

HCC Meeting Minutes

July 27 2016 – 7:00 pm

City/County Building- Room 326

Members Present

District 1 Mary Ann George Paul Pacini, Sarah Sadowski
District 2 Eric Kiltz, Gary Spaeth
District 3 Flannery Harpole, Sumner Sharpe, Jeanette Blize
District 4 Dave Maslowski, Tom Woodgerd,
District 5
District 6 Ria Steffins, Terry Ray, Maureen Kiely
District 7 John Forbes, Dick Sloan, Denise Roth Barber

Absent: Pat Christian, Bob Funk, Gary Dalton, Carol Ann Frisch, Terry Frisch, Bob Habeck.

Guests: Andres Haladay, City Commissioner, Christopher Facundo (SP) and Kenneth Bogner.

Call to Order / General Business and Announcements

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Gary Spaeth called the meeting to order at 7:01. He announced that interviews for a new HCC Coordinator are scheduled for next week. He updated those present on his health. He introduced the guests. Officer Bailey was not present.

Gary reported on the Administration meeting. BID work session is being held tomorrow, July 28, in room 326 at 4:00 if anyone is interested in attending. Sumner reported that the Downtown Plan will be reviewed and adopted as part of Helena's growth policy and neighborhood plan. This plan will be used as a guide and is not a legally binding document. There will be a public hearing in October or November. Sumner reminded the group that 5 of our 7 Districts border downtown. Downtown is 2% of the land but has a large tax base. The Executive summary of the Downtown Plan and all documentation is available on line <http://downtownhelena.com/dhibid/bid/>.

Sumner reported that he is part of a recently created group focused on infrastructure. One of the goals is to communicate needs to citizens through three community dialogues. This is similar to the Infrastructure Coalition which exists at the state level.

Sumner will also be presenting the Gas Tax at the City/County Administration meeting on August 4 at 4:00 in this room (326). All are welcome to attend if interested.

County is planning to put forth a revised bond for a jail. They may not be interested in a gas tax at this time.

Approval of Minutes

Gary called for approval of the May 25 and June 22 minutes as corrected by members present. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget

Dick Sloan reported that HCC used 65% of its allotted budget last year. WE have the same amount budgeted for FY17. Chair, Gary announced that money will be available to Districts representatives for outreach.

Five Year Capital Projects Program: Members discussed and clarified points with Dick. Members can help communicate the value and need for the rebuilding of infrastructure.

Dick will forward reports to members.

Remarks by City Commissioner Andres Haladay

Commissioner Haladay addressed the group. His remarks were followed by a question and answer session. Topics included repairing versus replacing currently disabled ladder truck for the Fire Department with part of the \$3,000,000 reserve fund and Capital Projects program. Regarding the Capital Projects Program and subsequent rate increase. Rates have not been increased in many years. Commissioners asked for the list to be created. One of the challenges faced with the list is that new commissioners are elected every two years and may change the process as is their right.

A suggestion was made that the HCC work on Public Service Announcements regarding things like recycling and water usage. Gary wants better communication between HCC and Commissioners. HCC can assist with this effort through monetary support and action. There was a good discussion about taxes and revenue.

Commissioner Farris-Olson will speak to HCC at the August meeting. City Manager, Ron Alles has been invited to speak at the September meeting.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS

Passenger Rail Service Resolution – ACTION ITEM

This item will be presented next month

Adoption of proposed template for use by Fact-Finding Teams/Committees to provide reports to the HCC and City Officials and Staff – ACTION ITEM – Sarah Sadowski

Members had reviewed the form previous to the meeting. After a discussion about content and format, it was requested that the form be presented to the group without the example provided. This blank form will be presented at the next meeting.

Communication and Outreach

Mary Ann presented “NextDoor”, a private social network tool that can be used to communicate with neighbors. She reported that there were 140+ people participating from the Hawthorne neighborhood. Dog-sitting, borrowing items, safety information about door to door sales people are some of the things that are communicated on this network. She posted the agenda and meeting information about our HCC meeting on the network. She has liked this form of communication and mentioned that not everyone is comfortable with online chatting, etc. It is a good tool to “push out” information to the community as well as get input on issues. Here is the link to NextDoor: <https://nextdoor.com/>.

Sarah Sadowski talked about the Bentonia Block party. This event has been held for 19 years. Each year a mayor is elected and that person is in charge of organizing the event next year. There is a pot luck and live music. All required permits are gotten: street closure, emergence access, noise ordinance, alcohol restriction, etc. The event is on the first Friday in August and the consistency of the date aids in great attendance. Here is the link for information about getting permits for events in Helena <https://www.helenamt.gov/city-manager.html> .

Gary made a motion that \$200 be made available per district to assist in disseminating information to neighbors through pot lucks, block parties, or other gatherings. Dave M. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Maureen Kiely reported that she had assisted with the Railroad Rendezvous in District 6. There is a Historical Preservation Group and Maureen will participate with this group.

HCC Fact-finding Team Reports

Mourning Cloak – Due to time constraints, presentation on Cell phone use and red lights will be presented at the August meeting.

Open Forum/Other items

Vacancies

Gary announced the HCC vacancies: two in District 5 and one in District 6. Terry has a prospective member for District 6. Eric Kiltz announced that he will be moving from District 2 into District 6.

There was a brainstorming session regarding ways to communicate information to the city residents about water usage.

School Districts / K-8

Information at fairs

Radio

Flyers that would be distributed by businesses who sell or install sprinkler supplies

Water District

Mascot.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58.