

Helena Citizen's Council
Regular Meeting
October 26, 2005

Members Present: Thom Warsinski, Joe Ruby, Wayne Lewis, Allen Tompkins, Bill Roberts, Teresa Klotz, Justin Trafton, George Hoff, Jim Christnacht, Jerry Hutch, Jan Lombardi, Jerry McGee, Bob Habeck and Laura Erikson

Members Absent: Robert Clarkson, Keith Jones and Delma Sommers.

Visitors Present: Sharon Haugen, Paul Cartwright, Alan Peura and George McCaully.

Approval of September's Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Christnacht: \$1500 available but advertising bills have not come in yet.

Helena Police Dept: No report

OLD BUSINESS:

Emergency Preparedness Open House

Bill Roberts said that there was good participation from HCC in this event. About 70-80 people attended. Paul Spangler ran the meeting. All three county commissioners were there. HCTV did not show up to film the event but KTVH did and had a piece on the evening news. Paul discussed earthquakes, fires, floods and the CERT training. CERT is Citizen's Emergency Response Team. Justin is taking the course and says it is very worthwhile.

The general agreement was that the event should be planned again for next year during October, which is Emergency Preparedness Month. Put on July 2006 new business and prepare further in advance next year.

Meth Awareness Open House

This event was well attended (appr. 150 people) and a knowledgeable group made up the meth panel. There were also three former meth users that told their stories. Van's Appliance donated a large projection TV for the event (to show meth ads. Wayne taped the event for HCTV. Jan stated how pleased she was that the HCC took part in this important community discussion. The consensus was to plan for another town hall meeting and talk about other items related to meth. While this event focused a lot on enforcement there are other things like treatment and family issues that could be future topics. The attendance showed that there is a lot of interest and it is important to keep this dialogue open.

NEW BUSINESS:

November/December HCC meetings

There was a lot of discussion on whether the November and December meetings should be combined as has been done in the past. The regularly scheduled meetings for those months would conflict with holidays.

Motion: Move the November meeting from November 23 to November 15 and the December 28 meeting to December 14.

Motion Carries

Connectivity

Sharon Haugen, Community Development Director for the City Planning and Building Divisions discussed issues that were brought up by the HCC related to the lack of vehicle access between Hastings and Target. Sharon gave the background on the development of those two areas and the reasons why these sites did not have to go through a review that would have looked at connectivity. She stated that because of this particular area, her dept. now has a different process for reviewing all new developments. In other developments they are trying to reserve ROW's so future planning can include the needs of fire and law enforcement in terms of connectivity and accessibility.

There were many questions that came up that were unrelated to the topic of connectivity so Sharon agreed to come back to another HCC meeting the first of the year to discuss changes in the dept. and changes in the master zoning plan. Add to Jan. or Feb. agenda

Quality of Life issues

George McCaully told the story of how a simple concern he had in the city became something that took over a year to resolve. He and others started to discuss how they could address the issue of City of Helena officials being more responsive to the citizen's, their constituents. He gave a list of quality of life issues that he and Janet Seymour came up with. Most of the items on the list have city ordinances and regulations in place but the process appears to be the biggest problem. He asked if the HCC was interested in helping with resolving some things on the list. The members present were very positive about what George presented and felt it was very important to continue to talk about and look at quality of life for Helena citizens. That should be part of what the HCC does!

The group decided to continue the discussion at the Nov. or Dec. meeting and combine these ideas with the plan to have more town hall meetings.

The November agenda should include time to discuss how complaints from citizens are handled by the city.

Montana Association of the Blind

Jerry Hutch informed the group of an event for people with vision problems. It is scheduled for Nov. 1st and is from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. at the library.

District Reports:

District 1: No report

District 2: No report.

District 3: No report.

District 4: Hamlin got approval for development north of Custer Rd..

District 5: New developments proposed.

District 6: No report

District 7: District boundaries changed.

Committee Reports:

Meeting Schedule:

City Commission Meetings:

Nov 7: Teresa Klotz

Nov. 21: Thom Warsinski

City Admin Meetings:

Nov 2: Jerry McGee

Nov. 16: Allen Thompkins

Nov. 30: Bill Roberts

Tim Burton's Staff Meeting:

Date TBA: George Hoff

Next HCC Meeting:

The next HCC meeting will be held November 16.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Erikson
HCC District 1