

Helena Citizens' Council Regular Meeting
January 30, 2007 – 7:00 pm

Members Present: Matt Cohn, Dave Dalthorp, Kent Schlosser, Lynne Boone, David Scrimm, Rebecca Ridenour, George Hoff, Dave Fish, Jim Tucker, Adam Bell, Marshall Gingery, Ole Olson, Harlan Rudolf, James Penner, Justin Trafton, Bob Habeck, Ellen Bell, Janet Hess-Herbert

Members Absent: Remi Lancette, Mike McGuire, Ben Sutter, Brian Olsen

Visitors: HPD officers Roger Johnson and Bryan Dellwo, Dan Case, Brian Coplin, Al Tompkins, Ken Saunders, Larry Mitchell, (arrived later) Ben Brouwer, Commissioner Elsassaer

December 19, 2007 HCC Meeting Minutes

Approved as written

Comments from the Public

None

Call for Nominations for 2008 HCC Executive Board

Ellen Bell nominated Marshall Gingery for Treasurer

Jim Tucker nominated Justin Trafton for Vice-Chair

Ballot

Chair: Ellen Bell

Vice-Chair: Ole Olson, David Scrimm, JustinTrafton

Secretary: Lynne Boone

Treasurer: Marshall Gingery

Ballots counted by Police Officers Johnson and Dellwo, and Martha Eberle

Election Results/ 2008 HCC Executive Board

Chair: Ellen Bell

Vice-Chair: Ole Olson

Secretary: Lynne Boone

Treasurer: Marshall Gingery

Helena Police Department Report

Lt. Johnson introduced Officer Bryan Dellwo, special detail officer who started 1-14-08. Officer Dellwo stated he will actively look for what is considered junk vehicles under city terms. He will work with the owners, stating that sometimes owners do not know the procedure. Junk vehicles were identified as less than \$500. If vehicles are registered they are not considered junk. Officer Dellwo can be reached at 422-2964.

Lt Johnson reported that the MT Board of Crime Control Council is establishing a Crime Prevention Association, on which he is a member of the steering committee. He will keep the HCC informed on the progress of the Council and stated the Council would like to have HCC representation.

Treasurer Report

No current information available

VISTA

Martha Eberle reported that:

- Monthly HCC column will be in next Friday's IR and will include information on the upcoming HCC quarterly neighborhood meetings.
- Today's IR has an article on how citizens can apply for the HCC vacancies. She indicated she is working on a format to address vacancies in the future.
- Next HCC show on HCTV is Weds. 2/6/08 at 9:15 AM and she is looking for volunteers.
- HCC website is progressing.
- She is working on preparations for the neighborhood meetings
- AERO and WEEL are working on community garden projects

District Reports

District 1: Matt Cohn announced that Kent Schlosser is the district chair.

District 2: Lynne Boone brought up a continued concern of a citizen regarding abandoned vehicles and this citizen's interest in forming a committee to look at possibly changing the city ordinance on junk and abandoned vehicles. HCC members discussed options, including a possible scoping committee to look at the process and to educate the public on what the process is. Lt Johnson stated that the city attorney and police dept. have looked at the ordinance and how to make it more effective but potential solutions seem to have drawbacks. Matt Cohn stated he is encouraged after hearing the report from Officer Dellwo and would like to see how the new system works. David Fish asked what the intent is of moving cars off the street. No action taken by the HCC.

District 3:

George Hoff stated he is looking forward to working with the new district representatives. He also reported that city engineers are beginning work on the Ninth St. sidewalk between Benton and Henderson. Dave Fish brought up the recent broken pipes/Stage 4 water restrictions in Dist. 3 and asked if there could be a better way for the city to communicate the news to the people. Martha suggested that an e-mail tree be set up in each district as a way to communicate information to citizens. Justin Trafton mentioned a possible partnership with the police dept. and use of the reverse 911 if the issue is significant enough. Officer Johnson stated there are certain criteria that need to be met in order to use reverse 911. He said the use of this service is costly. David Scrimm recommended that this concern be added to the agenda for the upcoming city manager's meeting.

District 4:

Jim Tucker indicated that the Stage 4 water restrictions were not a public health concern and this is probably why reverse 911 was not implemented. He said every news media was notified of the incident early on and attempts were made by radio, newspaper, TV, and the city to notify the public as soon as possible. The HCC body was asked to work on ideas for other ways to communicate issues to the public. Mike McGuire is listed as a Dist 4 rep but has not made any contact with the other district reps yet. Martha Eberle will provide Mike's contact information to the other Dist. 4 reps.

