July, 2016; it was reported that they've been doing a great deal of clean-up from the building. Discussion followed on removal of the plywood/artwork around the building; some of the artists will be picking up their artwork once it's removed. Joan provided the board with copies of the updated grant schedule.

VII. **Old Business:**

Beautification: Holiday Décor: Joan reported that the décor has already been repaired at the high school and is at Advanced Coatings being sandblasted. There is a large box of garland that has arrived and will be put on the décor once it's sandblasted. At this point, about \$150 has been invested in the décor. The high school is estimating about \$5 per piece to repair; no estimate has been received yet from Advanced Coatings for the sandblasting. The lights on the trees are due to be removed from the trees shortly after Western Art Week.

Parking Meter Art Project: Joan reported that she has purchased several parking meters from EBay; we have five now and the goal is to have eight. A Call to Artists will not be made public until all eight meters are secured, sandblasted and primed. An Eagle project will be established to get the concrete pillars in place.

Sound System: Joan reported that the system went out while Andy was out of town; he'll check on it. Andy will connect with Good Vibrations to get the heart of the system moved.

BID Vehicle: Joan reported that the truck was in need of a new power steering pump; Carrie Yturri covered the costs to replace it. Joan added that our Community Ambassador is watering the trees now; several new trees have been installed.

BID Assessment Formula: Joan reported that she continues to work with the City on how to establish a fourth component to the BID assessment formula. Every parcel located within the BID boundaries is zoned commercial; there is nothing zoned residential. The City is exploring adding an additional Land Use code and if they are able to do that then we can add that fourth component to our formula and that would be applied to the residential condominium units. Joan added that she plans to attend the Montana building's annual meeting.

BID Expansion: Sheila asked that a letter be sent out to the owners who voted for expansion, notifying them that our efforts did not make expansion a reality.

BID Office: Joan reported that Stockman appears to be moving forward on the plans to demolish the building the BID office is located in; they've been measuring the building. They visited about what they were looking at and noted that they'd like to continue to provide the BID with office space.

Downtown Great Falls Association: DGFA is moving forward with their planning for Music on the Mo; Andy Ferrin is the chair of that committee. It'll be held once a month during the summer months. Crusin' the Drag will be May 7th; the St. Patrick's Day parade is on 3/17; another Art Tour is scheduled for Saturday, 4/30.

Team Trolley: Joan reported that the trolley has some maintenance issues to be addressed; sound system and possibly a transmission. They continue to seek out drivers with CDLs.

Downtown Partnership: The DDP will be meeting on Thursday, 3/24. The DDP is working on Wayfinding; the Charlie Russell mural is due to be installed before Western Art Week (location has been moved to 1st Ave N, just outside of our office due to power lines); an Art Place grant application was submitted to expand art opportunities in the alleys. Discussion followed on the proposed medical school and having it located downtown; wayfinding connecting downtown to the colleges & medical campuses; and complete streets.

Downtown Safety Alliance: Joan reported that Business Watch was held on Tuesday, 3/8. The topic was Social Media Safety; it was a really interesting evening led by Officer Jesse Slaughter with the GFPD. The next Business Watch will be held on 5/10 and the topic is Panhandling. Jason reported that he's had issues with transients behind the Pennant building; he's called the police and additional lighting is being installed. He inquired about having a conversation with the GFPD about doing something proactive before the warmer months. Jason proposed that the BID fund a police officer during certain seasons of the year. Joan noted that the BRIC officer's term will expire this summer; she will reach out to the GFPD and discuss the possibilities.

Johnson Hotel: Joan reported that Garry attended the association meeting. Garry reported this was the 2nd meeting the association has held in 2 years; they have some new owners; about \$40K in reserves; the elevator is the issue they'll need to address; they discussed changing the door codes and a Knox box. Joan reported that we have one vacancy in the incubator.

Parking Commission: The Parking Commission will be presenting their plan to the City Commission on 4/5. A survey is being developed for the community's input; it is 5-6 questions and takes less than 5 minutes. The VP from Standard Parking will be updating some information and providing ideas/suggestions, etc.

Personnel: Nothing new to report at this time.

Work Plan 2014-2015: Joan reported that the work plan continues to be worked.

VIII. **New Business:** No new business to report at this time.

IX. **Public Comment:** No public comment at this time.

X. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:50am.

Andy Ferrin, Chair

Joan Redeen, Staff

Date: _____

Date: _____