

**Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting  
January 28, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.  
City/County Building - Room 326**

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

**Members absent:** Matt Cohn, Remi Lancette, Adam Bell and Brian Olsen.

**Visitors:** Administrative Services Director Tim Magee, City Clerk Debbie Havens, Parks & Recreation Director Amy Teegarden, Natural Resource Coordinator Brad Langsather, and Helena Police Department Corporal Jayson Zander.

**HCC Meeting minutes - November 19 and December 17, 2008, and HCC Finance Report**

The minutes and finance report were approved as submitted.

**City/HCC Budget Presentation**

City Clerk Debbie Havens explained that she is the contact for the HCC budget and reported the Fiscal Year 2010 budget is due to her by February 3, 2009. Administrative Services Director Tim Magee gave an overview of the city's budget and budget process and explained the HCC's budget structure.

**Helena Police Department Report**

HPD Corporal Jayson Zander reported the HPD is planning to fill the vacant position of Assistant Chief by recruiting from within the department and noted currently the HPD is staffed at full capacity. The Deer Reduction Program will resume after February and former Assistant Chief Mark Lerum will be assisting the city in the implementation of the program. Corporal Zander explained his certification as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and spoke of the department's hopes to certify an additional officer as a DRE.

**"Red Trees" Presentation**

Natural Resource Coordinator Brad Langsather gave a thorough presentation on pine beetle infestation in the forests surrounding Helena and explained the city's strategies to address the issue in addition to fuel mitigation projects.

Discussion was held on how the HCC can help with public education for the reduction projects, public understanding of changing forest conditions, and encourage involvement in the planning process. Director Teegarden noted she and Coordinator Langsather could attend the February HCC meeting to continue discussion on the beetle infestation if necessary.

**Neighborhood Parks**

Parks & Recreation Director Teegarden gave an overview of the Undeveloped Parks Project including its background, process, design and development decisions, funding options, common design features, planting list, ongoing development considerations and next steps. HCC Coordinator Julie Haehnel will email Director Teegarden's power point presentation to council members.

**Motion:** David Scrimm moved to postpone agenda items 3 D-G and 5 A-II. Janet Hess-Herbert seconded the motion. All voted; motion failed.

### Treasurer's Report

Larry Mitchell explained the Resolution of Commission Intent for FY2009. He reported the City Commission would adopt the FY2010 resolution at its March 23, 2008 meeting and asked council members to review the current resolution and submit suggestions for the FY2010 resolution at the February HCC Meeting.

### VISTA/HCC Coordinator's Report

Julie Haehnel's report is attached at the end of the minutes as part of the official record. There was council consensus to move the HCC city-wide District Meeting to March 5, 2009.

### District Reports

District 1 - no report given.

District 2 - no report given.

District 3 - no report given.

District 4 - no report given.

District 5 - no report given.

District 6 - no report given.

District 7 - no report given.

### Committee/Board Updates

**Global Climate Change Task Force** - Rebecca Ridenour gave an update on the task force and announced it is due to sunset in February 2009; the group will be asking for a 6-month extension.

**Transportation Coordinating Committee** - George Hoff listed construction projects scheduled for summer 2009.

### Election of 2009 Officers

George Hoff withdrew his name for the position of Vice-Chair. There were no additional nominations given.

**Motion: George Hoff moved to close nominations for 2009 officers. Janet Hess-Herbert seconded the motion. All voted aye; motion carried.**

Candidates for the HCC's 2009 Executive Board were as listed below:

Chair - Dan Bernhardt  
Vice Chair - Winston Greely  
Treasurer - Harlan Rudolf  
Secretary - Jim Penner

**Motion: Larry Mitchell moved to adopt the slate of candidates by acclamation. George Hoff seconded the motion. All voted aye; motion carried.**

### **Unfinished Business and General Order:**

**Review of updated HCC Guiding Principles** - Maleen Olson gave an overview of the document and noted she would email it to council members for their review and comments. There was council concurrence to discuss the principles at the February meeting.

