

Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting
May 28, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.
City/County Building - Room 326

Members present: Matt Cohn, Winston Greely, Larry Mitchell, Dave Dalthorp, Kent Schlosser, Lynne Boone, David Scrimm, Rebecca Ridenour, George Hoff, Dave Fish, Mike McGuire, Ellen Bell, Maleen Olson, Harlan Rudolf, Marshall Gingery, James Penner, Justin Trafton, Bob Habeck, Melissa Broch, Janet Hess-Herbert and Brian Olsen. Also present: HCC VISTA Martha Eberle and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown.

Members absent: Jim Tucker, Jr., Remi Lancette, Josh Ahmann, Adam Bell and Ben Sutter.

Visitors: HPD Lieutenant Roger Johnson, Mary Lee Shepherd, Pat Leinhart, Claudia Bagley and Dave Anson.

HCC Meeting minutes & Finance Report - April 23, 2008

The minutes and finance report were approved as submitted.

Helena Police Department Report

Lieutenant Johnson reported:

- The motorcycle officers have completed training and are patrolling
- Lt. Johnson is reviewing the safety survey's that were handed out at the May District Meetings; there have been a lot of responses indicating concern with increased traffic in residential areas from drivers trying to avoid busy main streets
- The HPD's annual voluntary physical fitness program and testing was recently completed and had a 50% participation level

Discussion was held on the speed limit surrounding the roundabout on Colonial Drive.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Marshall Gingery reported the HCC Budget Committee has been attending the city's Budget Work Sessions. Discussion was held regarding copying charges and reimbursement for 6th Ward/Midtown Association documents.

Presentation - City of Helena website changes

City Court Administrator Claudia Bagley and Web Developer David Anson gave a power point presentation on upcoming changes to the City of Helena website; the revisions are being recommended by the City of Helena/Lewis & Clark County website committee. Discussion of the revisions was held and suggestions were given. Please forward any additional suggestions to Ms. Bagley at cbagley@ci.helena.mt.us.

VISTA/HCC Coordinator's Report

Martha Eberle reported:

- Approximately \$1100 was spent on advertising for the May District meetings using KMTX, KBLL, the Helena Independent Record, Queen City News and Beartooth NBC
- The last HCC show on HCTV was about recycling and City Commissioner Matt Elsaesser and City Recycling Supervisor Kathy Goroski were guests

- The last Helena IR column was regarding the city's sidewalk replacement program; the next column may be about the Neighborhood Transportation Committee
- There is one applicant for the HCC/Vista Coordinator position

District Reports

- District 1 -** Kent Schlosser introduced new member Winston Greely.
- District 2 -** Secretary Lynne Boone reported there was a low turnout for the District 1 & 2 Meetings. City Manager Burton has indicated he would like a synopsis of each District Meeting.
- District 3 -** George Hoff discussed the lack of handicapped parking at the Civic Center. He also relayed citizen concern over the lack of information available about trolley routes and stop locations. Dave Fish reported the neighborhood survey for Reber Park would be finalized and distributed soon. He noted the District 3 & 4 Neighborhood Meeting had a good turnout but needs to find a new location for the October meeting due to live music at Staggering Ox. Please submit your location suggestions to Robyn.
- District 4 -** No report given.
- District 5 -** Harlan Rudolf reported Council member Ole Olson had to resign because he is the new Deputy City Attorney; his wife Maleen Olson has applied to fill the vacancy. Treasurer Gingery reported 39 people attended the District 5, 6 and 7 Neighborhood Meeting.
- District 6 -** No report given.
- District 7 -** Bob Habeck welcomed new member Melissa Broch. He expressed concern for political signs that are not in compliance with the sign ordinance and urged members to contact City Zoning Officer Elroy Golemon with complaints about any signs.

