

Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting November 28, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Ken Saunders, Lynne Boone, Rebecca Ridenour, Marshall Gingery, Thom Warsinski, Allen Tompkins, Justin Trafton (Chair), Ellen Bell, Bob Habeck. Also present: HCC VISTA Martha Eberle.

Members absent: Matthew Cohn, George McCauley, Larry Mitchell, George Hoff, Bill Roberts, Jim Tucker, Jr., Jim Christnacht.

Visitors: HPD Lieutenant Roger Johnson, Kelly Tuck, Helena Firefighter, Cory O'Brian, Helena Firefighter, Sharron Haugen, Helena Community Development, HCC Candidates: David Scrim (District 2), Brian Olsen (District 7)

October 24, 2007 HCC Meeting minutes

Approved as written

Helena Police Department Report

A "Special" assignment officer is proposed to be added to the Helena Police Department. The officer will be a 8-5, M-F officer to address "quality of life issues", beginning with the abandoned vehicle issue.

Montana Board of Crime Control is a newly formed group consisting of law enforcement, public educators, tribal agency representation. The goal of the council is to address state-wide crime prevention. A steering committee met in Billings in October and in Helena on November 27. The steering committee goal is to establish community involvement and get resources for the city. The steering committee will be working on establishing on a mission and vision.

Lt. Johnson suggested that at the next neighborhood meeting, the HCC ask attendees how they feel in their neighborhood. Do they feel safe? He asked that the HCC report back (to the police department) with comments.

Helena Firefighters Union Report

Firefighters contract review progressing. New rescue service vehicle has been purchased (red Suburban with lots of new equipment). Fire service review committee has established a recommendation for the City Commission, but the meeting has not yet been scheduled. A draft of the recommendation was handed to each HCC member. A third firestation was not part of the recommendation but will be requested soon (w/in 5 years).

Treasurer's Report

No report given.

Community Development Department Report

Sharron Haugen reported that the last joint meeting (Nov. 27) between the planning board and zoning commission had unanimously passed the identified policy changes, specifically the use of wood shakes on roofs. Likely to be applicable to entire town. Resolution of intent will be presented to the Commission on December 17 and a public hearing is anticipated for January.

Upcoming Meetings/Dates of Interest:

- HCC Monthly meetings
 - ◇ December 19, 2007 - early due to the Christmas Holiday
 - ◇ January 30, 2008 - one week later than normal due to late election and swearing in of new members on January 28, 2008 City Commission meeting.

- HCC regular monthly meeting w/ City Manager Burton has been changed to occur on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM in Rm 326. Next meeting will be Dec. 18. The meeting has been weakly attended by HCC representative. Each district head should plan on attending or find a designee to represent that district. A board member or more should also attend. Ideas for future meeting topics should be emailed to Martha to compile and make a general agenda or plan for the meeting. A suggestion to have each district lead the meeting was stated. No resolution on that idea.

- City Administrative Meeting
 - ◇ December 12, 2007 - Marshall Gingery (and/or Lynne Boone)
 - ◇ January 2 - Lynne Boone)

- City Commission Meeting
 - ◇ December 3, 2007 - Marshall Gingery
 - ◇ December 17, 2007 - Marshall Gingery

Communications:

VISTA - Martha Eberle reported that:

- ◇ November HCTV taping, "Profiles of Your Helena Citizens Council" featured outgoing members Allen Tompkins and Bill Roberts.
- ◇ Martha is working on the first of a regularly monthly column in the Helena IR (working with Larry Kline).
- ◇ Draft "New Member Packet" handed around to attendees. Board members will review it in detail.
- ◇ Ad to be run in Queen City weekly newspaper about the ballots that will be mailed out and encourage "write-ins".
- ◇ Website development - Martha completed basic training for simple tasks such as adding/updating links, new pages, pictures.
- ◇ Quality of Life survey topics to be revisited with the objective to suggest solution and involve the HCC in the top identified topics. Martha suggested a brain storming meeting but no resolution was made. The survey from 2006 should be referred to as the "2006 survey" as it is likely that other surveys on the quality of life in Helena will follow.
- ◇ Attended the Youth Connections Community Alcohol forum. Started with speakers then group split into smaller groups.
- ◇ Justin & Martha will be going to Missoula for Volunteer Training - How to train new members, how to keep people interested.
- ◇ Looking into options for how to keep the un-elected HCC candidates involved, especially in the district they ran in.
- ◇ New member orientation & social planned for January 16, 2008 at 7 in Rm 326. Everyone is expected to attend, even those who former HCC members who won't be on the 2008-2009 HCC. Expectations of the HCC over the next term is anticipated to be a discussion item.

District #1 - Ken Saunders reported that a concerned citizen, Fran Penner-Ray is interested in changing the regulations that apply to bicyclist on the walking mall. Ken presented a letter to the City Commissioners that Ms. Penner-Ray had written asking that the city commission reconsider the 1983 City Code 7-9-7 Bicycles Prohibited. She is interested encouraging bike use, but also increase bike/skate board awareness (of pedestrians and rules).

District #2 - Lynne Boone reported that a constituent had approached the City attorney and commissioners regarding a possible ordinance change regarding abandoned vehicles. The abandoned vehicles need to continue to be an HCC issue and possibly form a committee (no action taken).

District #3 - no report - no representatives present.

District #4 - no report - no representatives present.

District #5 - Thom Warsinski reported on the neighborhood council development.

District #6 - Justin Trafton reported on a neighborhood planning session planned for the Mid-Towne group on Dec. 6, 5:30-7:30 at the UM Helena Student Center. Allen Tompkins reported the decision on the state historical museum has been postponed.

District #7 - Bob Habeck reported that the City Parks Department has made some movement on the proposed parks in District 7. The Department has petitioned the City-County Parks Board requesting money. The board is trying to establish "Challenge" grants for neighborhood groups with matching funds for park development.

2008 Executive Board Election Committee - Marshal Gingery, Ken Saunders, and Rebecca Ridenour volunteered to form the committee.

Administrative Board Packet - Lynne Boone reported that the HCC gets a packet of information that will be covered at each City Administrative meeting. She proposed that the information be made electronically available to all HCC members. The packets contain important information that HCC members should know about and be able to pass on to constituents. No resolution on the electronic version of the packet was made. A hard copy can be found in the City Commission office.

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.