

## **Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting June 27, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:55pm following a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Members present:** Al Tompkins, Bill Roberts, Bob Habeck, Marshall Gingery, Matt Cohn, Justin Trafton, Rebecca Ridenour, Larry Mitchell, Ken Saunders, Jim Tucker, Jr., Lynne Boone and George McCauley. Also present: Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown.

**Members absent:** Thom Warsinski, Teresa Klotz, George Hoff and Mark McDonnell.

**Visitors:** HPD Sergeant John Foskette

### **May 23, 2007 HCC Meeting minutes**

The May 23, 2007 minutes were approved as submitted.

### **Helena Police Department Report**

Sgt. John Foskette reported as of July 1, 2007 he would be the new Capitol Complex officer. This is a new position and is strictly funded by the state for the next two years. He gave the reasons behind the creation of the position and noted it would supplement the existing use of a private security firm.

### **Helena Firefighters Union Report**

No report given.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bill Roberts reported there was \$1976.18 remaining in the budget. This amount was unspent in Fiscal Year 2007 and will be lost.

### **Meeting Assignments**

The July 25, 2007 HCC Meeting was cancelled.

### **District/Committee Reports**

District 1 - No report given.

District 2 - There are continuing problems with junk vehicles and the neighborhood is getting a petition together; a neighborhood meeting will be held. Discussion was held on holding a city-wide town hall meeting regarding junk vehicles to educate the public. This meeting could include representatives from the city, police department, sheriff's department, state officials and Al Rose. There was consensus to survey attendees of the July 19, 2007 Neighborhood Meetings to get community sentiment on the issue and then decide whether or not to move forward with planning a town hall meeting.

District 3 - There is ongoing concern regarding the Reber PUD. Also, a petition is circling to force the developer to pave all of LeGrande Cannon because of the increased traffic from the PUD. Blue Cross/Blue Shield has been invited to the July 19, 2007 Neighborhood Meeting to discuss parking issues in the district.

- District 4 - There have been problems with a barking dog; the affected neighbors contacted the Police Department to learn their options and ended up filing a complaint against their neighbor in City Court.
- District 5 - The Helena Regional Airport has offered to give the HCC a tour of the airport area (National Guard Building, Fire Training area, etc.). It is anticipated 40 to 80 structures or complexes will be build in District 5 in the next few years.  
City and Montana Department of Transportation staff will attend the District 5 Neighborhood Meeting to discuss traffic in the area and future transportation projects.
- District 6 - The Midtown Organization will be holding a flea market and will present the draft neighborhood plan.
- District 7 - Mark McDonnell has announced he will not run for the HCC again. There is ongoing concern for the creation of district parks (Janet Street and Beltview parks). The neighborhoods continue to work with Parks & Recreation Director Randy Lilje.

Quality of Life Committee - there has still not been an official presentation to the City Commission; the committee is working on creating the presentation.

Downtown Working Group - Ken Saunders gave an overview of upcoming updates to the walking mall.

Public Art Committee - the committee continues to work on the "Best Little Art Town" insert in the Independent Record.

Association for the Blind - Al Tompkins gave an overview of meetings held with the Association for the Blind; crosswalk and curb cut compliance was discussed.

### Open Discussion

**Neighborhood Meetings** - After discussion there was concurrence to include the following items on the agenda: budget/city service facts, HCC recruitment, junk vehicles and zoning updates.

Discussion was held on the HCC recommendation regarding speed limits in school zones; the school district is working on the concerns. Work with the city related to the project is on hold until the new Transportation Coordinator is hired.

George McCauley announced he will be out of state August through January. He also noted he will run for re-election.

Discussion was held on the proposed railroad quiet zone. The city is working with the City of Shelby because they have a quiet zone in effect. There is Commission consensus to pay for an engineering study to evaluate implementation of a zone; it is a long process and can be very expensive.

### VISTA update

The HCC hired Martha Eberle and Justin has completed some of the training associated with supervising the position. He asked everyone to help orient her to the city when she arrives and begins work on July 19, 2007.

**Public Comments**

There were no comments given.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm. The next HCC meeting is August 22, 2007 at 7:00pm in Room 326 of the City/County Building.