

**Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting
January 26, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
City/County Building – Room 326**

Members Present: Lorabelle Behlmer, Winston Greely, David Scrimm, Jim McCormick, Olivia Tooley, Dan Bernhardt, Ellen Bell, Randy Phillips, James Penner, Carrie Severson, Janet Hess-Herbert, John Forbes, Bob Habeck, Sande Wilson, and Kris Goss.

Members Absent: Bobbette Madonna, Stanley Johnson, Bob Clarkson, Eric Woodland, Mark Seitz, Collin Watters, Roy Hemry, Albert Clark, Eric Ball, M.C. Beeby and Frank Rives.

Visitors: HPD Lt. Steve Hagen, George McCauley, Vivian Hayes and Marty Taylor.

HCC Chair Dan Bernhardt called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

HCC Meeting minutes- November and December 2010

The November and December 2010 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Election of Officers

Chair Bernhardt called for the election of HCC officers for 2011. Ballots were distributed listing the following nominees: Chair – Jim McCormick (Randy Phillips removed his name from consideration), Vice-Chair – Lorabelle Behlmer or Bobette Madonna, Treasurer – None, Secretary – Olivia Tooley. Chair Bernhardt called for nominations from the floor; Ellen Bell was nominated for Treasurer. The candidates gave a brief statement supporting their nomination.

The election results were as follows: *Chair – Jim McCormick, Vice-Chair – Lorabelle Behlmer, Treasurer – Ellen Bell, and Secretary – Olivia Tooley.*

Immediately following election the 2011 Executive Board assumed leadership of the council.

Helena Police Department Report

Lt. Steve Hagen reported the Police Department recently hired three new officers. He also discussed abandoned vehicles and building rubbish on private property.

Guest Speaker: Mr. George McCauley – noise ordinance enforcement

Mr. George McCauley (District 2) spoke to the City of Helena's noise ordinance. He expressed concern for "boom cars", vehicles whose drivers play excessively loud music while driving. Most often the "boom cars" are gone before anything can be done. Mr. McCauley has a neighbor that often has visitors that leave their vehicles running with music playing loudly.

Lt. Hagen clarified there are two different noise ordinances- disturbing the peace, which requires a complaint; and violation of decibel level, which doesn't. Barking dogs are covered under a different ordinance.

Mr. McCauley asked the HCC to review both noise ordinances in order to strengthen enforcement.

District Reports:

Discussion was held regarding re-appointment and duties of District Chairs.

Motion: Randy Phillips moved the HCC vote on whether or not District Chairs should be mandatory. David Scrimm seconded the motion. The motion was withdrawn.

The role and function of District Chairs will be placed on the February meeting agenda for discussion.

District 1: Winston Greely is the new District Chair.

District 2: David Scrimm expressed concern over excessive noise in his district.

District 3: No report given.

District 4: Dan Bernhardt is the new District Chair.

District 5: No report given.

District 6: No report given.

District 7: Janet Hess-Herbert is the new District Chair.

Chair McCormick stated district vacancies should be advertised; he will discuss this with City Clerk Debbie Havens.

Committee/Board Reports:

Marketing Committee – No report given. It was noted Vice-Chair Lorabelle Behlmer is now the chair of the committee.

City Commission Administrative Meeting – Janet Hess-Herbert reported budget challenges were discussed. Mayor Smith expressed concern for the lack of support staff designated to the HCC.

Chair McCormick asked for volunteers to sit on a committee to bring forward to the City Commission the need for administrative support for the HCC. Jim Penner, Janet Hess-Herbert and Sande Wilson volunteered for the committee.

Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Council – David Scrimm reported the Complete Streets Resolution was approved by the City Commission. The Centennial Trail Project is moving forward and the Committee is looking at installation of a bike lane on Helena Avenue.

Finance Report – Currently \$12,060.00 remains in the budget. Discussion was held on why very little of the budget has been spent. Over half of the budget was designated for the VISTA program and money was also saved by not holding the Neighborhood Fair. Secretary Tooley requested a recording device and jump drive be purchased to aid in taking the minutes.

Old Business:

Restructuring of City Boards as proposed by Mayor Smith, City Manager Ron Alles and City Clerk Debbie Havens – David Scrimm expressed concerns related to the proposal. He believes the HCC should not take action on the proposal without being fully aware of the logistics and is concerned with how the existing members of the four pilot committees will react to the proposal and the HCC as a result of it. He also discussed the possibility that the HCC member who is chair of a board/committee may have an

agenda that he or she believes to be a good one while there are 27 other HCC members who may not agree.

Sande Wilson expressed concern that the proposal will dilute the councils' duties as HCC members.

Motion: Winston Greely moved that a sub-committee consisting of the Executive Board and any interested council members work with Mayor Smith and City Manager Alles on the proposed restructuring of city boards/committees. Randy Phillips seconded the motion. Motion carried with 8 members voting in favor and 7 members voting in opposition.

New Business:

Secretary Tooley expressed concern for worn lane lines throughout the city, especially in high traffic areas such as malfunction junction. It was suggested she contact Cathy Jenkins in the city's street department.

A dog attack was discussed; animal control should be contacted regarding any animal attacks.

Project Updates

No project updates were given.

Public comment

Ms. Marty Taylor thanked the HCC for allowing her to observe the meeting for a class assignment.

Announcements:

1. Upcoming Meetings

Administrative Meetings

February 9, 2011 – Kris Goss

February 23, 2011 – Carrie Severson

City Commission Meetings

February 14, 2011 – Executive Board

February 28, 2011 – Lorabelle Behlmer

HCC Monthly Meeting

February 23, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.