

**Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting**  
**August 26, 2009 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**City/County Building - Room 326**

**Members present:** Dave Dalthorp, Kent Schlosser, Winston Greely Lynne Boone, David Scrimm, Larry Mitchell, Dave Fish, Eric Woodland, Ellen Bell, Dan Berndardt, Marshall Gingery, Harlan Rudolf, James Penner, M.C. Beeby, Bob Habeck and Janet Hess-Herbert. Also present: HCC Coordinator Bonnie O’Niell.

**Members absent:** Matt Cohn, Rebecca Ridenour, Adam Bell, Mike McGuire, Randy Phillips, Carolyn Wolf and Brian Olsen.

**Visitors:** HPD Lt. Steve Hagen, Joan Higgins-Smith - Center for Mental Health, Acting City Manager David Nielsen, Parks & Recreation Director Amy Teegarden and Dan Ellison.

Chair Dan Bernhardt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**HCC Meeting minutes - June 24, 2009**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Finance Report**

The Finance Report was approved by consensus; the minutes of the Finance Committee were attached to the agenda as part of the official record.

**Helena Police Department Report - Officer Lt. Steve Hagan**

Lt. Hagen reported the HPD is hiring three new officers, two vacancy replacements and one new position. School is back in and resources officers are in place including a DARE officer. Motorcycle patrol is now operational.

**Urban Wildlife Task Force - Acting City Manager David Nielsen**

Acting City Manager Dave Nielsen reported the goal of deer management was to limit population to 25 per square mile. The city has hired a firm to take a census of the deer population and establish an ongoing census taking procedure. MT Fish Wildlife and Parks requested that an Advisory Committee be formed to assess and investigate wildlife problem in the city. It would be a permanent committee and its proposed comprisal is three HCC members, one Parks Board or HOLMAC representative and one citizen-at-large representative.

Discussion was held on the role of HCC members on the proposed committee.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded that the HCC accept the invitation from the city for three HCC members to serve on the proposed Urban Wildlife Advisory Committee. All voted; motion failed.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded directing HCC Chair Dan Bernhardt to appoint two or three HCC members to meet with Acting City Manager Nielsen and Parks & Recreation Director Amy Teegarden to discuss the role of the council on the

committee; their findings will be presented at the September HCC Meeting. All voted; motion passed.

#### **Presentation - Joan Higgins-Smith - Center for Mental Health**

Ms. Higgins-Smith shared information about the Care House & Helena's Crisis Stabilization Program. Crisis stabilization is on the continuum of care for a recovery based mental health system and the program is called the Care House which is operated by the Center for Mental Health. Funding for the Center for Mental Health is provided by Medicaid, Medicare and private pay insurance. The Center is looking to build Care House and is working with the Jackson Street Group and other community groups to assess community needs for a Helena crisis center before determining a site and structure that might fit the community need. The Center has a state grant to conduct the study of need.

#### **VISTA/HCC Coordinator's Report**

The VISTA/HCC Coordinator's report is attached at the end of the minutes as part of the official record.

#### **Presentation - David Scrimm - Conservation**

Member David Scrimm shared a video on the hazards of plastics and plastic bags and provided information on what other communities are doing. Mr. Scrimm reported that Global Climate Change Task Force is aware of the issue and is including it within their study. He encouraged the HCC to stay in touch with how the issue of plastic bags is addressed by the Task Force.

#### **HCC District Reports**

- District 1 - No report
- District 2 - No report
- District 3 - No report
- District 4 - No report
- District 5 - No report
- District 6 - M.C. passed out a flyer for the MidTowne & Sixth Ward Flea Market on September 19, 2009 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- District 7 - No report

#### **Committee/Board Updates**

**Marketing Committee** - Notes from committee meeting were distributed with the agenda and are part of the official record.

#### **Unfinished Business & General Order**

**Executive Board Report** - Chair Bernhardt reported there are no current plans for a fall cleanup and noted the board has recently discussed committee assignments and set the agenda for the August meeting.

## New Business

### **Complete Streets Ordinance**

Members received a copy of the draft Complete Streets Ordinance and Council Member Dave Dalthorp reported the HCC has been asked to endorse the ordinance as being in the best interests of the citizens of Helena.

**Motion: Moved and seconded that the HCC determines the implementation of the proposed Complete Streets Ordinance is in the best interest of the City of Helena. All voted; motion carried.**

### **City Donation of Abandoned/Stolen Bicycles**

Council Member Bob Habeck presented a draft letter regarding the donation of bikes to at-risk youth to the City Manager.

**Motion: Moved and seconded to send the letter to Acting City Manager Nielsen, with a copy to the Mayor and Commission, recommending the donation. All voted; motion carried.**

### **City Manager Candidate Open House**

Mayor Smith has asked the HCC to host an event with the four candidates for City Manager. The Open House will be held from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in City/County Building Room 326 on September 17, 2009. Dan will meet with Mayor to firm up location and format.

### **Step Up to the Plate - Volunteer Fair**

Youth Connections is sponsoring a Volunteer Fair on Sunday, October 25, 2009 at the Carroll College gymnasium. Each organization is required to provide a raffle item and a table for participation costs \$100.

**Motion: Moved to participate in the Step Up to the Plate Volunteer Fair and authorize expenditure of participation fee. Motion died for lack of a second.**

HCC members were encouraged to attend the Fair and wear their name badges to show support for non-profit groups and citizen volunteers.

### **General Discussion**

Janet asked about the status of the idea of doing a youth forum with Youth Connections as discussed at the June meeting. Drenda Carlson with Youth Connections will approach the HCC when her schedule permits.

David Scrimm asked about the status of member attendance in regards to the rule that members missing three consecutive meetings shall be removed from the Council. The Executive Board agreed to review the issue of meeting attendance.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, September 23, 2009 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with Acting City Manager Nielson - Tuesday, Sept 15, 2009 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
  - Sept 9, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt
  - Sept 23, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt
  - Sept 30, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt
- City Commission Meetings:
  - Sept 14, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt
  - Sept 28, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next HCC meeting is September 23, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Room 326 of the City/County Building.

## **VISTA Report August 2009—Bonnie O’Neill**

### **Assessment:**

I have met with each of the city commissioners and department directors to learn about the structure of local government and concerns coming before the commission. I have also toured each of the seven neighborhood districts with the HCC district representatives. In addition, I have attended some of the city commission meetings and other city department meetings that inform me about issues facing the city of Helena and help me relay appropriate information to HCC members.

### **Public Relations:**

To educate the public about the HCC, I have written a monthly newspaper article for the Independent Record (IR) about the goals of my position this year and exciting updates to the organization's website. In order to reach other segments of the public, I have also filmed a HCTV piece about the same topic as the newspaper article. I have also received city training in website development.

### **Community Groups:**

To better understand current neighborhood plans underway and the formulation of neighborhood associations, I have met with the Midtowne 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Neighborhood Association. I have also consulted with the city school board to identify potential neighborhood leaders and resources for potential neighborhood associations. In addition, I have attended the meetings pertaining to the new city growth policy.

### **Strategic Planning:**

I've attended both the AmeriCorps Pre-orientation Training and the AmeriCorps Community Building Institute Training. I'm in the process of creating a work plan with my site supervisor, Jim Penner, so that I can fulfill the accomplishments of the VISTA assignment description.

I am currently working on a rough draft of a job description for a permanent position with the HCC. I will be consulting with Rae Lynn, City Director of Human Resources, and Tim Magee, City Director of Administrative Services, in the coming months to determine the type of position that satisfies the HCC's needs and is financially feasible.