



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Monthly Meeting
July 25, 2018- 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 326
Helena, Montana**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members Present:

- District 1 John Andrew

- District 2 Meg Bishop

- District 3

- District 4 Doug Hunsaker

- District 5 Carolan Bunegar

- District 6 Maureen Kiely, Whitney Bausch, Terry Ray

- District 7 Dick Sloan, Doris Davis, Denise Roth Barber

Other Attendees: Chief Troy McGee, Helena Police Department (HPD); City Attorney Thomas Jodoin; Doug Wheeler, Melissa Mousel, Garrett Roberts, Paul Mousel, Keston Sargent, Carson Steckelberg, Harrison Lashway, Joni Mieck and Matthew Purvis, Boy Scout Troop 214; Tom Kilmer and Riley Phelps, citizens; Mary Vandenbosch, HCC Coordinator

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Dick Sloan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Appointment of HCC Representative

Mary Vandenbosch and Meg Bishop announced that the representatives of District 2 have appointed Susan Lenard to represent District 2.

Public Comment

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

Vehicles Stored/Illegally Parked on Streets/Boulevards

Terry Ray distributed and read a proposed resolution dated July 25, 2018 re: Vehicles stored and illegally parked on Helena's neighborhood streets and boulevards. He noted that he received no comments on the memo that was distributed at the June HCC meeting. Motion by Ray, seconded by Doug Hunsaker, to approve the resolution. Motion passed unanimously. Ray offered to present the resolution to the City Commission.

Chief McGee encouraged the HCC to make specific recommendations about how the abandoned vehicle ordinance should be changed. He noted that there are never enough resources to address abandoned vehicles, especially with four officers on patrol at one time. Volunteers can be helpful, but they must be reliable. Members were encouraged to email City Attorney Thomas Jodoin with specific suggestions.

City Attorney Thomas Jodoin explained that state law defines abandoned vehicles. City ordinances that deviate from state law could be challenged. Parking restrictions may be more enforceable than revisions to the abandoned vehicle ordinance. McGee noted that the City is responsible for towing vehicles that violate parking restrictions and the City has no place to put the vehicles.

Citizen Tom Kilmer suggested focusing on campers, boats, and trailers that are really not transportation vehicles.

District 7 Community Education Program on Fire Safety

Doris Davis described the Community Education Program on Fire Safety that HCC District 7 representatives are hosting. The event will be held Sep. 22 at Plymouth Congregational Church, beginning at 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. She requested assistance from HCC members with advertising the event. She advocated the Map Your Neighborhood program as a good way to get neighbors together to prepare for a natural disaster. Some members of Boy Scout Troop 214 expressed interest in this program.

No action was requested from or taken by the HCC.

Advice from City Attorney on HCC Sponsorship

Secretary Doug Hunsaker reported that Chairman Sharpe asked for advice from the City Attorney and learned that the HCC may endorse, recognize, and support. The words sponsor and cosponsor imply financial ownership.

HCC Role in Search for City Manager

Secretary Doug Hunsaker reported that he and Chairman Sharpe met with Interim City Manager Dennis Taylor to discuss the HCC's role in the search for a new City Manager. Taylor is interested in the HCC hosting a community-wide event on October 3 to meet and greet the short list of final candidates. The HCC would also conduct a question and answer session where all finalists would answer the same questions. Sharpe was asked to form a committee to work with the City's human resources director, attorney, and consulting firm hired to conduct the search process. Chairman Sharpe is seeking four HCC members to volunteer. Hunsaker noted that the ad hoc committee would need to meet on the evening of Oct. 3 or Oct 4 to prepare a report to be delivered to the City Commission on the afternoon of Oct.4.

Vice Chairman Dick Sloan explained that the City Commission wants the HCC to provide them with a list of the strengths and weaknesses of each of the candidates. Sloan suggested that the HCC consider making a recommendation regarding which candidate to hire. Six members expressed concern about making a recommendation regarding which candidate to hire. Reasons cited include: HCC will not have access to all of the information considered in the hiring process; this is not HCC's purpose under the City Charter; and lack of human resource expertise.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Terry Ray, seconded by Doug Hunsaker, to approve the minutes of the June 27 meeting as written. Motion carried unanimously.

