



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Monthly Meeting
January 24, 2018- 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 426
Helena, Montana**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members Present:

District 1 Mary Ann George, Pat Christian, John Andrew

District 2 Tyrel Suzor-Hoy

District 3 Sumner Sharpe, Eric Seidle

District 4 Tom Woodgerd, Doug Hunsaker, Jerrod Bevan

District 5 Carolan Bunegar

District 6 Terry Ray, Maureen Kiely

District 7 Dick Sloan, Denise Roth Barber, Bob Habeck, Doris Davis

Other Attendees: Marissa Rivera, citizen; Mary Vandenbosch, HCC Coordinator

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Outgoing Vice Chair Sumner Sharpe called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Nomination and Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Chairman Bob Habeck presented the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates:

Chair: Sumner Sharpe

Vice Chair: Dick Sloan

Secretary: Tyrel Suzor-Hoy

In response to a call for nominations from the floor, Mary Ann George nominated Maureen Kiely to serve as Treasurer. Terry Ray moved to elect the entire slate of candidates. The candidates were elected by unanimous consent.

Appointment of HCC Representatives in Districts with Vacancies

Appointments of the following representatives were announced:

- **District 7:** Doris Davis
- **District 4:** Jerrod Bevan, Art Pembroke
- **District 3:** Eric Seidle, Gary Dalton
- **District 5:** Carolan Bunegar

Public Comment

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

Orientation to HCC

Chairman Sumner Sharpe distributed the following documents and reviewed key points:

- Article IV of the City Charter which governs the HCC.
- Helena Citizens' Council Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles
- Helena Citizens' Council Bylaws

A table entitled "HCC Participation in Local Boards, Committees, and Advisory Councils, Independent Agencies" was distributed. Sharpe asked for volunteers to observe these groups and report back to the HCC.

HCC FY '19 Proposed Budget

Maureen Kiely reported that volunteers Dick Sloan, Mary Ann George, and Kiely met to discuss the possibility of HCC awarding grants. The City attorney informed Sloan that the HCC does not have the authority to award grants. As an alternative, they recommended that the proposed budget include \$400 for each district for neighborhood outreach. They recommended that the budget request be reduced (from the FY '18 budget) by \$3500 in the following categories: Publicity and Duplicating; and Advertising. They recommended that the category "Other Contracted Services" be increased by \$3500 over FY '18. Of this amount, \$2800 is proposed to be allocated for neighborhood outreach (\$400 per district). The proposed budget was approved by unanimous consent. Members requested that guidelines be developed for use of the neighborhood outreach funds, if the proposed budget is approved by the City Commission. District expenditures should be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

City FY '19 Budget

Vice Chair Dick Sloan noted that advising the City Commission regarding the City's budget is one of the HCC's key responsibilities. He explained that he, along with Chair Sumner Sharpe and Treasurer Maureen Kiely, will meet with 11 City department heads over the next two weeks. If HCC members have a specific interest and would like to be involved in a meeting with a specific department, they should contact Dick Sloan.

Sloan distributed a packet of handouts related to the City Budget process:

- HCC timeline
- Budget Process Flow Chart
- Budget Discussions/Meetings Calendar
- City of Helena Elected and Appointed Officials
- FY '18 Where the Money Comes From; Where the Money Goes
- All funds combined (Preliminary FY '18 Budget)
- Memo from HCC to City Commission re: 2018 Helena City Budget (7-17-2018)

Sloan's goal is to present comments to the City Manager in March. Ultimately, the comments will be presented to the City Commission.

Interests, Issues, and Information Needs

Pat Christian summarized the results of a survey conducted by the HCC. A memo from Mary Vandebosch re "Summary of 2017 HCC Questionnaire Responses" (12-14-17) was also distributed. Chair Sumner Sharpe asked that the memo be provided to the Commission, and posted on the website and Facebook. Vandebosch will distribute a spreadsheet with all responses to HCC members after the meeting. Sharpe asked members to identify one to three issues or topics that the HCC should address in 2018; members should bring these to the February 28, 2018 meeting. Bob Habeck suggested conducting a scientific quality of life survey. Eric Seidle volunteered to obtain more information about City snow removal programs.

Approval of November 29, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November 29, 2017 meeting were approved as written, by unanimous consent.

Reports from Districts, Boards, and Committees

Members provided updates on current events.

Coordinator's Report

Mary Vandebosch distributed a roster and requested that members: provide corrections to her and inform her of any contact information that should be excluded from the website. Bob Habeck noted that, as elected officials, members should provide some contact information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.