

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

**Members present:** Dave Dalthorp, Kent Schlosser, Winston Greely, Rebecca Ridenour, Larry Mitchell, Dave Fish, Mike McGuire, Ellen Bell, Dan Bernhardt, Marshall Gingery, Harlan Rudolf, Bob Habeck and Janet Hess-Herbert. Also present: HCC Coordinator Julie Haehnel.

**Members absent:** Matt Cohn, Lynne Boone, David Scrimm, George Hoff, Remi Lancette, Adam Bell, Maleen Olson, Jim Penner and Brian Olsen.

**Visitors:** HPD Lieutenant Steve Hagen, Parks & Recreation Director Amy Teegarden, Jim McCormick, Cody Withum and Paula Thiede.

**HCC Meeting minutes - February 25, 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 and sexual & violent offender registration compliance project. Discussion was held on local businesses serving alcohol to minors.

**Undeveloped Parks Presentation**

Parks & Recreation Director Amy Teegarden provided first phase designs and cost estimates for Beltview, Pioneer Village, Janet, Northgate, Reber and Skelton Parks. Director Teegarden recommended performing improvements to all six parks under one contract and bid as it will be more efficient and cost effective; the projects could be bid in May, awarded in June and the work done this summer.

Mr. Cody Withum gave an overview of the design of each park. Discussion was held on a budget strategy, funding options and community gardens.

**Motion: Bob Habeck moved approval of the following recommendation:**

**The Commission recognize the public participation process for soliciting input from interested parties was comprehensive, well advertised, and inclusive;**

**The Commission recognize the conceptual park drawings adequately match the expectations submitted from interested parties;**

**The Commission recognize the proposed park budgets for implementation of core amenities are fair and unbiased; and**

**The Commission immediately release park funding to initiate work by early summer 2009.**

**Ellen Bell seconded the motion. All voted; motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion: Bob Habeck moved approval of the following recommendation:**

**The Commission challenge the Parks Department to find innovative and lasting funding mechanisms to ensure these parks are adequately maintained consistent with existing parks.**

**Ellen Bell seconded the motion. All voted; motion passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Marshall Gingery gave the budget report.

**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

**District 1** - Issues within the district are the Farmers Market location and allowing bikes on the Walking Mall.

**District 2** - Issues within the district are traffic problems.

**District 3** - No issues were reported.

**District 4** - Issues within the district are the late night emergency system automated phone calls, bike and pedestrian issues, and Hardees did not shovel their sidewalk over the winter.

**District 5** - Issues within the district are concern for the continuation of Sanders Street to Custer Avenue for speed reasons.

**District 6** - Issues within the district are the Caird Engineering Project.

**District 7** - Issues within the district are adopting a litter area and traffic on Winne Avenue.

## Committee/Board Updates

**Tenmile Watershed Council** - Larry Mitchell reported the council's recommendation is due to the City Commission in June; it is a very busy council and they meet often.

**Planning Board** - Lewis & Clark County Environmental Health Director Kathy Moore recently led a work session on septic systems and water quality in Lewis & Clark County; it was very informative.

**Growing Communities Project** - Janet Hess-Herbert reported the project continues to have well attended meetings with a lot of interest in the program.

**Helena Regional Airport Authority** - Marshall Gingery reported the Airport recently won a lawsuit regarding the lease of its property.

**Marketing Committee** - Ellen Bell continues to work on the website with the City/County Information Technology & Services Department (IT & S). IT & S has asked the HCC to work together and form a recommendation on revisions to the website. A new idea for the site is a "forum" for discussion and feedback from the public.

## Unfinished Business:

**Executive Board Report** - Chair Bernhardt gave an update on changes to HCC participation on city boards and committees; Dave Dalthorp has replaced Matt Cohn on the Non-motorized Travel Advisory Council.

## New Business:

**General Discussion** - Vice Chair Greely gave an overview of Executive Board issues and spoke of the importance of city and county water quality.

Discussion was held on how to improve HCC membership and meeting attendance. Bob Habeck noted Ms. Fran Penner-Ray would attend the April HCC Meeting to discuss bikes on the walking mall.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, April 22, 2009 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Burton - Tuesday, April 21, 2009 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
  - April 1, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt
  - April 15, 2009 - Bob Habeck
  - April 29, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt
- City Commission Meetings:
  - April 6, 2009 - Kent Schlosser
  - April 20, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## Vista Report – March 2009

Neighborhood Fair: Successful event with estimates of 100 people or more in attendance! Thanks for everyone's efforts to get fliers out and writing editorials to the newspapers. We got a lot of good feedback from the participants-

What would improve Neighborhood Fairs:

1. Restrict it to city and city related issues and have the District reps tour the booths ahead of time so that they might be able to lead a citizen to the right agency and engage that person in conversation as they are doing that
2. I think having more people there would be good so that these organizations are getting their information out to new people. So maybe work on the PR to get more people to attend? Overall, it was a great success! Thanks!
3. There were some great organizations there but I think there could be even more diversity. Also, as someone who was tabling it would have been nice to be able to see the speaker.
4. Maybe make it run longer, give people more time to look around at the different booths- the groups represented were pretty diverse for attendees to absorb in that amount of time, and a lot of people spent all their time at the presentation.

It is the Marketing Committee's view that this should remain a once-a-year event for the month March- and our next District meeting should be in the fall so we can now work on improving our regular District meetings if anyone else has any ideas.

We have a VISTA application. Her name is Bonnie O'Neille and I spoke with her today and she sounds VERY promising. She is very interested in Community Development and the HCC position. She has a bachelors degree in political science and environmental science. We will be interviewing her for the position soon.

Other projects I've been working on:

MSWNA- setting up a planning meeting with Sharon hopefully for next week.

GYSD-

Marketing Website

Finance- We will be working to develop some cost estimates for a full time position with the City coming up shortly