District 5:

Marshall Gingery said he is happy to have other HCC reps in his district. He stated that some of the businesses located on Custer are willing to join city reps, DOT, and the HCC to discuss the upcoming changes in the area (such as the interchange). He also said he will set up a visit for the new Dist 5 reps with the Airport Authority and other businesses in the area. He indicated that there will be 32 new businesses in that area within a year. He stated that there have been a number of large vehicles parking on various streets in his dist. on the weekends and he has received calls on this which he will look into.

District 6

James Penner stated that snow removal, especially at businesses, needs to be addressed. Justin Trafton indicated that the Midtowne/6th Ward group continues to meet and is working towards a neighborhood plan. He also mentioned increased traffic on Broadway St. since the South Hills interchange opened.

District 7:

Bob Habeck announced he will continue as district chair. He indicated his district is tracking the increased development at the South Hills interchange. He said the big issue is parks development. Following passage of the parks bond last fall, the parks board started a process to prioritize undeveloped parks in the city and will be working with neighbors regarding development of these parks. District 7 has 2 undeveloped parks. HCC members are invited to attend a steering committee meeting in Dist. 7, February 11, regarding their parks. This could be a good educational tool for other districts to use when setting up meetings in their own districts. Matt Cohn reported that Growing Friends may be able to provide trees for the city's undeveloped parks. Martha Eberle will e-mail a list of the city's undeveloped parks to the HCC body.

Committee Reports

Transportation Coordination Committee - George Hoff will forward itinerary for next meeting to Martha Eberle to send out to the HCC body.

Question was raised about when HCC body needs to sign up for boards and committees. Justin Trafton said the intent was to give the HCC body time to learn about the various boards. Ellen Bell said perhaps it is time to proceed for HCC reps to select the boards and committees of their choice. Martha Eberle asked that requests for board positions be sent to her. Status of boards and committees was discussed with vacant and new boards/committees identified. HCC incumbents indicated if they were going to continue on their current boards or not.

Dates of Interest

HCC

- **Tuesday, February 19** – regular monthly meeting with the City Manager, 3:30 PM, room 326. Open to district chairs and HCC Executive Board or designees.
- **Wednesday, February 27** – regular HCC monthly meeting, 7:00 PM, Room 326.
- **Thursday, February 28** – Quarterly Neighborhood meetings, 6:30PM, various locations

City Administrative Meetings

- **February 6** – Lynne Boone
- **February 20** – Lynne Boone

City Commission Meetings

- February 11 – Marshall Gingery
- February 25 – George Hoff

Old Business

None

New Business

- **Quarterly District Meetings** – Written list of potential agenda items given to the HCC members. Ellen Bell reminded the group that the purpose of the meetings is to give citizens an opportunity to discuss issues so HCC Districts need to watch the number of items brought up at the meetings. List of agenda items discussed. Guest Ben Brouwer from AERO described a project idea to create neighborhood energy conservation groups with possible HCC involvement. He expressed interest in having reps give a brief presentation at the neighborhood meetings. Matt Cohn indicated he will

prepare a statement that can be handed out at the neighborhood meetings on the upcoming forum and presentation regarding Advantage Helena/branding. Items to include in the publicity on the neighborhood meetings discussed.

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- **Zoning** - Lynne Boone brought up the proposed zoning changes currently being discussed at the city commission administrative meetings. Input was requested from the HCC body on how to get the information regarding these proposed changes to the public prior to the upcoming public hearings. Mention was made to possibly work with Plan Helena to get information out. Following a brief discussion the decision was made that the Executive Board will address the zoning issue and notify the HCC body.
- **Role of the HCC with regards to other groups and organizations** – Justin Trafton talked about maintaining the integrity of HCC’s purpose. He stated the HCC needs to watch that it does not damage its credibility. He stated that as HCC members, the HCC reps need to differentiate between personal views, HCC views, and the views of the constituents. Bob Habeck said the HCC can facilitate discussion and conversations with groups but the HCC is not the promoter. The HCC needs to ask if the relationship with groups and organizations represents the HCC body.
- Suggested agenda items for the next HCC general meeting given.

Adjournment

- Motion made by Justin Trafton, seconded by Jim Tucker. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.