

Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting December 19, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.

Members present: George Hoff, Ken Saunders, Lynne Boone, Rebecca Ridenour, Thom Warsinski, Allen Tompkins, Justin Trafton (Chair), Ellen Bell, Bob Habeck, Jim Christnacht, Larry Mitchal. Also present: HCC VISTA Martha Eberle.

Members absent: Matthew Cohn, George McCauley, Marshall Gingery, Bill Roberts, Jim Tucker, Jr.

Visitors: HPD Lieutenant Roger Johnson, Fran Penner-Ray, Allen Cormany, Phillip Legg, Pat Legg, Kevin Legg, HCC Candidates: Kent Schlosser (District 1), David Scrim (District 2)

November 28, 2007 HCC Meeting minutes

Approved as written

Comments from the Public

Fran Penner-Ray would like to see the bike prohibition on the walking mall repealed; “kids should be allowed to ride their bike to the library”. Fran has spoken with the Helena City Policy Chief and many business owners along the walking mall.

Allen Cormany is the Bike-Pedestrian Coordinator for Helena. Fran has been in contact with Allen. Other items Allen is active in are obtaining funding through “Creating safe routes to schools” grants and CTEP (Community Transport Enhancement Program) projects, typically side walks around schools. Traffic calming program, modeled after Missoula’s. Contact info: email: acormany@ci.helena.mt.us, office is at the City Shop on Carter Driver, Phone: 447-1540.

Ken Saunders made a motion: “at the next neighborhood meeting that the topic of opening the walking mall to bikes should be voted on and the results brought to the City Commission”. Bob Habeck second. Motion passes unopposed.

Helena Police Department Report

Lt. Roger Johnson reported that three new police officers graduated on December 7. Now will start a 12-14 week training program.

Brian Dellwo will be the special resources officer; abandoned vehicles will be first/top priority for Officer Dellwo.

Lt. Johnson introduced Philip Leg, President of the Lewis and Clark Emergency Service Explores Post, which is a group of students (age 14-21) with service interest (police/sheriff/fire department) and chartered through the Boy Scouts (although either gender is encouraged to participate). Students “job shadow” and follow an extensive training calendar. Students wear uniforms (standard polos) and assist at public events such as Live at Five, the fair and rodeo, and public dances at schools.

Treasurer’s Report

Martha Eberle reported on the treasurer’s report in Treasurer Bill Roberts absence. Hard copy of report passed around. Approximately 50% of annual budget remains.

VISTA Report

Martha Eberle reported on:

- HCTV program will feature District 5 representatives. January show will be the new member orientation planned for Jan. 16. Looking for a new host and camera volunteers for the program.
- writing volunteer job descriptions
- IR column will be 2nd Friday of the month; Column topic ideas should be submitted to Martha.
- web site improvements are happening, although slowly
- Parks Plan will be before the commission soon; Neighborhood steering committee and HCC involvement is key and necessary; WEEL and AERO involved w/ surveys and community gardens.

District Reports

District 1: Nothing to report.

District 2: Lynne Boone reported that she had received a letter from a group of citizens who are concerned with the planned deer culling. This group feels that the effort is a waste of tax payer dollars and should be put to a City-wide vote. The group is asking for HCC support. HCC group discussion stated that the HCC body will not take this issue on because its been in the works for a long time and has gone through a rigorous planning process. The group against the herd culling should contact the commission directly. Justin Trafton asked for a motion; none made. Lynne Boone will respond to the group.

District 3: George Hoff reported he has a new email address: gthoff1@bresnan.net

District 4: No members present.

District 5: Thom Warsinski reported about the Mid-Towne board establishing four committees: 1) Housing; 2) Transportation; 3) Safety; & 4) Economic Development. Next Mid-Town meeting is January 4 (first Thursday), meetings are open to the public; regular meetings are the first and third Thursdays.

District 6: Nothing reported

District 7: Bob Habeck reported that parks are an on-going issue; recent attention surrounding commercial building near new Helena exit on I-15, along with a noticeable infiltration into Downtown and transportation increases on Broadway and Winne. Two new business developments are proposed in the district.

Meeting with City Manager Tim Burton: 7 HCC representatives were present and the meeting was agenda driven. Next meeting January 15, 3:30, Room 326.

New Business:

2008 District Meetings: Group discussed combining districts for meetings; 1&2, 2&3, 5, 6, &7 will be combined. However, the meetings may have to break into work groups specific to each district.

Abandoned Vehicle Committee: Committee is only conceptual at present. The HCC body opted to postpone populating such a committee until after the election.

Member Obligations on City Boards/Committees: This topic to be discussed at new member orientation meeting on January 16th; HCC members will be encouraged to be active in a board or committee.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

- HCC
 - ◇ **January 15, 2008** - Regular monthly meeting w/ city Manager Burton, 3:30, Room 326. 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.
 - ◇ **January 16, 2008** - New member orientation meeting, 7 PM, Room 326. All members, out-going and elected, are asked to attend
 - ◇ **January 28, 2008** - New member swearing in at City Commission meeting, 6:00 PM, City Commission Chambers.
 - ◇ **January 30, 2008** - one week later than normal due to late election

- City Administrative Meeting
 - ◇ January 2 - Lynne Boone
 - ◇ January 23 - Lynne Boone

- City Commission Meeting
 - ◇ January 7 - Thom Warsinski
 - ◇ January 28 - ALL MEMBERS to be sworn in. Meeting starts at 6:00 PM.

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