



Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Monthly Meeting
January 25, 2017 - 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 326
Helena, Montana

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Members Present:

District 1 Mary Ann George, Sarah Sadowski, Paul Pacini, Pat Christian

District 2 Gary Spaeth,

District 3 Gary Dalton, Flannery Herbert, Elizabeth Rivard

District 4

District 5

District 6 Terry Ray, Maureen Kiely

District 7 Bob Habeck, John Forbes, Dick Sloan

Guests Present: Ellie Kling, Carroll College Student; Blair Krumm, Citizen; Michael Marchesini, Citizen, Cory Bailey, Helena Police Department.

Call to Order, General Business and Announcements

Chair Gary Spaeth called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and all present were introduced. Spaeth noted that Mayor Smith made complimentary remarks about the HCC during his State of the City address. The efforts of the fact finding teams are appreciated. Spaeth complimented HCC member Denise Roth Barber on her presentation of the Mourning Cloak fact finding team's

findings to the City Commission. The HCC has specifically been asked to become involved in walking mall maintenance issues.

In response to a question about why an issue was referred to the ADA advisory committee and not the HCC, Secretary Mary Ann George explained that the ADA Compliance Committee has been charged with specific duties with respect to compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Chair Gary Spaeth announced the approval of the Quiet Zone that was supported by the HCC. HCC member Terry Ray explained that all crossings will be quiet; however, some crossings are more risky and need to be inspected more frequently by the federal government.

Officer Cory Bailey reported on HPD activities.

November 30, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November 30, 2016 HCC meeting were approved as written.

Nomination and Elections

HCC member Bob Habeck identified the slate of candidates: Gary Spaeth, Chair; Sumner Sharpe, Vice Chair; Dick Sloan, Treasurer; Mary Ann George, Secretary. Habeck called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The slate of candidates was unanimously approved.

Vacancies

Coordinator Mary Vandebosch noted that there are vacancies in all HCC districts except 1 and 7. Flannery Herbert announced that Elizabeth Rivard had submitted an application to serve District 3. Herbert reported that – as District 3 representatives -- she and Sumner Sharpe agreed to appoint Rivard. Chair Gary Spaeth announced Rivard's appointment.

HCC Budget

Treasurer Dick Sloan distributed and presented his proposed budget for the HCC for FY '18. He recommended a slight reduction in the advertising budget because none of the \$3,000 allocated for FY '17 has been spent. There is a slight increase in the personal services budget due to personnel costs. Motion by Dick Sloan, seconded by Sarah Sadowski, to approve the proposed budget. Motion approved unanimously.

Maureen Kiely requested information about the liability insurance policy. Sloan will contact Kiely regarding the liability policy and Kiely's additional questions.

Terry Ray asked if any leftover funds from FY '17 could be used to purchase a water fountain.

City Budget

The slides presented by City Manager Ron Alles at the January 11, 2017 special HCC meeting were distributed as a handout. HCC members who attended the meeting discussed what they learned. Treasurer Dick Sloan explained that he would notify members of the budget sessions (scheduled for May) and solicit input.

Action- Resolution for Support of Community Decay Ordinance Changes

Motion by Patricia Christian, seconded by Mary Ann George to approve the resolution in support of community decay ordinance changes. Motion passed with one opposed.

Central School Demolition Permit.

Dick Sloan reviewed a handout from the Montana Preservation Alliance entitled "Threatened Property, Central School, Helena" and attached cost estimates. Members discussed questions and opinions regarding the demolition and replacement versus restoration of Central School. No action was taken.

Sloan described the process for consideration of the application for a demolition permit for Central School. The Lewis and Clark County Heritage Preservation and Tourism Development Council is charged with holding a public hearing and making a formal recommendation to the Helena City Commission. Following that, the Helena City Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the application on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Gary Spaeth stated that the HCC can make a recommendation to the City Commission. The HCC could recommend granting or denying the permit or could take no position.

Updates from Fact Finding Teams, Boards and Committees

Fact Finding Team Coordinator Paul Pacini asked if teams were open to take on new issues. He will update fact finding team assignments.

The following updates were reported:

Bitterroot Team. Terry Ray reported that the City is looking for funding sources for the drinking water fountain. The Bitterroot Team does not need to work on this issue.

Blue Bunch Wheatgrass Team. Sarah Sadowski reported that the Team had no fact finding update. Sadowski has been attending the Civic Center Board meetings and other members of the group are involved in their local districts. The group is open for members and for subjects.

City-County Planning Board. Terry Ray reported that the Planning Board approved the Downtown Helena Master Plan and also to include the Fort Harrison Joint Land Use Study in the Helena Valley Area Plan. There is a vacant seat on the Planning Board.

Lewis & Clark Water Quality Protection District. HCC representative Dick Sloan summarized issues, including: significant arsenic and zinc levels in Tenmile Creek that could impact the City's

costs; development in the Helena Valley; demand for city services in the Helena Valley; and significant costs to treat phosphorous and nitrogen in effluent from the wastewater treatment plant.

Boards and Committees. Chairman Gary Spaeth and Sarah Sadowski encouraged HCC members to sign up to attend Boards and Committees. Sadowski suggested that, if HCC members were attending those meetings and reporting back to HCC, the HCC would have relevant issues to weigh in on for the City Commission. Members could then volunteer for activities based on interest.

Walking Mall Maintenance. Chairman Gary Spaeth explained that the HCC has been asked to get involved in walking mall maintenance issues. He would like the Mourning Cloak Team to meet with Parks and Recreation Director Amy Teegarden. A memo from Teegarden dated January 17, 2017 re: Walking Mall Maintenance was distributed.

Public Comment

An opportunity for public comment was provided and no public comments were made.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.