

## **Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting September 26, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** Allen Tompkins, Bill Roberts, Ellen Bell, Jim Christnacht, Jim Tucker, Jr., Ken Saunders, Larry Mitchell, Lynne Boone, Rebecca Ridenour and Thom Warsinski. Also present: HCC VISTA Martha Eberle and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown.

**Members absent:** Bob Habeck, George Hoff, George McCauley, Marshall Gingery, Justin Trafton, Matthew Cohn and Teresa Klotz.

**Visitors:** HPD Lieutenant Roger Johnson, Community Development Director Sharon Haugen, G.O. Helena Parks Support Committee Treasurer Jerry Spencer and Matt Elsaesser.

### **August 22, 2007 HCC Meeting minutes**

Vice-Chair Lynne Boone noted a correction to the minutes under the District 2 Report; they were approved as amended.

### **Guest Presenter - Jerry Spencer, Parks Board Support Committee- GO Bond**

Mr. Spencer gave an overview of the Parks General Obligation Bond, which will be on the November mail ballot. The overview included the financial aspects and proposed improvements. He presented council members with an informational flyer to handout at the October 18, 2007 District Meetings.

### **Helena Police Department Report**

Discussion was held on junk vehicles. Lynne Boone asked Lt. Johnson about a "large drug bust" in District 2 that residents had seen but not heard about in the newspaper. Lt. Johnson stated he was not aware of any bust.

### **Helena Firefighters Union Report**

No report given.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bill Roberts reported \$6,470.97 of the budget has been spent and reviewed the HCC's spending. Discussion of how to acquire more funding and transferring funding between line items was discussed.

### **Community Development Department Report**

Community Development Director Sharon Haugen spoke on the following subjects:

- Community decay and zoning complaints must be in writing and signed by the complainant. This creates a line of evidence.
- Per the sign ordinance, political signs are not allowed in boulevards, right-of-way, city parks, public buildings, etc.
- The City Commission has decided to move forward with the Urban Wildland Interface zoning overlay. There will be public hearings before the Zoning Commission in November and before the City Commission in December. She noted Helena is the first city in Montana to propose the implementation of such a program.
- Director Haugen gave the background and history of zoning in Helena and encouraged council members to read the Helena Growth Policy (available on the city's website- [www.ci.helena.mt.us](http://www.ci.helena.mt.us)), as zoning must follow the policy. The following handouts were reviewed: Principal Land Uses by District; Zoning District Building Requirement Changes

and a Comparison of Lot Requirements in Montana Cities. (If you would like a copy of any of these handouts please ask Robyn in the City Clerk's Office) Director Haugen also gave an overview of community outreach that has been performed.

Discussion was held on the proposed zoning changes and the procedure for filing complaints. It was noted that complaints about decaying sidewalks should be reported to the Public Works Department.

**Upcoming Meetings/Dates of Interest:**

- HCC Monthly meetings
  - October 24, 2007
  - November 28, 2007
  - **December 19, 2007 - due to the Christmas Holiday**
  
- Other HCC events
  - Election Filing Deadline - October 9, 5:00 PM
  - Social - Wednesday, December 5, 2007 (*time and place TBA*)
  - New Member Orientation - Wednesday, January 9, 2008 (*time and place TBA*)
  
- City Managers Meeting - Justin
  
- City Administrative Meeting
  - October 10, 2007 - Matt Cohn (and/or Lynne Boone)
  - October 24, 2007 - Matt Cohn (and/or Lynne Boone)
  
- City Commission Meeting
  - October 15, 2007 - Bill Roberts
  - October 29, 2007 - Ken Saunders

**Communications:**

- VISTA
  - October Communications - TV, radio, PSAs, IR/QC ads & articles

Martha Eberle reported sixteen people filed for seats on the HCC; she stated she would continue advertising for the election and reviewed the advertising plan. The next taping of "Profiles of your Helena Citizens Council" will be on October 3, 2007 at 9:00a.m.

- District Reports

District #1 - Roger Brooks will return to Helena on October 16, 2007 at the Park Plaza Hotel.

District #2 - There has been a complaint from a district citizen regarding flashing electronic signs. It was suggested the topic of the signs be placed on the Neighborhood Meeting agendas to gauge public interest.

District #3 - No report given.

District #4 - The Spring Meadow Lake fire scared the neighborhoods. There was legal notice in the paper for a proposal to build a 199-foot telecommunications tower in the county, just outside the city limits and District 4. The Henderson Street reconstruction is creating problems with the re-route of traffic through Sunhaven and other areas of District 4; motorists are driving irresponsibly through the neighborhoods.

District #5 - The Midtown Group continues to meet.

District #6 - The Historical Society is proposing to build a new building and there is concern that it will create parking problems in the neighborhood.

District #7 - No report given.

**Neighborhood meeting - October 18, 2007 - Agenda items:**

- Candidate introduction
- General Obligation Bond - Parks & Recreation Department
- Opinion on electronic signs
- Community Development - Zoning Update

All candidates should attend the meetings; Martha will let each district chair know the contact information for their candidates so they can contact them. The deadline for information to be handed out at the meetings to be turned into Robyn is Monday, October 15, 2007 at 5:00p.m.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm. The next HCC meeting is October 24, 2007 at 7:00pm in Room 326 of the City/County Building.