

**Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting  
February 27, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.  
City/County Building - Room 326**

**Members present:** Matt Cohn, Dave Dalthorp, Kent Schlosser, Lynne Boone, David Scrimm, Rebecca Ridenour, Larry Mitchell, George Hoff, Dave Fish, Remi Lancette, Jim Tucker, Jr., Mike McGuire, Marshall Gingery, Ole Olson, Harlan Rudolf, Ben Sutter, Justin Trafton, Bob Habeck, Ellen Bell, Janet Hess-Herbert, Brian Olsen and James Penner (arrived at 8:40pm). Also present: HCC VISTA Martha Eberle and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown.

**Members absent:** Josh Ahmann and Adam Bell.

**Visitors:** HPD Lieutenant Roger Johnson, City Planner Kathy Macefield and Lana George- VISTA for Growing Communities Project.

**HCC Meeting minutes - January 30, 2008**

The minutes were corrected to change the reference to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Custer Avenue (page 2). The minutes were approved as amended.

**Helena Police Department Report**

HPD Lt. Roger Johnson reported:

- There was recently a story regarding police officer recruitment in the Independent Record (IR); twenty-five to thirty interested persons applied to work in Helena.
- Motorcycle officers are now required to take a 3-day recertification class every year.
- The Governor's Cup is planning a new route this year; he will update the HCC as more information becomes available.

Lt. Johnson also gave an overview of the recent accident on Highway 12 East involving a cattle truck.

**Community Development Department Report**

City Planner Kathy Macefield gave an overview of the zoning handout to be given out at the District Meetings. The information will be on the city's website and citizens can call 447-8491 with questions. Ms. Macefield encouraged written comments about the update be submitted to the Community Development Department by March 21, 2008.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Marshall Gingery passed out a detailed report of HCC spending and reviewed the HCC's budget. Dave Fish asked Marshall to include the percentage of the year that has gone by on the next report.

**Motion:** George Hoff moved to approve the budget report as submitted. Jim Tucker, Jr. seconded the motion. All voted aye- motion carried.

**VISTA/HCC Coordinator's Report**

Martha Eberle reported:

- She has been working on the District Meetings and the HCC's website
- The next HCC column in the IR will be Friday, March 7, 2008

- The next HCTV HCC show on March 12, 2008 will feature Bob Habeck and Selma Held to talk about neighborhood park development

Bob Habeck thanked IR Reporter Larry Kline for his work publicizing the HCC. Discussion was held on how to inform citizens of what district they reside in. Matt Cohn suggested voter ID cards list the HCC District you are located in. Lynne Boone asked Martha what the topic of the next HCC column would be? Martha stated it may include an overview of the District Meetings and neighborhood park development.

### District Reports

**District 1** - Kent Schlosser spoke of the closure of South Benton Avenue. Kathy Macefield explained the south end of Benton is closed due to safety issues with the guardrail. It will re-open once the repairs can be made.

**District 2** - Larry Mitchell was appointed to fill the vacant seat.

**District 3** - George Hoff urged the HCC to form a process and policy for appointments to the HCC. He also spoke of concern in the district for dust from the use of large construction trucks on Henderson and LeGrande Cannon Boulevard.

**District 4** - Jim Tucker, Jr. welcomed new member Mike McGuire and noted there may be a person interested in filling the remaining vacancy in District 4.

**District 5** - Marshall Gingery welcomed new member Ben Sutter. He also spoke of a meeting being held in April regarding the Custer Interchange and encouraged all District 5 members to attend.

**District 6** - Justin Trafton noted there are two vacancies in District 6. He reported the Midtown Group continues to meet on neighborhood planning; one issue they are working on is affordable housing. The group is looking to incorporate into their plan a land trust model, similar to a program in Missoula, in which the neighborhood would in some way begin to own the actual land within the neighborhood. The neighborhood could develop houses for people to buy, sans the cost of the land, thereby keeping the cost of the house down. There is also an Economic Development Committee working on how to revitalize the commercial areas of the Midtown District.

**District 7** - Bob Habeck reported District 7 held a Neighborhood Park Steering Committee meeting on February 12, 2008; 23 people attended and it was very informative. The next meeting will be held March 10, 2008. Bob announced Parks & Recreation Director Randy Lilje is retiring and noted the undeveloped parks project may be a low priority during the transition to the new Director.

Bob read a letter from Mr. Chuck Ruzicka, 1301 Winne; expressing the following suggestions: build a fence on the East side of Lockey Park so there would be a barrier to prevent balls from rolling onto Lamborn. Also, putting up very visible signs and painting stripes for bike routes running east to west, along with education for walkers/runners along city streets without sidewalks and education for bikers and walkers to use less traveled routes, not main routes, unless they are designated bike routes.

### Committee/Board Updates

**Water Quality Protection District (WQPD)** - Justin Trafton reported the WQPD is reviewing a water supply and wastewater fee increase over the next two years of up to 10% to fund a ¾-time hydro-geologist. Discussion was held on outreach for the issue. Bob Habeck suggested inviting a speaker from the WQPD to present information regarding the fee increase to the HCC. Justin indicated he would talk to Environment Health Director Kathy Moore about a possible presentation to the HCC.

