

Helena Citizens Council Minutes

March 23, 2011

Members Present: Lorabelle Behlmer, David Scrimm, Bobbette Madonna, Jim McCormick, Olivia Tooley, Dan Bernhardt, Ellen Bell, Roy Hemry, Albert Clark, Carrie Severson, Janet Hess-Herbert, John Forbes, Bob Habeck, Sande Wilson and Kris Goss.

Members Absent: Winston Greely, Stanley Johnson, Bob Clarkson, Eric Woodland, Mark Seitz, Collin Watters, Randy Phillips, Eric Ball, M.C. Beeby, James Penner and Frank Rives.

Visitors: Melissa Broch & Mary Arnold- Helena Open Land Management Advisory Council (HOLMAC); Allison Maier- Independent Record; Vivian Hayes – Public Art Committee (PAC); and Helena Police Department (HPD) Officer Pete Callahan.

HCC Chair Jim McCormick called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of HCC minutes for January 2011 and February 2011

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Helena Police Department Report: Officer Callahan reported the HPD is retiring two of their three K-9 officers. Whether or not to replace any of the retiring K-9s will be decided by Chief McGee in the near future. Officer Callahan also gave an overview of the deer culling project.

Guest Speaker: There was no guest speaker.

District Reports

District 1: NONE

District 2: David Scrimm commended the city for their work filling potholes. Ellen Bell suggested he send an e-mail to the City letting them know.

District 3: NONE

District 4: NONE

District 5: NONE

District 6: Carrie Severson reported the tennis courts are being utilized at Lockey Park.

District 7: Bob Habeck reported the Growing Communities Project is meeting at the Waterford tonight to discuss the building of another community garden at Plymouth Church, which is located on Winne and fundraising for the Selma Held Park garden. Janet Hess-Herbert spoke regarding Selma Held Park and noted the city installed the water source last fall. Now it's a matter of fundraising for soil and other equipment to be used for the garden.

Discussion was held on plot cost. Bob Habeck explained the plots at Plymouth Church are \$25.00 for a plot approximately 7'x4', and on up to \$50.00 for a 25'x25 plot. Waukesha Garden just raised their fees from \$20 to \$40. This was the first fee increase for the garden in 25 years. He commented this should have been done a long time ago to pay for the cost of water usage. Albert Clark

Helena Citizens Council Minutes

March 23, 2011

asked who would pay for the fencing, etc. around the new garden. Ellen Bell stated it is the responsibility of the project group; the city only provides the water/irrigation. Ellen asked if there will be a garden at Janet Street Park. Janet Hess-Herbert confirmed there would be, once Selma Held Park is completed.

Standing Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Nothing to report at this time.

Lorabelle Behlmer asked what she must do to get reimbursed for the digital recorder and jump drive she purchased to record HCC meetings and store minutes on. Ellen Bell explained she should submit her receipts and reimbursement request to City Clerk Debbie Havens.

Budget Committee: John Forbes stated the Council hasn't spent much money for FY 2011 and gave the following figures: allocated- \$20,152, spent- \$1231 and remaining- \$18,921. Most of the remaining amount is because the Council does not have a VISTA. He commented he is unsure how this will affect the Council's FY 2012 budget.

Marketing Committee: None

Other Committees/Boards:

HCC Staffing Sub-Committee:

The Vista application was due March 18, 2011 and was hand-delivered by Chair McCormick. New criteria was added to the application related to Healthy Futures and Education. The Committee has brainstormed ways to incorporate this new criteria into the Vista's scope of work.

Committee and Board Integration Committee:

Moved to unfinished business.

Unfinished Business:

Vista Application Update – Update given under HCC Staffing Committee report.

City Budget Meetings for FY 2012 – The first meeting will be held on April 7, 2011. John Forbes will attend this and future meetings and report back to the council at monthly meetings.

The Council anticipates having various guests on the agenda over the next few months to speak about the budget. Individuals considered are: Amy Teagarden – Parks & Recreation Department (confirmed for May) and Tim Magee – Administrative Services Director. Helena Housing Authority Director Josh LaFramboise and Planning Department Director Sharon Haugen will be invited to speak on the Helena Housing Study.

Helena Citizens Council Minutes

March 23, 2011

Kris Goss reported on the March 23rd Administrative Meeting. A detailed overview of the Quiet Zone study was given at the meeting; Dan Bernhardt requested a copy of the study be shared with all Council members.

NOTE: Kris Goss requested future agendas be adjusted to include reports from HCC members on Commission and Administrative meetings.

Standing Committee Reports – The listing of HCC members on city boards/committees needs to be updated; the last update was in June 2010. Lorabelle Behlmer asked Council members to confirm whether or not they are currently serving on a board/committee as a voting or non-voting member. She also requested members express their interest to serve, or not serve, on specific boards.

Integration of City Boards and Committees with HCC – The vote on whether to approve the integration proposal will be deferred until the city can write a Memorandum of Understanding outlining and formalizing the proposal. Further research will be done by Council members on the pros and cons of the proposal.

New Business:

City Elections – The 2012 election cycle opens on June 30, 2011 and closes August 15, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. If Council members are interested in running for the HCC they must register with the elections office during this time period.

Project Updates:

No project updates were given.

The HCC received a request to speak to a group of women from Asia interested in how citizens get involved in government. Ellen Bell represented the HCC during this event.

Public Comment:

PAC Member Vivian Hayes stated the PAC is interested in learning more about the board/committees integration proposal. They have encountered difficulty in being included on the City Commission agenda.

HOLMAC Member Mary Arnold stated HOLMAC appreciates all of the work the HCC is doing to investigate the integration proposal and looks forward to the final outcome.

Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

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

April 6, 2011 –Janet Hess-Herbert

Helena Citizens Council Minutes

March 23, 2011

April 20, 2011 –Kris Goss

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

April 11, 2011 –Lorabelle Behlmer

April 25, 2011 –Olivia Tooley

HCC Monthly Meeting

April 27, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

David Scrimm suggested the HCC consider meeting with the City Commission once per month. This suggestion will be on the April agenda.

Chair McCormick reminded District Chairs to contact Council members who have not been attending meetings to inquire about their interest in being on the HCC.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.