



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Monthly Meeting
February 28, 2018- 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 326
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, Gary Dalton

District 4 Tom Woodgerd, Doug Hunsaker, Jerrod Bevan, Art Pembroke

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, Kevin Gallagher, Nicholas Nordhagen, Mayor Wilmot Collins, Dan Gallagher, Adam Mays, Nicholas Nordhagen, Doug Wheeler, Alyssa Townsend, Nancy Perry, citizens; Mary Vandenbosch, HCC Coordinator

Call to Order

Chairman Sumner Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Mayor Wilmot Collins

Mayor Collins stated that the City Commission takes the recommendations of the HCC seriously. He reviewed some of his priorities, including the following:

- Snow removal. It is important to address snowplow driver schedules, parking, and abandoned vehicles.
- Obtaining funding for more firefighters. The City is applying for a federal grant to fund firefighters.
- More police officers are needed.
- Affordable housing.

HCC Member Jerrod Bevan asked if the City had worked with the Governor's Office of Economic Development to designate qualified zones. He noted the deadline to designate zones is March 31. The federal Tax Cut and Jobs Act provides tax incentives for investment in these areas.

Public Comment

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

City FY '19 Budget

Vice Chair Dick Sloan distributed a draft memo from the HCC to the City Manager re: 2019 Helena City Budget Review (February 28, 2018). He stated that he intends to review the draft memo with the City Manager in March. Ultimately, the memo will be presented to the City Commission. Sloan read through the 23 items in the memo.

In discussion on Item 14, Tyrel Suzor-Hoy and Maureen Kiely recommended that the reference to the traffic study in the areas around the malfunction junctions be eliminated. Mary Ann George requested that all examples be eliminated

In discussion on Item 16, it was noted that it was unclear whether or not the item referenced a City-funded or privately-funded sports center, such as the one being promoted by the Helena Regional

Sports Association. Denise Roth Barber stated that it is important that the facility not be limited to indoor aquatics.

Chairman Sharpe requested that written comments be submitted to Vice Chair Sloan in lieu of further discussion.

Motion by Tyrel Suzor-Hoy that the HCC review the wording of the document before Sloan provides it to the City Manager. Motion failed for lack of a second. Sloan agreed to circulate the document in Word format prior to meeting with the City Manager and requested comments in a week. Sloan agreed to include comments received from members.

Highway 12 Crossing Safety Improvements at Kessler Elementary

Maureen Kiely reported that the Montana Department of Transportation traffic engineer recommends that a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon be installed at this intersection. There is not enough pedestrian traffic to warrant a stoplight.

Snow Removal

Eric Seidle distributed the following documents: a snow removal priority matrix, snow equipment, staff and shift schedule, door hangar re: parking. Seidle reported that he met with the City's Public Works Department Director. Issues discussed include: using on call drivers, parked and abandoned cars, and use of deicer. Seidle requested that members submit any comments on the matrix to him.

2018 Work Planning Session

Members identified issues they would like the HCC to address. Members used dots to indicate their priorities. The results of this exercise are below. Issues are listed in order of the most dots recorded.

1. 11 -Proactive enforcement of ordinances and traffic laws instead of relying on citizen complaints (e.g., abandoned vehicles, snow emergency routes, sidewalk snow removal)
2. 6 - Monitor HCC recommendations re: Civic Center
3. 6 – Engage and coordinate volunteers in neighborhood projects (e.g., weeds, litter pickup)
4. 6 - Redevelopment of Caird site

5. 4 - Regional city services tax to provide funding for city services
6. 4 – Support City efforts to attract businesses
7. 3 – City’s role in economic development
8. 3 - Advocate for affordable housing
9. 3 - Improve recycling
10. 2 – Learn more about plans for Custer/Joslyn/Henderson
11. 1 - Use Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) graduates from Helena College to support fire and police departments
12. 0 - Ban single-use disposable plastics
13. 0 - Monitor Central School
14. 0 – Monitor climate change recommendations
15. 0 - City policy re: engaging citizens in development of projects and policies

Agenda Items for March 28, 2018 HCC Meeting

Chairman Sharpe requested that Tyrel Suzor-Hoy provide an update on plans for Custer Avenue.

Election of Secretary

Nominating Committee Chairman Bob Habeck announced that the Secretary position was vacant due to the resignation of Tyrel Suzor-Hoy from that position. Carolan Bunegar nominated Doug Hunsaker to serve as HCC Secretary. Hunsaker was unanimously elected to serve as HCC Secretary.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting were approved as written, by unanimous consent.

Coordinator's Report

HCC Coordinator Mary Vandebosch requested that members submit the following to her by Wednesday, March 7, at 1 p.m.:

- New suggested agenda items for the March 28 HCC meeting
- Suggested Executive Committee discussion items
- Information to share with the HCC, including the draft budget memo.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.