**Advantage Helena** - Matt Cohn reported the project is moving forward and there may be a demonstration in the fall, as citizens are having a hard time grasping what the brand will be like. There is a meeting March 4, 2008 at Carroll College for those people that really want to get involved and take the brand to the next level. Any questions regarding Advantage Helena can be communicated to Downtown Helena Director Jim McHugh or Matt.

Marshall Gingery commented water quality is the biggest issue in Lewis & Clark County and suggested County Chief Administrative Officer Ron Alles speak to the HCC once a year.

**Global Climate Change Task Force (GCCTF)** - Rebecca Ridenour announced the task force has selected its chair and the next meeting will be held on March 4, 2008 at noon. She asked HCC members to express their ideas and suggestions to her and she would pass them along to the task force. Also, she will forward agendas and information to Martha to keep the council informed. Rebecca noted the task force will sunset in February 2009 so it will have its draft recommendations by November 2008. City officials attended the first meeting and are very committed to whatever recommendations the task force comes up with.

Discussion was held on how HCC members should participate on Boards and Committees.

**Motion:** Dave Fish moved the HCC support the position that energy savings should be pursued whether there is consensus on global warming or not. David Scrimm seconded the motion.

Additional discussion was held on HCC member's roles on City Boards and Committees.

**Vote:** Three members voted in favor, all others opposed- motion failed.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- HCC Quarterly Neighborhood Meetings - Thursday, February 28, 2008 @ 6:30p.m. (doors open at 6:00p.m.) - various locations
- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, March 26, 2008 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Burton - Tuesday, March 18, 2008 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
  - March 5, 2008 - Lynne Boone
  - March 19, 2008 - Lynne Boone
- City Commission Meetings:
  - March 10, 2008 - Ellen Bell

- March 24, 2008 - Marshall Gingery

Chair Bell asked council members to sign up to present the HCC Report at City Commission and Administrative Meetings; all members should attend at least one City Commission meeting per year and you are responsible for finding a substitute if you cannot attend.

Chair Bell noted the HCC meetings have been added to the website. She invited interested members to attend the next Executive Board Meeting on March 17, 2008 at 11:30 at the Real Food Store; the purpose of the meeting is to assemble the agenda.

### Old Business

**Neighborhood meetings** - Discussion was held on topics and how to present them. It was noted that the bike survey was added as a result of a non-member's personal beliefs; there was council concurrence to not participate in "one person missions" in the future.

**City Boards/Committees** - Chair Bell passed out a sign up sheet for members to sign up to attend meetings of City Boards/Committees they are interested in. She noted if a member attends a meeting and feels it is not a good use of their time because they are not a voting member or don't feel they have the opportunity to express their or the HCC's opinion, to provide that feedback to the council and the Board/Committee will be taken off the list.

Following discussion, there was council concurrence that HCC members appointed to City Boards/Committees don't necessarily need to represent the HCC as a whole. Members need to use their own thoughts and knowledge to make decisions and report back to the HCC. If the HCC would like to express their position on a particular issue before a Board or Committee, that position should be relayed.

**Quality of Life 2006 Survey** - The findings of the survey were never reported to the City Commission. Council members voiced opinions that the survey is: dated material, the city is already working on many of the issues that came out of the survey, and that the survey is still valid despite it's age. There was concurrence to forward the survey to the Survey Committee (Dave Fish) for further review of its status.

**Undeveloped Parks** - Bob Habeck reported he would attend the March Parks Board meeting, gauge the process, and report back to the HCC.

### New Business

**Help Helena Shine** - This item will be discussed at the March HCC Meeting. It could be coordinated with the National Day of Action or Rocky Mountain Development Council's Spirit of Service Day.

**Government 101** - This item was tabled to the March HCC Meeting.

**Motion:** David Scrimm moved to have representatives from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and the BID speak about the BC/BS proposed move from downtown at the March 26, 2008 HCC Meeting. Remi Lancette seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Mike McGuire noted he would invite the appropriate Blue Cross/Blue Shield staff member.

David Scrimm asked for more information on the HCC Executive Committee. Chair Bell explained the four HCC officers meet to set the agendas and requested suggestions from members on how to improve Executive Committee operations. Vice-Chair Ole Olson recommended forming a committee to clarify the structure, procedures and processes of the HCC. Justin Trafton and Rebecca Ridenour noted over the last two years the Executive Committee, using input from council members, set the general goals and direction of the HCC for the upcoming year. David Scrimm stated the Executive Committee is not included in the HCC Charter or Bylaws and its role needs to be defined.

There was concurrence to form a committee charged with clarifying the structure and process of the HCC. The members of the committee are David Scrimm, Janet Hess-Herbert, Justin Trafton, Ben Sutter and Ole Olson.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm. The next HCC meeting is March 26, 2008 at 7:00pm in Room 326 of the City/County Building.