

Helena Citizen's Council

Regular Meeting – July 26, 2006

Members Present: Matthew Cohn, Jim Christnacht, Mary Ann Dunwell, Marshall Gingery, George Hoff, Teresa Klotz, Mark McDonnell, Rebecca Ridenour, Bill Roberts, Ken Saunders, Allen Tompkins, Jim Tucker Jr, Justin Trafton and Thom Warsinski.

Members Absent: Lynne Boone, Amy Glasscock, Bob Habeck, Laura Erickson, Tripp Hammer, Jan Lombardi, Jerry McGee, Larry Mitchell, Patty Rambo, Jay Synness and Loyd Tracy.

Visitors Present: Officer John Fosket, Paul Spengler, Jerry Baxter and George McCauley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The June 28, 2006 minutes were approved as submitted.

HELENA POLICE DEPT REPORT: Officer John Fosket

4 new officers were recently sworn in. 2 of them started Monday and are with training officers this week.

Rising temperatures definitely affects people's tempers and behavior. Officers are working hard to keep things from escalating.

Traffic at the North end of town is getting heavier and impacts our officers' movement while patrolling. They're also looking for alternate routes through that area.

HCC TREASURER'S REPORT: So far no expenses have been reported for fiscal year 2007. Our proposed budget of \$3818 for FY07 is still pending, up from \$1565 for FY06.

The HCC Board wants to develop a method for approving HCC expenditures, to maintain some control over our spending while allowing our various committees to do their work in a timely manner. This must also include reporting our financial obligations to our Treasurer so they know where we stand, with respect to our budget.

Jim gets a copy of our financial report from the City every month, but it only shows the bills the City has paid for the HCC. It's not an accurate picture of our obligations. For example, the City bills us on a quarterly basis for copier expenses, and other bills aren't applied until a month or more after the funds have been committed. We all need to let him know as soon as we make a financial obligation for HCC funds.

The Board considered allowing HCC members or committees to spend \$50 without approval, up to \$500 will require the HCC Board's approval, and anything over \$500 must come before the full HCC for approval.

However, \$500 is a large percentage of our annual budget.

Assign a budget when we establish a new committee?

No standing committee can spend more than ___% of the total HCC budget?

Assign each District a budget?

Our Bylaws indicate 2/15 is the deadline for submitting budgets for the coming fiscal year – maybe we need to start sooner than that.

Please think about this and we'll put it on next month's agenda for discussion.

DISTRICT DISCUSSIONS:

Jim Tucker is the lone rep in District 4: What's the best way to make public notice of the vacancies in his District? He's approached a few people but received no positive responses. He's considering a letter to the editor in both of the local papers. Debbie Havens can include it in the list of the City's PSAs.

District 3 (George Hoff): There will be a neighborhood meeting on Tuesday August 1st at Spring Meadow Resources. 2 property owners on the West Side have requested annexation, and the remainder of the area is being set up as pre-zoning to determine what would be required to bring them into the City. The Zoning Commission meets on August 8, and this matter will appear on the City Commission's agenda 2 weeks after that. 51% of property owners must approve to get annexed. Districts 3 and 4 will be affected. It sounds familiar to pre-zoning they did 2 years ago. The City's not rushing to annex. They're doing pre-zoning in conjunction with the County to make things more efficient down the road, to help everyone save money.

West Side Boundaries: Jim's noticed the western boundary of District 4 isn't exactly a straight line. He's getting calls from people who are technically outside City boundaries. Just because they're on City water/sewer doesn't mean they're City residents.

Comments on the West Side from Officer Fosket: The West boundary is very jagged and difficult to determine what's in/out of the City. HPD has a good computer system that helps them get to the right place. And they have an agreement with the Sheriff's Dept - if they're not sure whether the call is in or out of the City, they'll take the call and work out the details later.

Marshall Gingery: The County is changing their subdivision codes to be more compliant with the City. We should know more about that by December 2006.

Is there a more recent map of HCC boundaries? The most recent map we have was included in the orientation binders everyone received in January.

District 1 (Matthew Cohn): Will hold a public meeting sometime in October at the Library. The Urban Wildlife Task Force received some grant money from FWP, so they will be moving forward with their survey. They anticipate public meetings in the December/January timeframe. They have 9 different options for handling deer and are applying a scoring methodology to each option. Their next meeting is Thursday July 27th; they meet every 2 weeks at noon in room 326.

City Manager's Meeting (Justin Trafton): The July City Manager's meeting was cancelled. When it is cancelled, it's usually not until the morning it's scheduled. If you're planning to attend this meeting, you should call Clinda to make sure it's still scheduled.

