

Helena Citizen's Council
Regular Meeting
September 27, 2005

Members Present: Thom Warsinski, Joe Ruby, Wayne Lewis, Allen Tompkins, Bill Roberts, Teresa Klotz, Justin Trafton, George Hoff, Jim Christnacht and Laura Erikson

Members Absent: Robert Clarkson, Keith Jones, Bob Habeck, Delma Sommers, Jerry Hutch. Jerry McGee and Jan Lombardi.

Visitors Present: Alan Peura and George McCaully.

Approval of July Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Christnacht: only \$22 has been spent out of \$1500 available, we do not need to be so cheap.

OLD BUSINESS:

HCC Elections

Bill Roberts is going to meet with the editor of the Queen City News and with Jason Mohr of the IR in hopes that both papers will have articles about the HCC in time to let the public know about the upcoming elections. He would like to have the graphic of the districts included in the articles. Allen suggested someone contact Jay Scott of KBLL to try and get on the show 'Coffee Break' to discuss the upcoming election and openings on the HCC.

Jim asked what happened to the proposal from the city to hire a part-time employee that would work exclusively for HCC. George responded that the plan has taken the back burner and that Tim suggested seeing if Robyn could assist us for the time being. This needs to be cleared with Debbie first.

Bill Roberts suggested sending a letter or email to all members reminding them of the elections and the need to file by Oct. 11.

Motion: That the Secretary of the HCC or Robyn send a letter (or email) to all HCC members reminding us of the upcoming election and filing requirements.

Motion carries.

Helena Police Dept: No report

NEW BUSINESS:

Meth Awareness & Emergency Preparedness seminars

The HCC will be assisting in advertising two upcoming programs. The first is to be put on by Paul Spangler, he will address current issues related to emergency preparedness. This will take place Oct. 11 in the civic center ballroom. The second program is on methamphetamine awareness and will be presented by Lt. Roger Johnson on Oct. 18 in the civic center auditorium.

Bill will get in touch with Paul S. to find out the particulars. Volunteers for helping pull this together are: Wayne, Jim, Allen, Bill and Justin. Wayne will talk to Bruce Messinger about a mailing that is going out soon to parents-maybe something about the meth program can be included. Bill suggested contacting Jan about the meth program since she is the Governor's education coordinator. He will also get the info. about these events on the HCC website.

Guest-George McCaully

George came to the HCC meeting to see what the group was all about. He and some neighbors met with Mayor Smith to discuss quality of life concerns they had with the current rapid growth in and around Helena. Mayor Smith suggested he meet with the HCC. George said he had not ever heard that there was an HCC so he believes we need more and better PR. He would like to be officially on the agenda for the next meeting and he will encourage other people to attend the next meeting. He suggested as part of a PR plan to have the 'HCC Moment' which would be a weekly piece in the paper giving the upcoming agenda items, meeting times, etc.

The discussion of PR for the HCC opened up again and several suggestions were made on what would work:

Jim said that we might as well pay for advertisement if the I.R. is not committed to printing information on the HCC.

Bill thinks we should use the Queen City News because it is cheaper and is being read by a lot of the citizens of the city.

Teresa thinks we need to have a plan that has continuity and not just advertise occasionally. A more concrete strategic plan needs to be developed.

Motion: Have a strategic planning committee meet over the next six months to develop a plan to better educate the public on the activities of the HCC and assign duties to HCC members to will carry out the plan.

Motion carries.

Teresa, Justin, Laura, Wayne and Jan (?) volunteer to work on this.

District Reports:

District 1: Jan and Laura have tentatively discussed a “Meet the Candidates” forum in their districts to introduce the city commission candidates.

District 2: No report.

District 3: Several zoning issues have come up in the district.

District 4: No report.

District 5: Lead contaminated soil is being removed by the railroad.

District 6: Jim reported that the traffic has increased significantly getting onto Sanders from Gold Rush. Justin wondered what information there was about this intersection in the transportation plan. Justin has been working with a group of commercial property owners who are interested in the revitalization of the Sixth Ward area. Informing people of the idea via telephone has been taking too long so he is planning a newspaper article instead giving his contact number so people can contact him. The group may take a tour of the Missoula RR district to see how they went about the revitalization of that area.

District 7: No news to report.

Committee Reports:

Bill was actively involved in the 100th anniversary celebration of Mt. Helena. He said it was well attended and that each part of the event was successful. Justin taped the whole event and when editing is complete they will show on HCTV.

Meeting Schedule:

City Commission Meetings:

Oct 17: Teresa Klotz

Oct 31: Joe Ruby

City Admin Meetings:

Oct 12: Wayne Lewis

Oct 26: Wayne Lewis

Tim Burton's Staff Meeting:

Date TBA: George Hoff

Next HCC Meeting:

The next HCC meeting will be held October 26.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Erikson
HCC District 1