

Meeting Minutes, February 23, 2007
Missoula County Marijuana Oversight Committee

The meeting was held in the County Courthouse, Room 201 and was convened at approximately 10 a.m.

Members in attendance: Donna Hamilton, John Kneedler, Michael Bailey, Angela Goodhope, Paul Ryan, John Masterson, Steve Lohning, Steve Zellmer, and Charles Tiernan

Members absent: none

County Government Employees participating: Fred VanValkenberg, Mike McMeekin

Order of events:

Members were addressed by County Attorney VanValkenburg-

Members introduce themselves-

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

John Kneedler nominated John Masterson for Chair, Angela Goodhope seconded, no one else was nominated nor volunteered- unanimous vote- John Masterson is now Committee Chair

John Masterson nominated Steve Zellmer for Vice-Chair, Steve Lohning seconded, no one else was nominated nor volunteered – unanimous vote- Steve Zellmer is now Committee Vice Chair

Chair Masterson outlines responsibilities for Committee; Sheriff McMeekin has essentially the same list

- 1.meet quarterly, or more frequently as necessary, 2.collect grievances from people arrested for marijuana crimes, 3.develop a marijuana arrest reporting form within 7 months of enactment,
- 4.produce a report on implementation of the initiative 12 months after enactment, and every 6 months thereafter,
- 5.receive semi-annual reports from Sheriff's Department on aggregate arrest stats, and
- 6.receive individual officers' reports on marijuana arrests within 5 days of each arrest.

County Attorney VanValkenberg addresses committee regarding his proposed amendments. Hands out copy of his proposed amendments

Sheriff McMeekin addresses members-

has 3 page letter with comments or questions regarding the interactions between committee and his department. Asks for guidance on Section 6 of the initiative.

Members Zellmer, Tiernan, Bailey, and Kneedler address the Sheriff

Member Kneedler asks question regarding arrest figures- table attached to minutes regarding arrest figures- Montana Board of Crime Control

Chair Masterson brings to the table, a resolution regarding the proposed amendments. Consensus amongst members to read proposed amendments and proposed resolution and take action at the next meeting.

Prior to adjourning, member Goodhope hands out folder with Draft Marijuana Arrest, Citation, Search, or Seizure Reporting Form; ballot language, etc.

Members agree that committee should meet again before the public hearing on March 21st.

Public is asked to comment. Citizen asks, "When is the public hearing and how will we (the people) know about it?"

Commissioner Carey addresses the question. Member Goodhope asks the hearing be moved to a time after 5 p.m.

Meeting is adjourned approximately 11 a.m.