

Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting Minutes September 23, 2009

Members present: M.C. Beeby, Ellen Bell, Dan Bernhardt, Lynne Boone, Winston Greely, Janet Hess-Herbert, Larry Mitchell, Marshall Gingery, Jim Penner, Harlan Rudolf, Kent Schlosser, Dave Scrimm, Eric Woodland and Carolyn Wolf.

Members absent: Adam Bell, Mike McGuire, Randy Phillips, Dave Fish, Bob Habeck, Matthew Cohn, Dave Dalthorp and Rebecca Ridenour.

Visitors: HPD Lt. Steve Hagan, Roy Henry and HCC Coordinator Bonnie O'Neill.

Chair Dan Bernhardt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

HCC Meeting minutes - August 26, 2009

Approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report -

Approved by consensus.

Helena Police Department Report - Officer Lt. Steve Hagan

Lt. Hagen reported patrolling has been concentrated on the east side per residents requests. Discussion was held regarding traffic light malfunctions, heavy traffic areas and bikes being used at the skate park.

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 - No report

District 2 - Lynn Boone- Residents are complaining about (1) noise including transportation on streets, trains, dogs, sirens, (2) train crossing delays during rush hour, (3) confusion about when permits are required for doing home repairs.

Federal regulations control trains activity a crossings, up to 20 minutes of not moving is allowed; quiet zones are an option but must meet strict federal safety regulations and are deemed to be expensive. Quiet zone consideration will be a topic of discussion at next meeting with the City Manager. Noise abatement may be an issue worthy of additional study by HCC.

District 3 - No report

District 4 - No report

District 5 - No report

District 7 - No report

Committee/Board Updates

Marketing - Minutes of meeting were distributed and are part of permanent record.

Finance - Minutes of finance committee were distributed and are part of permanent

record.

Intergovernmental Transit Committee - Kent Schlosser will provide a written update on this committee.

Unfinished Business & General Order

Executive Board Report-

The Executive Board discussed upcoming meeting dates and is recommending revised meeting dates of November 18, 2009 and December 16, 2009. There was council consensus for the proposed meeting dates. The November 18, 2009 meeting will be an all district meeting @ UM-Helena College of Technology with newly elected HCC reps and the regular meeting will be held afterward. Several members suggested emphasizing climate change as major issue. Other members wanted a more inclusive approach to issues. Members were encouraged to get ideas to the Marketing Committee for future consideration. Marshall agreed to check with the county fairgrounds facility for use for the potluck on December 16, 2009 prior to the regular meeting; a tour may also be offered.

Urban Wildlife Advisory Committee Update

HCC representatives met with city officials and agreed that the committee would be a standing city committee with two HCC members out of a five person voting committee plus three ex-officio members. HCC members wishing to serve on this committee were encouraged to submit a statement of interest to the Executive Board. The city will draft and adopt a resolution formally establishing the permanent committee.

Bicycle Donation Letter Update

The letter was well received and necessary steps are being taken to approve and execute the request are being made with no major problems anticipated.

Youth Violence Forum Update

A three year grant has been received that would facilitate the proposed forum but nothing is anticipated until January of 2010 when the grant is put into effect.

Undeveloped Parks

Work continues to be done on parks. The proposed renaming of Beltview Park to Selma Held Park has been submitted to the Parks Department for consideration. Discussion was held on identifying a process for naming a park.

Community Gardens

Plymouth Church site is a success and is being viewed as model for future gardens.

Motion: Marshall Gingery moved that HCC adopt a resolution to commend those persons who worked on Community Gardens and the Undeveloped Parks Project and forward the resolution to the City Commission. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

The City Manager candidate event turnout was about 20 citizens, several City Commission and HCC members, Mayor Smith, and the three candidates.

New Business:

Voting Membership on Boards

Several members have requested the HCC position on the Parks Board be a voting position. Deputy City Attorney Ole Olson has been asked to provide the HCC with the applicable statute governing membership of city committees to help determine if the HCC could request a voting position.

Park Property Opportunity

Janet Hess-Herbert noted there is a property on Bow Run that the owner has offered to sell to the City at a discount; the property is adjacent to city property. She noted this is not an appropriate HCC issue but that she and Bob Habeck will assist the property owner as appropriate.

Other Items

The HCC has received an invitation to the October 8, 2009 Open House at the Fire Department from 5-8 PM; members were encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Meetings:

- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, October 28, 2009 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Alles - Tuesday, Oct 21, 2009 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
 - September 30, 2009
 - October 14, 2009
 - October 28, 2009
- City Commission Meetings:
 - October 5, 2009
 - October 19, 2009

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

VISTA Report September 2009—Bonnie O’Neill

Assessment:

I’m working with the Finance Committee and specifically Larry Mitchell to draft recommendations for the next Budgetary Resolutions of Intent.

Public Relations:

This month, I coordinated and publicized the City Manager Candidate Reception. Thank you for attending!

I also collaborated with David Anson on updating the HCC website. My focus has been on uploading the HCC New Member Handbook. I hope to next work on updating the different HCC project descriptions.

In addition, I requested Microsoft Publisher to be put on my computer. This program will enable me to generate an HCC brochure.

The IR Article this month publicized the development of the neighborhood parks, the city manager reception, and the write-in campaign opportunities during the November election.

The next HCTV segment will be on October 7th. The topic is the Climate Change Task Force Report. The host is Commissioner Alan Peura and the interviewee is Stan Bradshaw, Chair of the Climate Change Task Force.

Community Groups:

I attended both the Youth Connections Meeting and the MidTowne & Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association (MSWNA) Meeting this month. I met with both Drenda Carlson and Tracy Moseman from Youth Connections to discuss a Youth Violence Forum in January.

Strategic Planning:

I attended the AmeriCorps Community Building Institute Training in Big Sky last week. The seminar topics were entitled Mobilizing your Community, Conducting Interviews, Navigating Change, and Problem Solving.

I am still working on a rough draft of a job description for a permanent position with the HCC. I’ve received input from Robyn Brown and Debbie Havens as well as the finance committee. I will next be consulting with Rae Lynn, City Director of Human Resources and Tim Magee, City Director.