



Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)  
**Minutes**  
Special Meeting Nov. 4th 6:00pm  
Zoom and in person Room 326

**Meeting was called to order by HCC Chair Cole Rosling at 6:00pm**

**Attendance:** John R Andrew, Patricia Bik, Diana Hammer, John E. Andrew, Nancy Perry, Nolan Harris, Ben Kuiper, Lowell Chandler, Emily Mowers, Dylan Klapmeier, Cole Rosling, TJ Lehman, Susan Smith, Denise Roth-Barber, Susan Steffens, Peggy Benkelman (coordinator)

**Excused:** Erinn Donnell, Steve Allen, Margaret Strachan

**Absent:** Joe Lehman, Paige R. Myers, Michael Monaco, Rachel Okapal, Ryan Schwochert, Heidi Friedlander, Liz Gerhart, Chelly Hasquet, Bob Habeck

**A Quorum was established – yes**

Chair Cole Rosling opens the meeting and gives the floor to HCC Member Lowell Chandler District #3 to discuss the recommendation of the Henderson St. Bridge (Lowell C. is the author)

All members were given a copy of the recommendation to review several days before the meeting.

Lowell Chandler HCC District #3 member, and author of the recommendation, mentions how dangerous the crossing is on Henderson Road. This crossing is a crucial part of the Centennial Trail. The City of Helena could contribute money and give a big start to the construction of the bridge.

Ben Kuiper HCC District #2 member mentions a typo – change consideration to construction. Peggy Benkelman HCC coordinator, will make changes and Chair Rosling will check before he signs.

Dylan Klapmeier HCC District # 4 member states the reason he will vote against the recommendation. He feels there are other ways to use less money – maybe some sort of traffic calming instead of an expensive bridge.

TJ Lehman HCC District #5 – TJ thanks Lowell C. for authoring the recommendation. This bridge idea has been in the works for over 10 years. There is a great need to have a bridge built for pedestrian safety. The location is not great to have some sort of traffic calming. It is time for the bridge to be built.

Diana Hammer HCC District #1 – She expressed thanks to Lowell C. for putting the recommendation together. Diana feels the bridge is especially helpful within the Safe Routes to Schools program because the area feeds students to CRA, Capital High and Broadwater. Henderson may have more traffic when Custer Ave. becomes 4 lanes.

Lowell Chandler HCC District # 3 – The area being discussed has such a steep incline and decline it may be ineffective to have some sort of traffic calming. That may not work for pedestrian safety and ADA accessibility.

Nolan Harris HCC District #2 - Nolan H. asks Lowell C. if the area on Henderson is in the City's Master Plan? Lowell replies, yes, it is noted in the 2014 Master Plan and is consistent with the goals of the community.

Ben Kuiper HCC District #2 – Has the recommendation been submitted to the ARPA pool of funds? Lowell C. replies, yes, NMTAC submitted the proposal for internal funds. There area also additional funds the city can apply for.

Nancy Perry HCC District #2 – Nancy P. thanks Lowell C. as well. Nancy P feels the Centennial Trail is a treasure for Helena. She asks if the bridge will be right next to the train trestle? Lowell C. states the trail has to be outside of the Railroad right-of-way.

Denise Roth Barber HCC District #7 – Denise says the Bridge will be a nice addition to the Centennial Trail. She feels Helena is not that bike or pedestrian friendly. Henderson St. is very problematic to cross. She supports the recommendation.

Susan Steffens HCC District #7 - Susan states she too has a hard time crossing Henderson and she is able bodied. The incline and decline are too steep and the cars cannot see the pedestrians well. Maybe some of the funding could also come from the Transportation/Climate Change monies. Lowell C. agrees with her funding ideas, that is why he added the language “and other applicable funding sources” to the recommendation.

John E. Andrew HCC District #1 – John too supports the recommendation. He feels there may need to be a detailed engineering design incorporated into the bridge. John says it has been well over 10 years since Helenans and the City have been discussing the bridge.

**A motion to approve the Henderson St. Bridge Recommendation by Patricia Bik and seconded by John R. Andrew**

**A verbal vote is called and results in 14 yea and 1 nay, no abstentions. The recommendation passes**

A copy will be sent to the Mayor, Commissioners, City Clerk and Interim City Manager Tim Burton asap. Peggy Benkelman will forward a copy to all HCC members to view what she has sent.

**Meeting Adjourned by Chair Cole Rosling.**