

**Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting
February 25, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
City/County Building - Room 326**

Members present: Kent Schlosser, Winston Greely, Lynne Boone, David Scrimm, Larry Mitchell, Dave Fish, Mike McGuire, Ellen Bell, Dan Berndardt, Marshall Gingery, Maleen Olson, Harlan Rudolf, Jim Penner and Bob Habeck. Also present: HCC Coordinator Julie Haehnel.

Members absent: Matt Cohn, Dave Dalthrop, Rebecca Ridenour, George Hoff, Remi Lancette, Adam Bell, Janet Hess-Herbert and Brian Olsen.

Visitors: HPD Lieutenant Steve Hagen, Berma Saxton and Jim McCormick of District 3.

HCC Meeting minutes - January 28, 2009 and Finance Report

The minutes and finance report were approved as submitted.

Helena Police Department Report

HPD Lt. Hagen gave an update on the deer reduction program.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Marshall Gingery reported the Neighborhood Fair advertising is estimated at costing \$700. Following those expenditures the HCC will have spent 62% of its total budget.

VISTA/HCC Coordinator's Report

Julie Haehnel's report is attached at the end of the minutes as part of the official record.

District Reports

No district reports were given.

Committee/Board Updates

HOLMAC - David Scrimm gave an update on the city's fuel reduction program. He noted HOLMAC will be hosting an Open House on March 31, 2009 at the Lewis & Clark Library.

Tenmile Watershed Council - Larry Mitchell reported the council will soon be making recommendations to the City of Helena and US Forest Service on how to protect the watershed; he asked council members to solicit opinions on the issue from their neighborhoods.

Helena Housing Authority - Dave Fish announced due to health concerns, the spray park at Stewart Homes is being considered for abandonment.

Planning Board - Marshall Gingery gave an overview of the Mountain View Meadows Subdivision; generally located southwest of East Helena, west of Highway 282 and north of the Jefferson County line.

Executive Board - Chair Bernhardt announced the 2008 Executive Board would be aiding in the transition to the 2009 Board by serving as an Advisory Council.

Unfinished Business:

HCC Purpose Statement & Guiding Principles - Maleen Olson explained her work on the updated document. David Scrimm spoke in support of his version.

Motion: Maleen Olson moved to approve her version of the HCC Purpose Statement & Guiding Principles. Ellen Bell seconded the motion. All voted; motion passed with three

members voting no.

Undeveloped Parks - Bob Habeck gave an update on the project and discussed possible funding options.

HCC participation on City Boards/Committees - The Executive Board continues to work on this project.

Budget Resolution of Intent - Larry Mitchell recommended sending a letter to the City Commission and Manager listing the HCC's recommendations; discussion was held.

Motion: Marshall Gingery moved to accept the council member comments and request the Finance Committee draft a letter and send it via email to HCC members for comments before Executive Board approval, then send it to the City Commission and Manager by March 14, 2009. Ellen Bell seconded the motion. All voted; motion passed with one member voting no.

Neighborhood Fair - Chair Bernhardt gave an update on the Fair.

New Business:

VISTA Renewal Application - Discussion was held on the application.

Motion: Jim Penner moved approval to apply for a third term VISTA to serve as HCC Coordinator. Harlan Rudolf seconded the motion. All voted; motion passed unanimously.

Board/Committee Assignments - Dave Fish has been appointed to the Water Quality Protection District Board as a voting member. He will no longer be attending Helena Housing Authority Meetings.

General Discussion - The council is working to change the date/time of the monthly meeting with the City Manager so more members can attend.

Discussion was held on how to get more members to attend the monthly meeting.

Chair Bernhardt asked each member to come up with one or two issues in their District in order to get their neighborhoods more involved with the city.

Upcoming Meetings:

- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, March 25, 2009 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Burton - Tuesday, March 17, 2009 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
 - March 4, 2009 - Lynne Boone
 - March 18, 2009 - Marshall Gingery
- City Commission Meetings:
 - March 9, 2009 - Winston Greely
 - March 23, 2009 - Marshall Gingery

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Vista Report - February 2009

This past month I have spent a lot of my time preparing for our Neighborhood Fair. There has been a lot of prep work involved, and I want to thank the Marketing Committee for all of their help visioning and promoting our event, as well as all of you for doing your part. I will not go into detail on this even because you will hear more about it further on in the agenda. One thing I need to mention is that I got an email from the IR editor asking for no more editorials from our members about the event- he will try to place them in as he sees fit, but since the IR is already covering the event they want to keep those spaces open for citizen opinion. Thanks for those of you that have completed yours and sent it in, if you haven't you're off the hook! Please see me after the meeting if you would like more flyers or business cards for our Neighborhood Fair.

I have also been working with Jim Penner, along with the executive board and my supervisory committee, on completing next term's VISTA application. It is due March 17th, but the sooner we start advertising the better as the application rate is expected to be higher this week and many Montana VISTA sites have already interviewed some amazing candidates. I may be biased, but this is one of the best sites in Montana and we deserve to have another capable VISTA for next year. If you pass an approval at tonight's meeting to apply for another term VISTA we will get our application sent into ASAP.

I have also met alongside Bob Habeck with the City Attorney and Deputy Attorney to talk about fundraising options for our Neighborhood Park committees. We are trying to help enable Neighborhood Committees to fundraise for future development in their parks. This will be something I will continue to work on as a priority next month by seeking non-profits such as WEEL and the Kay Mckenna Foundation that have similar missions to umbrella neighborhood committees as non-profits, or to help fundraise for park amenities. Bob may talk more specific in the upcoming Neighborhood Parks agenda item.

Along with parks, you may have heard that the Parks Department held a contest to name our upcoming new water park. Amy may be asking the HCC to help choose the best name from the contest, so we may be hearing more from her within the next month.

This month our HCTV show and IR article was about the City/County Parks Plan survey as well as the neighborhood fair. If you haven't already taken the survey, your opinions are very valued. It takes approximately 5 minutes and you can find the website online with links off of the city and county website homepages. The survey closes this Friday and the plan has not been updated since 1998 so make sure to get involved even if you do not use the parks/trails/open lands offered here in Helena.