Mid-Town Revitalization (Justin Trafton): Affects Districts 2, 5 and 6. Next Thursday at 5:30pm at the HCT Student Center, there will be a planning meeting to determine the planning boundary. Resident's issues will be included in the neighborhood plan.

District 2 (George McCauley for Larry Mitchell): Touchstone will be having a block party in early August to help get people interested and let them know what's up with HCC.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Service Project (Teresa Klotz and George McCauley):

Due to a conflict in Teresa's schedule, the date has changed to Sunday October 8th.

We distributed copies of the list of potential projects provided by the City. Individual districts can choose a project from the offered list or another project they're aware of.

If you choose a project one of the City's projects, the City will provide the materials (paint, etc.). If you choose to work on one of the RMDC projects, individuals will need to provide the materials and resources.

We also distributed copies of the "How To" checklist the committee drafted. Teresa will email a copy of the checklist to all HCC members.

Districts need to let Teresa know which project they've chosen - as soon as possible, but no later than August 23, 2006 (August HCC Meeting).

Once you've chosen your project, Districts need to communicate material resource needs to Teresa by no later than Friday September 15th, so we can forward them to the City.

One District talked about doing a food drive. The primary goal of this project is to get neighbors together to spruce up/maintain/repair an area of our neighborhoods. We agree a food drive is a great idea, so we recommend each site have a box available to collect Food Share donations.

Please be conscious of having jobs for people who want to help, but may not be able to due to physical limitations. Try to include these people in your project.

If you have any questions, please contact someone on the committee.

Questions:

Who organizes materials? Each District should determine which materials to ask volunteers to bring with them, and which we need to ask the City to provide. Work gloves vs. paint, for example.

Who organizes refreshments? Each District should decide what they want to offer. We don't have a budget for this project. Jim mentioned that Wendy's and McDonalds will donate large coolers with drink mix on a first come/first serve basis.

Who organizes publicity? The ad-hoc committee will organize signage and publicity, as soon as all of the Districts have settled on a project.

Lynne's List: There was general agreement that the list for organizing volunteers for the City Commission meetings is working well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Paul Spenger, Lewis and Clark County Disaster Preparedness:

Fire Season: The "energy release component" is the measure the Forest Service uses to determine wildland fire risk. Right now it's higher than it was in 2000; this week the Forest Service passed Stage

1 restrictions. The Tri-County Fire Working Group administers a federal grant program for property owners who live in wild-land urban interface areas (South Hills, for example) to help create disaster resistant landscapes. There is no deadline to apply, applications are accepted year round.

Citizen Corps Council: Meets at 1:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday every month in the Chamber of Commerce conference room. Mary Ann Dunwell is our rep to this group.

Emergency Reminders Magnet: Apx. 20% of our population have “special needs” (elderly, handicapped). Paul’s office is using existing resources (Home Health, Meals on Wheels) to distribute these refrigerator magnets. When one of their clients requests a magnet, they talk to them to raise awareness about personal preparedness, encouraging people to make a list of medical/prescription details and put it on the fridge with this magnet – so that critical information is available if they’re unconscious and can’t help emergency responders.

CERT Training: The next course begins September 19th at the 189th Aviation Battalion Headquarters. This session will take place Tuesday afternoons. Karen Semple is the course manager. It is funded by a Homeland Security grant, which may not continue after 2006. Due to limited resources, they’ve targeted businesses and government agencies, attempting to have common teams of trained people vs. individual citizens.

Disaster Preparedness Fair: Takes place September 16th, from 11am to 3pm at Capitol Hill Mall. 30 public and private agencies will be talking to people about personal preparedness. 95% of all disaster response comes from individuals. The rule of thumb is not to expect help from professional responders for at least 72 hours after disaster strikes. In these situations, most rescues are performed by neighbors. If you are involved in an agency that wants to participate, contact Paul Spengler at 447-8205.

October is Earthquake Preparedness Month: Started in Lewis and Clark County in 1980. They do earthquake drills in public schools.

September is National Preparedness Month: As a memorial to 9/11 and a reminder to all of us to take actions to be prepared to take care of ourselves for at least 72 hours in the event of a disaster or emergency.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments were offered.

CITY MEETING ASSIGNMENTS:

City Admin Meetings: 4-6pm

August 9; Marshall Gingery

August 23; Marshall Gingery

City Commission Meetings: 6pm –

August 14; Matthew Cohn

August 28; Teresa Klotz

City Manager's Meeting: 10am -

August 8; Justin Trafton

Next HCC Meeting: 7 -9pm

August 23 – agenda to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted by Teresa Klotz, HCC Secretary, District