

**Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting
October 28, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.
City/County Building - Room 326**

Members present: M.C. Beeby, Ellen Bell, Dan Bernhardt, Winston Greely, Janet Hess-Herbert, Marshall Gingery, Jim Penner, Harlan Rudolf, Kent Schlosser, Eric Woodland, Bob Habeck, Mike McGuire and Randy Phillips.

Members absent: Adam Bell, Larry Mitchell, Dave Fish, Matthew Cohn, Dave Dalthorp, Rebecca Ridenour, Carolyn Wolf, Lynne Boone and Dave Scrimm.

Visitors: Helena Police Department (HPD) Lt. Steve Hagan, HCC Coordinator Bonnie O'Neill, Community Development Director Sharon Haugen Sharon Haugen, Roy Henry and Carrie Severson.

HCC Chair Dan Bernhardt called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

HCC Meeting minutes - September 23, 2009

Approved by consensus with Bow Run being amended to Bull Run (page 3).

Finance Report

Approved by consensus.

Helena Police Department Report - HPD Lt. Steve Hagan

Lt. Hagen reported the HPD is currently working to keep bikes from using the skatepark facility and the officer assigned to abandoned vehicles will be working on enforcement of the snow removal ordinance this winter.

Bulls Eye Casino robbery suspect caught. Department is working on keeping bikes off skate park. Abandoned vehicle officer will be involved with enforcement of snow removal ordinance.

Presentation: City of Helena Growth Policy Update - Community Development Director Sharon Haugen

Director Haugen handed out draft copies of the Growth Policy table of contents including a draft land use map. State law requires periodic updates of the growth policy and this will be a major re-write for the City of Helena. Community meetings are being held to solicit public input and the Planning Department's website also contains an area for comment if citizens cannot attend a meeting.

VISTA/HCC Coordinator's Report

The report is attached at the end of the minutes as part of the official record.

HCC District Reports:

District 1 - Kent Schlosser announced he is moving to District 3 in mid-November.

District 2 - Lynne Boone has received interest in conducting a survey on noise pollution in her district.

District 3 - No report

District 4 - No report

District 5 - No report

District 6 - Jim Penner welcomed Carrie Severson, candidate from District 6.

District 7 - Janet Hess-Herbert provided an update on the renaming of Beltview Park. She announced Growing Friends has expressed an interest in having an HCC representative on its board; it was suggested that Growing Friends write a letter to the HCC Chair stating their request. Since this is not a city-sponsored group the council will consider the request.

Committee/Board Updates:

Marketing Committee - Janet Hess-Herbert spoke of the intent of the marketing committee to explore social networking as a tool to improve communication with the community. There was council consensus to use social networking subject to city policy. HCC members will investigate if and how the council might use social networks. The “interested parties list” on the website will be used in the interim.

Marketing committee will investigate putting a flyer announcing HCC membership and soliciting additional members to fill vacancies in the water bills.

Notes from committee meeting were provided to members and are part of the permanent HCC record.

Finance - The \$150 charge to the HCC made in error has been reversed. Progress is being made on requesting a half-time staff person.

Unfinished Business & General Order:

Executive Board Report -

The next HCC meeting is November 18, 2009 at the University of Montana-Helena College of Technology (HCT). A lecture hall is reserved and refreshments will be ordered. Stan Bradshaw will present the Climate Change Report & Tracy Moseman will make a presentation on Safe Schools/Healthy Students. The monthly HCC meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. and last one hour. Janet Hess-Herbert suggested changing the event focus from “Meet Your Neighbor Rep” to the city’s Climate Change Report. Following discussion, it was agreed that the agenda would be referred to the Marketing Committee & Executive Board to finalize.

Motion: Moved and seconded to move December’s regular HCC meeting to Wednesday, December 9, 2009. All voted; motion passed.

The Executive Board will establish the agenda formatted as a potluck & potentially an orientation for new members with old members encouraged to attend.

Urban Wildlife Advisory Committee Update -

The City Commission passed a resolution on October 19, 2009 establishing a permanent Urban Wildlife Advisory Committee, which includes two voting members from the HCC. Two HCC members have applied and Chair Bernhardt encouraged any other members interested in serving to send a letter of interest to Bonnie by Monday.

Bicycle Donation Letter Update -

Bob Habeck reported the City Commission approved the bike donation as requested and local bike shops have agreed to fix approximately 10 bikes free of charge.

Undeveloped Parks Update -

Please see the District 7 report on page 2.

Community Gardens Letter -

After discussion, the following motion was made.

Motion: Moved and seconded to send a letter of appreciation to individuals instrumental in the development of community gardens. All voted; motion passed.

City Manager Meeting - Scheduling -

Discussion of options was held. Members are to send their preferences to Bonnie as soon as possible. Current attendees should provide a summary of the meeting to the rest of the council.

New Business:

Nomination committee -

Members may refer to the bylaws to review the process. Executive board nominations will begin before the second Tuesday of November.

Public Comment

Chair Bernhardt called for public comment. Guest Roy Henry spoke of a November meeting on the website. It was clarified the subject meeting is a committee meeting, not a full membership meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

HCC Monthly meeting - November 18, 2009 @ HCT- 6:00 PM

City Administrative Meeting

November 18, 2009 - Marshall Gingery

City Commission Meeting

November 2, 2009 - Randy Phillips

November 23, 2009 - Janet Hess-Herbert

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Assessment:

The Helena Parks and Recreation Department would like to conduct a survey on city recreational opportunities in Helena. The department's program, Kay's Kids, has experienced a decline in participation over the past few years. The department wants to know what factors are affecting the participation in this program. The survey will be conducted on survey monkey. The Parks and Recreation Department is looking for assistance publicizing the survey.

Public Relations:

This past month the Helena Citizens' Council did an HCTV segment on the Climate Change Task Force Report. The Independent Record Article focused on clarifying the building permit process. This month both the IR article and the HCTV segment will be on our "Meet Your Neighborhood Representative" on November 18th.

I visited UM Helena for our, "Meet Your Neighborhood Representative" Meeting. This coming week I will be working on publicizing the event.

I've discussed with the marketing committee creating an e-newsletter and I have done some work designing it. I have a Helena Citizens' Council brochure in the works.

I have looked into creating a social networking site page. The city currently doesn't have a policy on this type of media. There are several articles on the web highlighting the pros and cons of online social networking. I was advised by the legal department to speak with Debbie Havens.

The website now has the new member handbook on it.

Community Groups:

I attended the Step Up to the Plate Fair this week-end and although I was only representing the AmeriCorps VISTA program I talked with several people about the Helena Citizens' Council. It was good to hear that many people were familiar with the organization and had voted for their neighborhood representative. I also met a number of organizations that could attend our neighborhood fair in the spring.

Strategic Planning:

HR Director Rae Lynn Nielsen, Jim Penner, and I met on Monday to discuss a permanent position with the Helena Citizens' Council. Rae Lynn needs to consult with some city staff this week and then she will notify me of any changes that she feels need to be made.