

Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting
May 25, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
City/County Building – Room 326

Members present: Winston Greely, David Scrimm, Bobette Madonna, Bob Clarkson, Dan Bernhardt, Ellen Bell, Roy Henry, Albert Clark, Jim Penner, M.C. Beeby, Carrie Severson, Bob Habeck, Janet Hess-Herbert, John Forbes, Kris Goss, Jim McCormick and Lorabelle Behlmer.

Members absent: Bobette Madonna, Collin Watters, Eric Ball, Frank Rives, Randy Phillips, Eric Woodland, Stanley Johnson, Sande Wilson and Olivia Tooley.

Visitors: HPD Officer Nathan Casey, City Clerk Debbie Havens, HIAC Member Michaela Wolfinger, PAC Member Carol Montgomery.

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

HCC Meeting minutes– March & April 2011 minutes were approved.

Helena Police Department Report

Officer Casey discussed parking changes, extra patrols, the speed trailer and emergency cell phone calls.

Finance Report

No change from April Report. Budget for 2012 is \$21 more than 2011. \$12,060 is budgeted for contracted services (staff). Discussion ensued about how much of an FTE this amount would provide and whether the integration deal promised a ½ time FTE as part of the bargain and that \$12,000 was insufficient for such a position. Ellen Bell agreed to inquire.

Presentation: Parks Director Amy Teegarden - Parks Department Budget and Events

Ms. Teegarden informed us that an arborist position would be in the Parks Department budget and the position would address Helena's urban forest. She further informed us that 70% of the boulevard trees in Helena are Green ash and are very susceptible to disease. Centennial Park is in Phase I of development and weather has caused some delays, but it should very soon begin to take shape. The cost of watering our parks is a major expense. Due to vandalism issues she is supporting the idea of placing surveillance cameras in some locations.

City Board/Committee Integration

PAC Representative Carole Montgomery spoke about her limited understanding of the HCC and the city board restructuring idea and stated she does not know how or why HCC involvement came about.

Michaela Wolfinger from HIAC was present but did not offer any comment about the proposed reorganization.

The subcommittee on the integration proposal will produce a formal report and provide it to HCC members in advance of the June meeting where it will be on the agenda as an action item.

MC Beeby presented information to the HCC about several events and programs taking place in Helena. A Walkability Tour and discussion; HeyNet, a Youth Connections Project for alternative youth activities; the new Transit Center opening and the possibility of offering kids free rides. MC Beeby wanted a committee to work on the issue and Lorabelle Behlmer volunteered.

Noise ordinance

David Scrimm led a discussion of problems with the enforceability of the noise ordinance with respect to "boom cars." Whether the HCC should recommend that the City Commission look into this growing, unenforceable problem will be an action item for the June agenda.

Elections

The filing period is May 1 to June 30.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.