

Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting
May 27, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
City/County Building - Room 326

Members present:

Matt Cohn, Dave Dalthorp, Kent Schlosser, Winston Greely, Lynne Boone, Rebecca Ridenour, Larry Mitchell, Ellen Bell, Marshall Gingery, Harlan Rudolf, James Penner, M.C. Beeby, Carolyn Wolf, Bob Habeck and Janet Hess-Herbert.

Members absent:

David Scrimm, George Hoff, Dave Fish, Remi Lancette, Adam Bell, Mike McGuire, Dan Bernhardt, Maleen Olson and Brian Olsen.

Visitors:

Fran Penner-Ray, Al Comier, Helena Police Department (HPD) Officer Jayson Zander and City Community Development Director Sharon Haugen.

Vice-Chair Winston Greely called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

HCC Meeting minutes - April 22, 2009

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Helena Police Department Report - Officer Jayson Zander

HPD Officer Zander reported school resource officers will be assigned to augment downtown & motorcycle patrol and officers are concentrating on parking garages on the weekends. The HPD is getting four new patrol cars and two new motorcycles. There is an officer training to become a second drug recognition expert for the HPD.

Growth Policy Presentation - Community Development Director Sharon Haugen

Director Haugen reported explained the purpose of the city's Growth Policy is to guide city land use decisions; the current update is the first in 20 years and must conform to state statutes. Community Development staff has conducted surveys of Helena residents to ascertain citizen wishes and focus groups and public meetings will also be used to gather additional comments from residents. Director Haugen noted Lewis & Clark County is also going through growth policy revisions. Harlan Rudolf is participating in the update of the Growth Policy for the HCC.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Harlan Rudolf provided a copy of the current budget; expenses are presently less than projected.

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.

A suggestion was made to allow members to phone in to the monthly meeting with City Manager Burton; Julie will follow up on this.

HCC District Reports

District 1 - Members welcomed Matt Cohn back from his recent travels.

District 2 -No report was given.

District 3 -No report was given.

District 4 - A neighborhood meeting was held with CVS regarding their proposed re-location to District 4. The proposal will be considered by the Zoning Commission in June.

District 5 - Comments were given about Custer Avenue road construction.

District 6 - Members welcomed Carolyn Wolf as a new district representative.

District 7 - There will be a meeting June 3, 2009 @ 6:00 pm at Mountain West Bank to discuss the development of a community garden in Beltview Park.

Committee/Board Updates

Community Gardens - Janet Hess-Herbert reported Plymouth Church is putting a garden on its vacant land. She noted the new neighborhood parks will not grow food this year, as infrastructure is not in place and stimulus funds are not currently available.

Marketing Committee - Janet Hess-Herbert discussed using flyers, press releases, and on-line applications to get people interested in running for HCC positions.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: The Executive Board is authorized to spend up to \$1000 for recruitment of HCC members; the Marketing Committee will develop a plan for Executive Board approval. All voted, motion passed unanimously.

Planning Board - Marshall Gingery noted there is a high degree of cooperation between the city and county to work cooperatively on water, sewer, roads, etc.

Ten Mile Watershed Mitigation Committee - Larry Mitchell reported the Ten Mile Working Group's final meeting is June 3, 2009. Discussion has revolved around treating the watershed's timber rather than fighting a windblown fire. There may be a recommendation to treat up to 40% of the watershed using controlled burns, chemicals, etc.

Climate Change Task Force - Rebecca Ridenour reported the task force is working to formulate recommendations prior to sunseting in August 2009. A draft of their recommendations will be distributed to the City Commission, HCC and city staff. The Committee is also working to secure a grant for a half time "energy" employee.

Parks Board - M.C. Beeby reported the Last Chance Splash Water Park grand opening is planned for June 24, 2009. Parks & Recreation Director Amy Teegarden will be meeting with the 6th Ward/Mid-Towne Group to explain the city's transit center plans.

Non-Motorized Transportation Committee - Matt Cohn and Dave Dalthorp will work together on this committee. The committee is working on the parameters necessary for road programs to meet the legal requirements for pedestrian traffic. There have been three traffic calming applications submitted; they will be reviewed on June 9, 2009. The committee is also working on drafting a "Complete Streets" ordinance.

Unfinished Business & General Order

Executive Board Report - The HCC Brewer's game is July 13, 2009; information will be announced as available.

The Executive Board has concurred that voting positions on city boards/committees are a priority; participation on the other boards can be based on member interest.

Transportation Committee Findings - Kent Schlosser noted this report was provided to members via email; there was no recommendation included in the report.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: To send the HCC's Transportation Committee Findings to the Non-Motorized Transportation Committee with copies to the City Commission. All voted, motion passed unanimously.

New Business

The Helena Action Committee is presenting a forum on homelessness at St. Peter's Hospital on Thursday, June 4, 2009 beginning at 8:00 am. Lunch will be served and advance registration is advised; more information can be found on the United Way website.

Upcoming Meetings:

- HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, June 24, 2009 @ 7:00p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- HCC Monthly Meeting with City Manager Burton - Tuesday, June 16, 2009 @ 3:30p.m. - City/County Bldg, Room 326
- City Administrative Meetings:
 - June 3, 2009 - Larry Mitchell/Dan Bernhardt
 - June 17, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt
- City Commission Meetings:
 - June 8, 2009 - Janet Hess-Herbert
 - June 22, 2009 - Dan Bernhardt

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm. The next HCC meeting is June 24, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Room 326 of the City/County Building.

VISTA Report- May 2009

Assessment:

None, but I would like to assess our availability for City Manager Meetings. By a show of hands, could you all tell me if you would be more willing/able to attend the City Manager meetings if I request they be moved to either before/after work, lunch time, or directly before our monthly meetings? There is no harm asking if it will bring a better HCC turn out.

Public Relations:

Working on the website- it's up and running. We still need pictures if you have any- and a few more applications need to be updated.

Wrote an article about Biking in Helena. Also did our HCTV show with Sergeant Jerry McGee on this topic.

Community Groups:

I've continued to help the MSWNA with their VISTA recruitment by helping them with interviews and making myself available.

Strategic Planning

The Marketing Group is planning to start purchasing our HCTV shows. This will hopefully drive people to our website on a monthly basis, and entice someone to be a regular host once VISTA is over. Possibly recruiting some toastmaster members.

Put our volunteer opportunities up on United Way Volunteer board.

Encourage people around the city to consider running.