**Issue Process & Handling** - the final version of the guidelines will be distributed to the council.

**Marketing Committee** - Discussion was held on the format of the upcoming city-wide District Meeting. It was noted 11 nametags have been ordered.

**Executive Board Recommendations** - Ellen Bell will head a project to identify important/influential city board and committee meetings for the HCC to attend. Council members already attending/participating on a board or committee will submit a summary of their role and the committee/board's goal to Julie.

**HCC and the Chamber of Commerce** - Discussion on this item was postponed to a future meeting.

**Water Quality Presentation by City Manager Burton** - This presentation was cancelled as the council's current workload does not allow sufficient time to allot for the presentation.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, February 25, 2009 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Burton - Tuesday, February 17, 2009 @ 1:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
  - February 4, 2009 - Maleen Olson
  - February 18, 2009 - Dave Fish
- City Commission Meetings:
  - February 9, 2009 - Maleen Olson
  - February 23, 2009 - Rebecca Ridenour

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next HCC meeting is February 25, 2009 at 7:00pm in Room 326 of the City/County Building.

VISTA report- January 2008

#### NEW MEMBERS

I have gotten 3 responses from interested citizens wanting to join the council since my January IR article. One was just out of city limits for District 5, one never followed through, and the third has actually submitted his application for District 7 and plans to attend our February meeting. His name is Bob Summerer. I understand the MTSWNA is considering asking a member to volunteer on our council for the 6<sup>th</sup> district. If you have any other promising leads please let me know: we have vacancies in Districts 3, 5, 6, and 7.

#### DISTRICT MEETINGS

I've been working on finding a location for our combined Quarterly District meeting coming up in March and have found that there are many events being held in Helena on March 12<sup>th</sup>. I understand that there will always be conflicts when scheduling events, but this may be enough for the council to consider changing the proposed date. These conflicts include: Empty Bowls fundraiser for the friendship center at Carroll College, Montana Discovery Center hosting a lecture from a U of M professor at the Helena Middle School, the Middle School Band Festival at the Civic Center, as well as High school States basketball Tournament. If this is enough to put a motion on the table I would suggest actually moving our event forward to March 5<sup>th</sup> where the only conflict I have seen so far is high school basketball playoffs.

A location is not yet nailed down because many of the central locations in town are either booked for March 12<sup>th</sup> or asking for a fee. Right now our best option is at UM-tech (where 5,6,7 originally meet) in their student union- for a fee of \$60. However I still have hope that we can get a free room at the RMDC's neighborhood center (where district 1-2 usually meet) in their cafeteria but am waiting to hear back from our contact there.

#### VISTA PROJECT:

As part of the HCC's VISTA application for my term, assisting in the development of Neighborhood Plans is one of my main goals. So far this project has been moving slower than I anticipated but I hope that by organizing an updated workplan session we will get a jump start on writing the plan for the MSWNA. I have also made connections with Neighborhood Coordinator from Missoula Lanette Diaz who has offered to come speak to our neighborhood groups interested in forming plans- about the process of specific Missoula plans and answer any questions that they may have. She is willing to do this free of charge, but we will probably need to pay for her transportation out here. If there is enough money in our budget for a trip to and from Missoula, I would appreciate the Council's support on these efforts. Speaking of VISTA applications: I realize that I was supposed to make copies for everyone of my VISTA application, but I think I will send it on in email instead if you are still interested. On another note, I believe the application for our 6<sup>th</sup> year VISTA is due in March so I will have to work with the Chair of the council on that very soon.

#### CITIZEN COUNCIL FOR FERGUS COUNTY:

The Chair of Fergus County Citizens Council has requested our support in recent

legislation he hopes to be passed: House Bill 328. Which will make it easier for citizens to run for council in that area. He has requested that we show up in numbers to support the bill, and if possible, make a brief statement about why Citizen Councils are important. Please see the email hand-out I have provided for more information.

**SITE SUPERVISORY MEETING:**

Mark your calendars: our next supervisory meeting will be next week Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12pm in the Dive Bakery.