



CITY OF HELENA
Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting
October 22nd, 2025 – 7:00pm
Zoom Online Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87344443206>
Room 326, 316 N. Park Avenue, Helena, MT, 59623

Call to Order and Roll Call

Public Comment

Minutes

- A. 9-24-25 Full HCC Meeting Minutes Draft

Officer Reports

- A. Chair, Ben Kuiper – District 4
 - 1. Bylaws and Guiding Principles Amendment Discussion
 - 2. Open Meeting Laws
 - 3. Appointment Procedure for Vacant Seats
 - 4. HCC Meetings Schedule
- B. Vice Chair, Sonda Gaub – District 2
- C. Treasurer, Lori FitzGerald – District 1
- D. Secretary, Diana Hammer – District 1

Coordinator Report

Outreach Committee Report

- A. Partnering with Public Health

Commission/Board Meeting Attendee Reports

- A. June 25th Administrative Meeting: Ryan Schwochert – District 5
- B. July 7th Commission Meeting:
- C. City Board Meeting Attendees
 - 1. Metropolitan Planning Organization
 - 2. City-County Planning Board
 - 3. Helena Public Arts Committee
 - 4. Citizen Conservation Board
 - 5. City-County Library Board
 - 6. Golf Advisory Board
 - 7. City-County Parks Board
 - 8. Affordable Housing Trust Fund
 - 9. Water Quality Protection District

New Business – Future Growth of the City

- A. