## Business Improvement District and Downtown Helena Inc. Minutes Tuesday, March 14th, 2023 – 3:30 p.m. 330 N Jackson Street | Zoom

BID Board Members Present	Seth Brandenberger, Chair; Onawa Linden, Vice-Chair (Arrived at 3:45pm); Ryan Stavnes, Treasurer (Zoom, Arrived at 3:45pm); Rex Seeley; Alicia Pichette (Zoom)	
BID Board members Absent	Randy Burrington	
DHI Board Members Present	Kelley Crevier, Vice-President; Rusty Linden	
DHI Board Members Absent	Sarah Hamblock, President; Megan Helton; Matthew Hoffman; Chris Starr	
Public:	Andy Shirtliff, City Commissioner (Zoom); Andrea Opitz, TBID (Zoom); Brandon Pendergast, Visit Helena (Zoom); McKinley Winkle (Helena Chamber of Commerce); Kev Hamm	
Staff:	John Dendy, BID; Jordan Conley, DHI; Mike Thiel; BID	
Agenda	Discussion	Motion/Action
Welcome & Introductions	BID board chair, Seth Brandenberger, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and introductions were made.	N/A
Public Comment	None	N/A
Approve HBID February Minutes		Motion to approve the February 2023 minutes by Rex. Second by Alicia. Motion passes. 3-0.
Amended FY23 HBID Budget	John: Discussed the movement of salary from programs to employee line item. No opposition was voiced.	Motion to approve the amended FY23 HBID Budget by Rex. Second by Onawa. Motion passes 5-0.
<ul> <li>HBID Business</li> <li>a. Possible HBID assessment changes</li> <li>b. Montana Main Street Grants</li> <li>c. Program/Committe e Updates</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a. Ongoing discussions re: how the BID is funded; any proposed changes will need to be made by April</li> <li>b. MBAC has been awarded a grant to do a study on repurposing a building as an art space; HBID remains in the conversation, but is not taking the lead as they are looking both within and beyond the BID district for said space</li> <li>c. Streetscape Committee Update: Main concern is public restrooms and Holiday decorations. To be discussed later in the meeting</li> </ul>	Assessment committee to continue working on proposal
Update from DHI a. Membership and Sponsorships b. Upcoming Events	Jordan: the new membership and sponsorship models are working. DHI has secured 30k in sponsorships (55k if BID's contribution is included). DHI has 141 members (most on record). Upcoming Events include the Easter Egg Hunt and Hello Summer in April, Gold Rush Days in May, and Alive at Five this summer. Alive at Five Update: 7 bands booked, 5 to go; contracting out beer sales to Lewis & Clark Brewery; First and last events will be block parties. For the Soap Box Derby (in the Fall), the Registration is up and registrations are coming in.	

Joint Program Updates and Discussion a. Parklets, Parking b. Snow Removal c. Empty Storefronts	<ul> <li>a. Cost of parklets is significant; paying for the parking spaces being used is a big part of that; DHI/BID is working to get the costs down. The parklet program also raises broader questions about the function/mission of Helena parking. Parking is fiscally independent of the rest of the city (self-funding). General consensus is that there is no reason that parking should be independent. Parking exists to serve the community, not for its own sake.</li> <li>b. Two main outcomes re: discussion with city. 1. Snow removal downtown had been restricted to nighttime. DHI/BID removed this restriction. 2. Jackson Street needs a comprehensive solution addressing stormwater, flooding, road grading, sidewalks, and vaults. City Manager, Public Works Director, Transportation Director, Commissioner Shirtliff are aware of the problem and working on it. Commissioner Shirtliff: there will be an upcoming Sidewalk Summit. There is the possibility of creating a snow removal district.</li> <li>c. BID will be the repository of a list of open downtown spaces for lease and businesses that may like to open downtown. Plan is to work with Vision Helena and the Chamber on this initiative. McKinley: Chamber has an Invest in Helena series, and the next is on historic tax credits</li> </ul>	Action: John and Jordan will continue to work to reduce parklet parking fees Action: John to take the lead on creating an inventory of open spaces for lease
	Further discussion was had regarding the unhoused population and the possibility of a downtown restroom. General support was expressed for the BID pursuing a downtown portable restroom. Seth did ask whether the city might consider providing and maintaining this. Kev offered that Auxilyum would donate cameras to help with security. John: the plan is to put the toilet in a reasonably busy area (Constitution Park) to help with security and maintenance. Also, DHI and BID are working with United Way to create resources for downtown business and property owners regarding the unhoused population, included a wallet-sized card and other resources.	
News and Announcements	N/A Next joint meeting is October 10, 2023 at 3:30pm	
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.	
- Aujourn	Respectfully submitted: John Dendy and Jordan Conley	