



Helena Citizens' Council
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Date: January 25, 2023
To: Helena City Commission
From: Helena Citizens Council (HCC)
Subject: Recommendation on City Advisory Councils

Dear Mayor Collins and Commissioners Dean, Logan, Reed, and Shirtliff,

The Helena Citizens Council (HCC) Executive Committee recently met with the City Manager and Clerk of Commission to be briefed on planned overhauls to the City Advisory Boards. We appreciate the Manager and Clerk taking the time to meet with the Executive Committee.

After discussion with the full HCC at our January 25, 2023, regular meeting, the HCC passed the following recommendations to the Commission:

- 1. We recommend the Commission continue to honor the current practice and recognize HCC's ability to appoint HCC voting representatives to our allotted City Advisory Boards to serve at the pleasure of the HCC for up to a 2-year term with consecutive reappointments allowed.**

The HCC is an independent, public-elected body, comprised of twenty-eight representatives with diverse experience, expertise, and interests. We believe it is valuable to allow HCC representatives to serve in areas that best suit their experience and to gain longevity (by not limiting to a single, one-year term) while serving to strengthen the public participation process by supporting a check-and-balance to the Commission-appointed Board representatives. Additionally, HCC representatives are elected to two-year terms and the de facto practice has been that they serve on Advisory Boards as long as they are in office, interested in the position, and at the pleasure of the HCC through the annual reappointment process outlined in the HCC bylaws (updated November 2022).

We believe the above recommendation would continue this practice while minimizing Board vacancies and best serving the City and its residents.

- 2. We recommend the City review existing voting representation on City Advisory Boards with the HCC Executive Committee to ensure that the HCC is represented on the relevant and appropriate Advisory Boards.**

It has been some time since the HCC's allotted voting positions on City Advisory Boards were reviewed and it seems a good practice to periodically revisit the list of voting, and possibly non-voting, Board memberships on which an HCC representative serves.

Thank you for considering the HCC's recommendations. If you have questions or wish to set up a meeting with the Executive Committee to discuss, you can reach me via email kccole.rosling@gmail.com or by phone at (406) 202-6687.

Sincerely,

K.C. Cole Rosling, Chair
Helena Citizens Council

cc: Peggy Benkelman, HCC Coordinator
Dannai Clayborn, Clerk of Commission
HCC Representatives