

Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting
April 23, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.
City/County Building - Room 326

Members present: Kent Schlosser, Lynne Boone, David Scrimm, Larry Mitchell, George Hoff, Dave Fish, Jim Tucker, Jr., Mike McGuire, Marshall Gingery, Ole Olson, Harlan Rudolf, Ben Sutter, James Penner, Justin Trafton, Bob Habeck, and Janet Hess-Herbert. Also present: HCC VISTA Martha Eberle and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown.

Members absent: Matt Cohn, Dave Dalthorp, Remi Lancette, Josh Ahmann, Adam Bell, Ellen Bell, and Brian Olsen.

Visitors: HPD Lieutenant Roger Johnson, Fire Chief Steve Larson, Fire Marshall Craig Trapp, Dennis Loveless, and Winston Greely.

HCC Vice-Chair Ole Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. and called for visitor comment. Dennis Loveless introduced himself and announced he was running for District Court Judge and gave his work history. It was noted Winston Greely applied for appointment as a District 1 representative.

HCC Meeting minutes - March 26, 2008

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Urban Wildland Home Fire Risk Inventories

Fire Chief Steve Larson gave the history of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Zoning and announced the Fire Department is beginning an educational program to inform the community about the dangers of WUI. Fire Marshall Craig Trapp reviewed the components of program; HCC District 7 will be the first area to receive educational information regarding WUI. Fire Chief Larson and Fire Marshall Trapp urged HCC District 7 members to speak with constituents in their district about the program and information regarding it will be provided at the District 5, 6, and 7 Neighborhood Meeting.

Helena Police Department Report

HPD Lieutenant Roger Johnson reported:

- Four new police officers were recently hired
- The Vigilante Parade will be held on May 2, 2008
- Race for the Cure will be held on May 17, 2008
- He will provide maps of the new Governor's Cup route at the May HCC Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Marshall Gingery reported the HCC Budget Committee is ready to work through the city's budget review process. Ken Schlosser reviewed the budget report and explained the new format.

VISTA/HCC Coordinator's Report

Martha Eberle reported:

- BID member Mike Dowling was the guest on the monthly HCTV show, he spoke on the ongoing townhall meeting series "Growing Up or Growing Out"
- The last HCC column in the IR was about the Global Climate Change Task Force and Neighborhood Conservation Clubs; a topic for the next column may be the newly formed Non-Motorized Transportation Committee
- The website committee would appreciate suggestions from members on how to improve the city's website

Martha asked for a volunteer to create flyers for the upcoming District Meetings and noted she would provide an invitation for members to send out to their district mailings lists.

District Reports

District 1 - Winston Greely has applied for the vacant seat in District 1.

District 2 - no information to report.

District 3 - no information to report.

District 4 - Chair Ellen Bell has moved to District 4.

District 5 - no information to report.

District 6 - the 6th Ward/Midtowne Group may write a letter regarding the loss of funding for the new transit facility to city officials and Montana's congressional delegation.

District 7 - the district is continuing to work on developing their undeveloped parks.

Committee/Board Updates

WQPD- the district is working on a groundwater vulnerability study.

TCC- the next meeting of the committee will be held in May.

Growing Communities Project Board - the board held a successful meeting on April 10, 2008; a survey about citizen interest and desire was completed.

HOLMAC - a proposed eastside land trade with the city was discussed, it would create a better trail connection to open space. The Prickly Pear Land Trust is trying to acquire 40 acres near Mt. Ascension to add to the City's open space lands.

County Zoning - the main topic is whether or not to require a Level 2 Septic System.

Planning Board - the board will review two subdivisions adjacent to the city; these subdivisions must meet city standards. Also, the Planning Board is beginning to review the City's Growth Policy.

Airport Authority - a new Forest Service building is being constructed.

HCC Standard Order of Business & Guest Speaker Policy - Vice Chair Ole Olson reported a couple of months ago a committee was formed to examine the process and structure of the HCC. He explained a handout outlining the format for the HCC agenda and the policy for scheduling/requesting a guest speaker at HCC meetings.

Upcoming Meetings:

- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, May 28, 2008 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Burton - Tuesday, May 20, 2008 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
 - April 30, 2008 - Larry Mitchell

- May 14, 2008 - Lynne Boone
- May 28, 2008 - Lynne Boone
- City Commission Meetings:
 - May 5, 2008 - Larry Mitchell
 - May 19, 2008 - Dave Dalthorp

Old Business

Peak Oil - Ben Sutter circulated a handout on Peak Oil and explained the concept; discussion was held. He recommended the HCC incorporate the knowledge of Peak Oil into its workings.

New Business

Water Bill Insert - Martha Eberle explained two options for advertising the upcoming district meetings: a water bill insert and/or doorknob-hangers. Discussion was held on how to spend the printing and duplicating budget. There was council concurrence to survey the HCC members, via email, on how to spend the subject funding and a decision would be made at the May meeting. Janet and Larry will collect and organize member suggestions.

Motion: Jim Tucker, Jr. moved to authorize the spending of \$1000 on advertising for the May district meetings. The spending should be divided equally (\$250 a piece) between the Independent Record, Queen City News, KMTX and KTVH. Janet Hess-Herbert seconded the motion.

Motion: Larry Mitchell moved to amend the motion to authorize Martha Eberle to spend, at her discretion, \$1000 on advertising the May district meetings. Ben Sutter seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

May District Meeting Agenda - The agenda will include the following:

- A survey related to what color to paint the Malben Water Tank
- An invitation for citizens to participate in an online survey about the city's website
- Information on historic neighborhood conservation
- Information on how to deal with feral cats
- A survey regarding the city's recycling program
- A Neighborhood Conservation Program update
- District 7 will hold a presentation by the Fire Department regarding WUI

Other - Bob Habeck requested funding for a Beltview Park survey for District 7. Marshall requested the HCC Executive Committee Members speak at a Hometown Helena Meeting in September or October; there was council concurrence. David Scrimm indicated he would look into any free advertising consultation services that could be provided to the HCC.

Motion: Justin Trafon moved to authorize spending of \$250 for printing and advertising related to a Beltview Park survey for District 7. Marshall Gingery seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next HCC meeting is Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 7:00pm in Room 326 of the City/County Building.