Committee/Board Updates

Non-Motorized Transportation Committee - the Committee meets every Tuesday at 5:00p.m. in City/County Building Room 326. The first task is determining criteria for traffic calming; the committee is using the City of Missoula as a model. Discussion has been held on the lack of coordination between the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and bicyclers/pedestrians when performing construction; there are no accommodations at construction areas. David Scrimm suggested MDT representatives attend an HCC Meeting to discuss bike/pedestrian issues in construction zones. Discussion was held on how to get MDT to consider bike/pedestrian issues when planning construction.

TCC - the Benton/Custer Avenue extension and intersection reconstruction will begin this summer. The Custer Interchange is going out to bid and will begin construction in 2010.

Historic Preservation Commission - George Hoff distributed a summary of Historic Preservation Commission projects and activities.

Administrative Meeting - Secretary Boone reported on June 2, 2008 the Commission will consider providing free bus service to students of the summer youth program. She also relayed information on the city's ADA Compliance Committee.

HOLMAC - The committee has been discussing a warning system for fires on open space lands.

Growing Community Project - Janet Hess-Herbert reported the survey completed in April indicated a large interest in community gardens, quite a few of the undeveloped parks were mentioned as places to locate the gardens. Gardens have been started at the Florence Crittenton Home, YMCA, PAL, Food Share, and Covenant United Methodist Church.

Golf Course Advisory Board - Larry Mitchell asked members to let him know of any suggestions or comments about the Golf Course.

Intergovernmental Transit Committee - Larry Mitchell stated it was reported at the last meeting that ridership on the city bus service has gone up. He noted there is a lot to be learned about the service and greater outreach needs to be done.

Call for nomination of HCC Vice-Chair and Election of HCC Vice-Chair

Bob Habeck and David Scrimm were nominated for the position of Vice-Chair; David Scrimm withdrew his name from the ballot.

Motion: Matt Cohn moved approval of Bob Habeck as HCC Vice-Chair by unanimous consent. Marshall Gingery seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Undeveloped Parks - Vice-Chair Habeck reported he is still working with Parks Department staff and neighborhoods to find out citizens needs and desires for parks. Once that information is gathered he will submit it to City Manager Burton for submission to the City Commission for discussion.

The following undeveloped parks were reviewed:

Beltview Park - 1000 park surveys were handed out; 387 were returned. The results are as follows: 80% want a park, 10% maybe want a park and 10% don't want a park.

The Waterford will be holding a meeting on June 18, 2008 regarding a land swap that would affect the parkland.

Meatloaf Park - the surrounding neighborhoods do not want the park developed, the preference is for the current open space appearance.

Skelton Park - the park will receive already funded improvements; a park survey will be done for the parkland on Colter Loop.

Reber Park - a park survey will be handed out soon, possibly the weekend of May 31, 2008.

Printing/Duplicating Budget spending - Discussion was held on spending the budget; there was council consensus to not spend the funds on any specific items, only what is needed before the end of the budget year. Martha will research the idea of purchasing a digital video camera for the FY2009 budget.

New Business:

HCC Mini-Retreat - Chair Bell reported members have suggested holding a mini-retreat to discuss HCC procedures and goals. The retreat could consist of dinner then a facilitated discussion and could possibly take the place of the HCC's regular September meeting.

Discussion was held as to the purpose of the retreat.

Motion: Brian Olsen moved approval to hold a facilitated mini-retreat. Dave Fish seconded the motion.

Friendly Amendment: Justin Trafton offered a friendly amendment to the motion to include the formation of a committee to develop topics for discussion at the retreat. The amendment was accepted.

Friendly Amendment: Marshall Gingery offered a friendly amendment to require that all district chairs sit on the committee. The amendment was accepted.

Vote: Motion carried with one member voting no.

Upcoming Meetings:

- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, June 25, 2008 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Burton - Tuesday, June 17, 2008 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
 - June 11, 2008 - Lynne Boone
- City Commission Meetings:
 - June 2, 2008 - Marshall Gingery
 - June 16, 2008 - Brian Olsen

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next HCC meeting is Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 7:00pm in Room 326 of the City/County Building.