



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Minutes
December 16th ,2020 7:00pm
Via Zoom**

Meeting was called to order by Dylan Klapmier at 7:00pm – Unofficial Condensed Meeting

Attendance: John Andrew, Diana Hammer, Nancy Perry, Ben Kuiper, Sumner Sharpe, Margaret Strachan, Gary Dalton, Margaret Strachan, Dylan Klapmeier, Denise Roth-Barber, Peggy Benkelman

Excused: Pat Marron, Tim Chisman, Meg Bishop, Tom Woodgerd, Samson Boyd, David Beach, Ryan Schwochert, TJ Lehman, Joseph Lehman, Jason Welnel, Ben Kennedy, Steve Allen, Tim Dwyer, Bob Habeck, Denise Roth Barber, Chelly Hasquet

Guests: Mike and Emma Rooney

A quorum was established.

Officer Reports:

Per the City Manager, it was suggested that the HCC have their recommendations officially placed on the agenda of Administrative Meetings. Peggy Benkelman (HCC coordinator) needs 2 weeks notice so that the recommendation can be placed (via the NOVUS platform) on the correct date of meeting.

Executive Report: Dylan states the January meeting will be mainly about election of officers, HCC members to retain seats as voting members of boards and sign-ups to attend both Administrative and Commission meetings.

Sumner Sharpe reiterates that there are other important boards that HCC members may want to sit in on e.g. Downtown Business Improvement District (DBID), Mike Rooney mentions that they meet two times per month and he would gladly give a report to the HCC. (Mike has not officially been approved as an HCC District #2 member yet).

Committee Updates

Outreach Committee: Sumner Sharpe says most of the door hangers have gone out and the HCC has received about 30 new emails from them so far. The Committee is compiling a pretty robust email list in each district. Nancy Perry has joined the committee to replace Doris Davis (District 7) who has moved. The Outreach Committee will have another meeting early January and have more updated details at the January 2021 meeting. We may consider having another survey.

Budget Committee – Sumner Sharpe, Nancy Perry and Ben Kuiper – Sumner discussed the HCC Budget Committee's role with the city with city manager Rachel H-S. She wants to start the budget process soon (February) and would like HCC input sooner than later.

Civic Center Board – John Andrew – Hopefully city manager Rachel H-S will have a resolution directing the Civic Center Steering Committee by mid- January. The interim Civic Center manager gave a presentation to the committee about financials and the possible release of an RFP for an operator. It seems an RFP may be more of a call for concessions and promoters. The new Civic Center steering committee has never had any discussions about advisory boards since John has been a member.

City of Helena Admin. Meeting - Nancy Perry was not called upon as a rep for HCC, even though there was a placeholder for discussion, she had hoped to discuss the HCC's recommendation to have the DeFord trail become ADA compliant on the lower region, and also promote having a person with mobility issues serve on HOLMAC. These ideas were HCC recommendations to the Commission. Kristi Ponozzo (Parks) said there is an ADA compliant component to a trail on Mt. Helena.

Starting in 2021 there will be a placeholder for HCC reps to speak at all Administrative Commission meetings and well as the regular Monday Commission meetings. The reasoning for this is to have HCC recommendation be brought forward, discussed and possibly voted upon by the Commissioners.

Non-Motorized Travel Advisory Council – nothing to report for December

Citizen Conservation Board – Denise Roth-Barber – CCB held a strategic planning meeting. The Board was designed to be for 5 years and has 2 years left. Denise is on the Waste Committee. They are planning to adopt a Waste Reduction Resolution- hopefully HCC members can vote on it as a recommendation to move forward to the Commission. Peggy and Denise will try to forward a copy of the proposed resolution before the HCC meeting on January 27th, so members have time to read it before the meeting.

Water Quality Protection District – Diana Hammer – no report for December

HOLMAC – TJ Lehman - no report for December

Old Business:

Nominating Committee – HCC members have been showing interest in becoming officers. The Committee needs to get its slate of candidates to Peggy so that she can send information out to all of the HCC well before 7 days in advance of the January 27th meeting.

Sign Ups To Attend Commission Meetings: Starting in 2021 there will be a placeholder for HCC reps to speak at all Administrative Commission meetings and as well as the regular Monday Commission meetings. The reasoning for this is to have HCC

recommendations be brought forward, discussed and possibly voted upon by the Commissioners. We need members to sign up – members are encouraged to attend at least ONE meeting per year.

New Business

2021 HCC Member Interests, Goals, Open Discussion

Looking forward to having a Tourism Board presentation along with a Public Transportation presentation.

Dylan Klapmeier wants to continue:

Building membership

Have Advisory Board members stay engaged and consistently attend meetings

Have HCC members have a presence at both Administrative and Regular

Commission meetings where they can promote the HCC recommendations.

Budget – Dylan hopes the HCC will get more engaged on the front-end of the city Budget. In 2020, the HCC did a good job with recommendations considering the COVID pandemic.

Zoom – city will continue to conduct their meetings virtually. This allows for more HCC members to easily attend from the comfort of their home.

Gary Dalton – mentions how in Missoula they have a good waste reduction program. It takes chipped refuse, mixes it with soil and makes eco-compost that it sells. He thought it was a good idea for Helena to try.

Denise Roth Barber says Helena takes its chipped refuse and uses it for its required daily cover at the landfill.

Diana Hammer states that the Landfill actually has a DEQ variance that allows for a 30 day soil lift cover. In between that 30 day window, tarps are used for cover.

Denise says she would still like to see yard waste more easily collected and used as compost. Some is used now in parks etc., but not much. In Missoula, they use some of the sewage sludge and turn it into beneficial compost.

More 2021 Goals

Denise Roth Barber mentions the importance of having HCC representatives as voting members on various boards. It may be a good idea to have each Committee, Non-Voting Committee, and Commission Meetings mentioned on every Agenda along with the representative HCC member's name there as well. This will help the HCC notify Dannai (clerk of Commission) what HCC member is to speak at Commission Meetings.

Sumner Sharpe mentioned a recommendation that HCC made about 5 years ago. It was based on research – State Legislation would give local jurisdiction to add a local gas tax (about 2cents) to be used for projects such as re-building streets. Ultimately, this could raise several \$100K dollars. It could be used to pay back bond measures. The city unanimously approved this recommendation, but the County did not. Sumner

thinks it is a good time to bring this idea up again – our streets within town could sure use it.

Dylan Klapmeier wants to keep on a pro-active approach with constructive meetings, agendas, keeping HCC members engaged on Advisory Boards, and having members attending Commission meetings.

Diana Hammer wants to continue to build our Outreach, which may include gathering names from churches, clubs, schools and others' newsletters. Diana is still trying to get Reeders Village Homeowners Association email lists.

Sumner Sharpe reminds us that some of the doorhangers in District 4 and District 6 still need to be hung. New email addresses trickle in daily. Sumner may try to get the list of "Bentonia" addresses.

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:10PM

Next Meeting January 27th, at 7:00pm via Zoom