HCC Treasurer's Report

The HCC's budget for FY '19 was distributed. Treasurer Maureen Kiely reminded members that \$400 were budgeted for each district to spend for appropriate outreach activities in their district.

Reports from Fact Finding Teams

Carolan Bunegar reported that she would present a report about recruiting volunteers to the HCC in September. She emphasized the importance of the HCC getting out and helping. Vice Chair Dick Sloan stated that the HCC's main function is to advise the City Commission regarding the budget and development of the city. Treasurer Maureen Kiely stated that volunteering is a good for outreach to citizens and forming connections with other organizations. She encouraged Bunegar to recruit volunteers to assist the HPD with abandoned vehicles.

Maureen Kiely reported that the Economic Development Team met and decided to focus on development in three commercial areas: downtown, the Capital Hill mall site, and the railroad district. The team wants to do more outreach. Terry Ray suggested reaching out to developers and offering the HCC's assistance with engaging citizens or providing input.

John Andrew distributed a packet of Helena Civic Center Documents:

- Helena Civic Center Five Year Projects Plan: FY 2019 through FY 2023
- Civic Center 5 Year Strategic Plan
- Civic Center FY 2019 Budget
- Civic Center Board FY 19 Budget

Andrew noted that the 5 Year Strategic Plan calls for reducing the general fund subsidy gradually to \$430,000 by 2013. He asked for comments and questions from members that he will bring back to the Civic Center Board. Andrew and Vice Chair Dick Sloan suggested adding this topic to the agenda for the next HCC meeting.

Reports from Boards and Committees

HCC voting representative Dick Sloan reported that the Water Quality Protection District Board of Directors decided to petition the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to establish a controlled ground water area in the north Helena Valley.

City-County Planning Board member Terry Ray reported that the Board has almost finalized zoning regulations for the Military Affected Area. The Lewis & Clark County Planning Director will propose a zoning plan for the Helena Valley to the County Commissioners by the end of 2018.

HCC voting representative Denise Roth Barber stated that the Citizen Conservation Advisory Board will be building on the 2009 Climate Change Task Force Action Report. She encouraged members to contact her with thoughts or concerns.

Whitney Bausch attended the Railroad TIF Advisory Board meeting as an observer. They have established 10 ranked priorities. The Board finalized an application, which must be approved by the City Commission before distribution and outreach.

Doug Hunsaker attended the Library Board meeting as an observer. He noted that the Library is very popular and is nationally recognized.

New Business

Meg Bishop explained that she wants to provide the HCC with information about the Beattie Street Trailhead project. She has documents that she wanted to distribute at the meeting. She emphasized the importance of the HCC having all information before voting. She is specifically concerned about the City's process. The City submitted an application for a change of land use to the federal Bureau of Land Management nearly one year before local residents became aware of the project. She stated that this is an important issue for District 2.

Denise Roth Barber explained that the HCC did not discuss taking a position on this project. Instead, the HCC members were informed of opportunities for public comment. The HCC cannot tackle every issue. Barber is the HCC's Voting Representative on the Helena Open Lands Management Advisory Committee, which advises the City on these issues. She agreed that the City was slow to engage the public; however, has since provided opportunities for public comment and has responded to public input by revising the project.

Members expressed differing opinions regarding whether or not the HCC should address this issue.

Secretary Doug Hunsaker suggested that Bishop prepare a report and identify a specific recommendation for the HCC to act on. Carolan Bunegar suggested that the recommendation address the process followed by the City.

HCC Coordinator Mary Vandenbosch stated that she would distribute Bishop's documents the following Monday, along with any additional information submitted by HCC members. She reminded members that she is no longer making photocopies of materials not related to agenda items, due to the need to

prioritize the use of HCC resources and generation of waste. Other documents related to HCC business can be distributed by email.

Adjournment

Motion by Doug Hunsaker, seconded by Maureen Kiely, to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.