

**Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting
August 27, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.
City/County Building - Room 326**

Members present: David Scrimm, Janet Hess-Herbert, Winston Greely, James Penner, Dave Fish, George Hoff, Marshall Gingery, Bob Habeck, Ellen Bell, Lynne Boone, Brian Olsen, Mike McGuire, Maleen Olson, Larry Mitchell, Rebecca Ridenour, Kent Schlosser and Harlan Rudolf. Also present: HCC VISTA Julie Haehnel and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown.

Members absent: Dave Dalthorp, Remi Lancette, Josh Ahmann, Adam Bell and Justin Trafton.

Visitors: HPD Lieutenant Cory Livesay.

HCC Meeting Minutes and Finance Report - July23, 2008

The minutes and finance report were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Marshall Gingery presented the finance report and noted \$250 is available for the HCC retreat. Discussion was held on the finance committee and monthly report.

District Reports

District 1 - no report given.

District 2 - no report given.

District 3 - no report given.

District 4 - Jim Tucker, Jr. has resigned from the HCC.

District 5 - no report given.

District 6 - the Midtown Group will hold a flea market in September.

District 7 - no report given.

Committee/Board Updates

HOLMAC - David Scrimm noted there were some issues with him being included in meeting notification, they have hopefully been resolved and he will be attending regularly.

Golf Course Advisory Board - Larry Mitchell gave an overview of current projects at the golf course and noted the course is self-funded.

Growing Communities Project - Janet Hess-Herbert reported on two upcoming events, they are listed on the HCC calendar. Growing Communities continues to be very interested in the undeveloped parks project.

City/County Planning Board - Marshall Gingery reported the board is currently working on revisions to the Subdivision Regulations.

Discussion was held on how to provide reports to the council on the happenings of city boards and commissions. It was recommended that members send an overview to Julie following their meetings for distribution to the council.

Motion: George Hoff moved to recommend to city officials that an HCC member be appointed as a voting member to all city boards and committees. Janet Hess-Herbert seconded the motion.

Discussion was held on the motion and HCC participation on some boards and/or committees that have designated positions for a voting HCC member. Further discussion on the issue will be held at the retreat.

Vote: All voted; motion failed.

VISTA/HCC Coordinator's Report

Julie Haehnel reported she has been working on meeting city staff and HCC representatives and attending VISTA training. The subject of the next HCTV show will be the Public Safety Mill Levy and the subject of the next Independent Record article will be about the neighborhood planning process. Also, she is working on a marketing plan to teach members how to promote the HCC and its district meetings.

Unfinished Business and General Orders:

Undeveloped Parks - Vice-Chair Bob Habeck gave an update on the undeveloped parks project and outlined the process for moving forward with park master plans and budget distribution. One issue moving forward will be who will be responsible for paying the water bill for the parks in perpetuity. Maleen Olson and Dave Fish provided updates on the status of Pioneer, Northgate and Reber Parks.

Helena Police Department (HPD) Report

Lieutenant Corey Livesay reported the Last Chance Stampede went well and also spoke of HPD Officers helping with the Testicle Festival and Hell's Angels visit in Rock Creek, Montana. He noted there have been a lot of traffic issues recently because of construction and asked council members to remind their constituents that school has started and stress the importance of safe driving, bike/pedestrian safety and supervision of children. Discussion of junk vehicles and reporting neighborhood problems was held.

Unfinished Business and General Orders (continued):

Retreat - Chair Bell noted Justin Trafton had provided council members with the Retreat Planning Committee Recommendation. Discussion was held on hiring Dan Clark with Montana State University (MSU) as a facilitator. The importance of participation in the retreat was stressed.

Motion: Winston Greely moved to have the retreat catered and hire Dan Clark with MSU as a facilitator. David Scrimm seconded the motion. All voted; motion carried.

There was discussion on offering to pay for room, board and mileage for Mr. Clark; there was council consensus to ask him for his minimum cost. Further information on his cost and the purpose of the retreat will be sent to council members via email. Discussion was held on future retreat sessions.

Motion: David Scrimm moved to have the strategic planning session of the retreat facilitated. Janet Hess-Herbert seconded the motion. All voted; motion failed.

Motion: David Scrimm moved that the HCC Executive Committee will not make the final decision on whether or not to facilitate future retreat sessions. Harlan Rudolf seconded the motion. All voted; motion carried.

Site Supervisory Committee - Chair Bell announced the committee has been formed and will be meeting every other week on Wednesday at the Dive Bakery at noon and invited council members to attend.

Recruitment of new HCC members - There continues to be openings for council members in Districts 4, 5 and 6; members were asked to actively recruit for these districts.

HCC Information Center - Lynne Boone reported the HCC Information Center is up and running next to the Elections Office and listed the kind of information that is located at it. It will be relocated temporarily during the election to an information area next to the Human Resource Office.

New Business:

Neighborhood Meetings - Chair Bell asked that agenda items be sent to Julie. Discussion was held on how to improve attendance at the meetings.

Marketing Committee - Please let Chair Bell or Julie know if you'd like to participate on the committee; its purpose is to publicize the HCC. Mike McGuire and Janet Hess-Herbert volunteered to be members.

City Permits - George Hoff expressed gratitude for the building permit report that is now being distributed to council members. However, he noted he would like to receive the report earlier in the permit process. This topic will be discussed at the retreat.

Upcoming Meetings:

- HCC Monthly Meeting/Retreat - Wednesday, September 24, 2008 @ 5:00p.m. - Helena Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Burton - Tuesday, September 16, 2008 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
 - September 3, 2008
 - September 17, 2008
- City Commission Meetings:
 - September 8, 2008
 - September 22, 2008

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm. The next HCC meeting is Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 5:00pm at the Helena Chamber of Commerce Building; the meeting will be a retreat for the council.