

Helena Citizens Council Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

Members Presents: Lorabelle Behlmer, Winston Greely, David Scrimm, Jim McCormick, Olivia Tooley, Ellen Bell, Randy Phillips, Roy Hemry, Albert Clark, M.C. Beeby, James Penner, Carrie Severson, John Forbes, Bob Habeck and Kris Goss.

Members Absent: Stanley Johnson, Bob Clarkson, Eric Woodland, Dan Bernhardt, Mark Seitz, Collin Watters, Eric Ball, Janet Hess-Herbert and Frank Rives.

Visitors: Charlotte Robertson- District 7 resident, Commissioner Dan Ellison (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Drenda Carlson-Niemann- Director of Youth Connections and Jenny Senn- Special Projects Director from Youth Connections.

HCC Chair Jim McCormick called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Recording #: ws700008

Approval of HCC minutes for July 2011

The July 2011 minutes were approved as amended.

Helena Police Department Report:

Lt. Steve Hagen reported one new officer has been hired and is currently training in the field. He noted he would temporarily be handling special programs as Officer Casey is returning to the field.

Guest Speaker: Youth Connections Director Drenda Niemann

Mrs. Niemann spoke to HCC members about what Youth Connections (YC) is and the various programs that members are working on. Youth Connections is a community prevention coalition, aimed and helping our community to be as healthy and safe as possible for kids to grow up. The organization is nearly 10 years old. It started as a middle school prevention effort hosted by the Helena School District and has grown into a community prevention coalition working to empower youth and promote positive youth development, in an effort to reduce substance abuse in our community. Through deliberate attention to data that is collected, which focuses on research based proven and effective strategies, Youth Connections has been able to make great strides in substance abuse prevention, especially underage drinking in our community. As a result, Youth Connections has been nationally recognized for the positive impact it has had in our community, to help protect our youth against substance abuse in particular. She mentioned an award received for their work regarding the Social Host Ordinance in our community, which holds adults accountable for allowing kids to drink alcohol on their property. This was a collaborative effort.

Prevention efforts have been made possible through several federal and state grant dollars that have provided the resources to implement the comprehensive prevention strategy. There are nearly 700 community members that participate in the work with Youth Connections on various levels. Community partners include law enforcement, schools, youth serving organizations, businesses, faith based organizations, state and local government, health care, civic and volunteer organizations, students and parents.

Due to the diligence of coalition leaders, risky behaviors have been identified beyond substance abuse, to be addressed within our community. Therefore YC applied for the Safe Schools Healthy Students

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Initiative in 2009. We were one of twenty-nine (out of 476 applications) communities that received funds from the initiative. These funds will help YC do great work in the community. The funds came through a federal collaborative effort of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice and Department of Education. The Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative provides the community with technical assistance and financial resources to address needs identified in the area of substance abuse, violence prevention, social/emotional health, mental health and early childhood development. This initiative is meant to really allow our community to work to shift our attitudes, shift our beliefs, shift the way we do business in our community. It allows YC to create a systematic way to support families and youth, and provide them with tools to be more successful in our community.

Youth Connections and Safe Schools have joined efforts to have the greatest impact for family and youth. They are working in tandem to better understand the needs of our community. They are using an action plan approach to come up with a great systematic, comprehensive ways to address those needs in our community. They evaluate their work along the way to make sure everything they do is really making a difference in our community.

A short video was shown to give HCC members an idea of what Youth Connections is. Two key programs are:

- Substance Abuse Prevention.
- Violence Prevention – Keep it in the Ring

District Reports:

District 1: None

District 2: None

District 3: Jim McCormick reported that there are noxious weeds in Reber Park; Weed Enforcement Officer Greta Dige can be notified to report the weeds.

District 4: None

District 5: Randy Phillips reported that the speeders increasing in the Four Georgians School area. One neighbor was almost hit. The driver was hit and run. Lt. Hagen stated that HPD plans on getting motorcycles out while the weather is still good.

District 6: None

District 7: None

Elections: Fifteen individuals have filed to run for seats on the HCC.

Vacancies: Resignations have been received from Sandy Wilson and Bobbette Madonna.

City Commission & Administrative Meetings:

Jim Penner attended the August 3rd Administrative meeting. The recycling position within the city will be re-jiggered; there will a new person filling that position. The city will attempt to up the amount of recycling that is done. There was considerable conversation about the use of cameras for surveillance. The grant the city received for the Caird property was talked about briefly. Jim asked

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about speeding. Chief Magee stated that the PD does the best that they can with the resources they have. He mentioned the failed mill levy.

