



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)  
MINUTES  
May 22nd, 2019 7:00pm  
City/County Building - Room 326**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** A quorum was present

District 1: John Andrew

District 2: Meg Bishop, Nancy Perry, Susan Lenard,

District 3: Sumner Sharpe, Gary Dalton, Margaret Strachan

District 4: Tom Woodgerd, Doug Hunsaker, Dylan Klapmeier

District 5:

District 6: Whitney Bausch

District 7: Bob Habeck, Denise Roth Barber, Doris Davis

**Other Attendees:** Mike McConnell City Planner, Lucy Morell-Gengler City Planner, Sharon Haugan Community Development, Michelle Figler guest from District 2, Tom Stoops District 5.

**Members Absent:** Patricia Christian, Flannery Herbert, Eric Seidle, Nic Sovner,

**Call To Order:** Chairman Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

**Public Comment:** Michelle Figler from District 2 spoke about having more strict regulations and enforcing the regulation about abandoned vehicles and camping within city limits. Several people were living in a car near Michelle's home. Meg Bishop brought up the suggestion that the HCC gave to the commission in July 2018. The HCC wanted to make sure to enforce the ordinance 8-11-10 "Parking for Camping Purposes".

Doug Hunsaker mentioned there was a 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Case in Boise, ID and that no car-camping within the city is hard to enforce because it is too much of a hardship on people if they have no other shelter available.

It was mentioned it may be helpful to have "resident only" signs for parking. Michelle Figler said people in a car on her street were literally living in their car. Littering, noise, drunkenness, would surely be of issue. Maybe a Health Department/Sanitation issue.

If city code/ordinance is no longer relevant, than it should be addressed. It was suggested that the HCC along with Michele and her neighbors, should appear before the City Commission. To appear on the City Commission agenda, a person must notify the City Manager.

**Motion:** The HCC recommends to the City Manager and the Commission, and ask that they direct the City Attorney to come before the HCC to identify and discuss interim measures to address abandoned cars and camping ordinances. This motion was seconded with none opposed. So passed.

**Nomination:** Bob Habeck nominated Nancy Perry as new Treasurer of HCC. No one else expressed an interest in serving as Treasurer. By consent decree, the HCC as a body, accepts the nomination – Nancy Perry as Treasurer.

**Approval of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Minutes:** The April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes were approved as amended.

**Coordinator's Report:**

Peggy reported what was completed this month:

- Updated Web HCC home page – included two application forms
- Designed new rack card – will replace dated tri-fold brochure
- Compiled “welcome packet” for HCC members
- “Current Topics and Recommendations Webpage could continue to be updated? New Suggestions. Peggy already added City Growth Policy and Plastic Recycling

**Growth Policy Input:** Directed by Mike McConnell and Lucy Morell-Gengler, the HCC split into district groups to complete a “Visioning Worksheet”. They will give a rating in several categories: Active Downtown, Open Space, Affordable Housing, Capable Workforce, Water Resources, Housing Mix, Transportation Network, Beautiful Public Spaces, City Leadership, Sense of History. They will rate in importance to them and how it actually is now.

It was suggested to have an extra category entitled: Energy Resilience.

**Discussion:**

Visitors arriving in Helena, both from Montana Ave. and Custer Ave., have a fairly “ugly” view. The city planners again discussed the 2 evening meetings occurring in July that will be more structured. There will be pop-up studios and activity corners for more discussion and input in July as well.

**Draft Budget Report/Discussion:**

The report was reviewed and the following points were raised:

- City should do a better job of considering “quality of life” in their decisions.
- There will be a new position called the Sustainability Coordinator – employed by both the city and the county. The position will help promote less energy consumption for the city.
- Less addition of Police Officers? Last year it was assumed some would retire and they did not.
- Guest Tom Stoops suggested there may be ways to accelerate permits through the system, thereby creating more economic development.

Changes were reviewed to the Draft Budget Report and consensus made to submit to the City Commission.

**Reports from Committees**

**Recycling Group –**

- Denise Roth Barber provided a hand-out “China’s ban on scrap imports a boon to US recycling plants”

- Want to make sure that the Helena city narrative does not say, “don’t recycle”. The city’s message should not be led by public works employees who often present a negative spin. Providing training on how to respond may be beneficial.
- The HCC should continue to make formal suggestions about recycling to the City Commission
- and work on a Zero Waste Program.

#### **Growth Policy Group**

- The group has had several meetings with City Staff.
- On July 16, 17, 18 there will be pop-ups around town from 11:00-2:00pm as well as two evening meetings. Locations are still being determined: WinCo, Walking Mall
- Advertising and Posters will come from the City. The City will reach out to the Media, Churches, Banks and Grocery Stores.
- Each HCC Member will take 20 flyers/door hangers and post around town.

#### **Meeting Adjourned 9:00pm**

DRAFT