

**Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting**  
**March 26, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**City/County Building - Room 326**

**Members present:** Matt Cohn, Larry Mitchell, Dave Dalthorp, Kent Schlosser, Lynne Boone, David Scrimm, Rebecca Ridenour, George Hoff, Dave Fish, Remi Lancette, Josh Ahmann, Adam Bell, Marshall Gingery, Harlan Rudolf, Ben Sutter, Justin Trafton, Ellen Bell, and Brian Olsen. Also present: HCC VISTA Martha Eberle and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown.

**Members absent:** Jim Tucker, Jr., Mike McGuire, Ole Olson, James Penner, Bob Habeck, and Janet Hess-Herbert.

**Visitors:** Kris Manard and Drenda Carlson with Youth Connections; City Commissioner Alan Peura representing the Business Improvement District (BID); HPD Officer Brian Dellwo, George McCauley and Helen Paulson.

**HCC Meeting minutes - February 27, 2008**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Marshall Gingery passed out the Resolution of Commission Intent for the FY2008 Annual Budget. He noted the HCC has not made any purchases since the February report.

**Helena Police Department Report**

HPD Officer Dellwo discussed the length of time it takes the HPD to respond to a junk/abandoned vehicle complaint; the goal is within a week of the complaint.

**Business Improvement District- "Downtown Development: Growing Up or Growing Out"**

Commissioner Alan Peura gave the history of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) proposal to locate their new office building in an area other than downtown Helena. The BID Board formed a committee to identify buildings and lots BC/BS could build on or remodel. He gave a power point presentation showing these sites and noted one option would be for BC/BS to build an 11-story building, including 2 stories for parking, using their existing property on Fuller Avenue. Discussion was held on a possible partnership between BC/BS and the Helena Parking Commission for construction of their parking structure.

The BC/BS issue prompted the town hall meeting "Downtown Development: Growing Up or Growing Out", which will be held on April 3, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Examples of issues to be discussed are growth and urban density; the BID would like to find out what the citizens of Helena want to see the downtown area become.

**Youth Connections- "Teens & Alcohol: A Dangerous Mix"**

Kris Manard and Drenda Carlson with Youth Connections gave a power point presentation on teens and alcohol abuse in Helena and throughout Montana.

**VISTA/HCC Coordinator's Report**

Martha Eberle reported:

- The HCC successfully applied for VISTA funding; discussion was held on the process of interviewing applicants for the VISTA position
- A focus group, including some HCC members, is being formed to recommend changes to improve the City of Helena's website
- She and Chair Bell recently attended very worthwhile training in Bozeman

## District Reports

**District 1** - Nothing to report.

**District 2** - Secretary Lynne Boone spoke of an email from a constituent regarding the city giving rebates for low-water-use toilets in Bozeman. David Scrimm noted the constituent spoke with Commissioner Peura about the idea and he suggested it be discussed with the Climate Change Task Force.

**District 3** - George Hoff spoke of the possibility of future annexations on the westside of Helena. There have been some requests for the city's bus route to include the Helena Housing Authority and M.E. Anderson building.

**District 4** - The district has discussed the neighborhood parks development plan; there is a citizen interested in volunteering to help clean up city parks.

**District 5** - Marshall noted 32 new businesses are expected to go in around the airport.

**District 6** - The Midtowne Group continues to meet.

**District 7** - The neighborhood parks development meeting went well. A constituent has suggested the use of a roundabout instead of the 4-way stop at California and Beltview.

## Committee/Board Updates

**Water Quality Protection District (WQPD)** - Justin Trafton reported the WQPD would be sending a letter to the Lewis & Clark County Commissioners requesting an increase in the water fee.

**Brownfields Task Force** - Dave Dalthorp gave an explanation of the purpose of the task force.

## Upcoming Meetings:

- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, April 23, 2008 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Burton - Tuesday, April 15, 2008 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
  - April 2, 2008 - Lynne Boone
  - April 16, 2008 - Lynne Boone
  - April 30, 2008 - Lynne Boone
- City Commission Meetings:
  - April 7, 2008 - Rebecca Ridenour
  - April 21, 2008 - Marshall Gingery will attend if another member does not volunteer

## **Old Business**

**City Boards/Committees** - Chair Bell noted she is still finalizing the list of assignments.

**Help Helena Shine** - There was consensus to end this project.

**Quality of Life Survey 2006/Quality of Life Project 2008** - Rebecca Ridenour gave the history and outcome of the 2006 survey. She passed out a handout titled "Issue Identification and Analysis" and asked the HCC to adopt it as a tool for problem solving development for quality of life issues throughout the community. Secretary Boone listed ideas for the next Quality of Life campaign and discussion was held. This item will be placed on the April meeting agenda.

## **New Business**

**2008 Neighborhood Meetings** - Following discussion, there was consensus for the following:

- Meetings will be held on May 15, 2008 & October 9, 2008 at 6:30pm (doors open at 6:00pm)
- Districts 1 & 2 will meet at the RMDC Neighborhood Center, Districts 3 & 4 will meet at Staggering Ox and Districts 5, 6 & 7 will meet at UM-HCT

Members were asked to gather suggestions from city staff for topics for the agendas.

**Government 101** - There was consensus to hold the Government 101 Town Hall Meeting after the neighborhood meetings. Discussion was held on how to publicize and run the meetings.

**Peak Oil** - Chair Bell asked members to read the handout provided by Ben Sutter; this item will be on the April meeting agenda.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm. The next HCC meeting is April 23, 2008 at 7:00pm in Room 326 of the City/County Building.