Jim McCormick Lorabelle Behlmer attended the August 22nd Commission Meeting. Jim gave the Commission a synopsis of the distracted driving survey. The Commissioners and the Mayor were pleased with the result and the HCC's participation and interest in the topic.

Standing Committee Reports/Various Boards and Committee Reports:

Finance/Budget Committee:

\$20,173.00 allotted for FY12. YTD spent \$579.00 for advertising. There is a line item for \$12,060.00 for Other Contract Services, which John Forbes believes to be for our part-time clerical help we are supposed to get.

Marketing Committee:

Lorabelle reminded us that Bob Habeck and Janet Hess-Herbert are still looking into HCTV segment. Jim McCormick recorded an HCC PSA at KBLL today.

Lorabelle reported that she was contacted by the news, requesting the cell phone survey results. They were going to attend the HCC meeting tonight, but were unable to do so.

Transportation/Governmental/Non-Motorized Committees:

David Scrimm reported that the city is in the process of putting bike lanes up Helena Avenue from Jackson to Dakota by the Health Food Store.

The Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee is looking at holding a public meeting this fall to highlight what it has been doing and to get input from the public about what they would like to see for the future of Helena. They would also like to get input about ideas that the Advisory Committee has. David asked for help with conducting a survey after this meeting.

Lorabelle mentioned that the Helena Rotary Club is looking to supply several bike racks throughout the city of Helena. She will talk to the Commissioners regarding this idea.

Bob Habeck mentioned Mr. Schafer who attended last month's meeting. Mr. Schafer is displeased that his letter to the Mayor and Commission has gone unanswered. Bob suggested a public meeting to address his concerns.

Committee and Board Transition Subcommittee:

Kris spoke of by-law amendments; a meeting to discuss the amendments is tentatively scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 31st in room 326.

Other Committees/Boards:

Public Art Committee –

Ellen Bell reported that there are two on-going projects happening right now:

1. Open Studios Tour - \$10.00 for tickets

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2. Dragon mural downtown next to the Windbag.

John Forbes made comments regarding HCC support for the Arts Committee fair.

Urban Wildlife Advisory Committee:

Randy reported that they haven't had a meeting. When they figure out what is happening with integration, they will set up a meeting and notify HCC of date.

Discussion regarding deer culling ensued between Bob Habeck and Randy Phillips. The last decision was to continue with the culling as they have been doing it. It is the best solution with the most socially acceptable outcome. Allot of the decision was based on the Mayor and City Manager both weighing in heavily on the idea that they liked that the food was going to Food Share. With the economic times pushed the majority in favor of going with the program that was set up.

HOLMAC:

Jim McCormick reported that Dan Bernhardt has resigned his seat due to job commitments. If any HCC member is interested in filling the vacancy, please contact him.

Helena International Affairs Council:

Jim McCormick will find out when their next meeting is and also invite them to the next HCC meeting.

Unfinished Business & General Order(s):

Cell Phone Ban Survey:

Continuing survey until September 9, 2011; the survey will be shut down at EOB on this day.

The Council discussed ways to get the survey out to younger individuals. John Forbes had the idea about getting it to the high schools. In addition to that, we can put it out to the colleges and on the HCC Facebook page and Twitter page.

The raw data from the survey will be forwarded to the City Commission for their meeting on September 12th.

HCC Coordinator – Hiring Update:

An interview committee of four has been formed. Applications have been screened and scored. Four applicants have been selected to interview. Interviews will be held in the next few weeks. Interview questions need to be put together by HR.

Request for HCC bylaw review – draft amendments:

Bob Habeck reiterated the need for the format for the HCC Recommendation form.

Motion: David Scrimm moved to submit all recommendations approved by this body (HCC) to the City Commission both in writing and at the next opportunity when the HCC is on the agenda at the City Commission Meeting. Seconded by Randy Phillips. All voted; motion carried.

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Kris asked to add to the agenda, for September, Mr. Schafer's concerns.

HCC recommendations related to Complete Streets Policy, Climate Change Action Plan – progress report: No discussion held.

Citizen Conservation Board: No discussion held.

New Business:

Public Service Announcements: No discussion held.

Project Updates: No updates were given.

Public Comment: No public comment was given.

Announcements:

Upcoming Meetings

Administrative Meetings – Wednesdays @ 4:00 p.m.

September 7, 2011
September 21, 2011
September 28, 2011

City Commission Meetings – Mondays @ 6:00 p.m.

September 12, 2011
September 26, 2011

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.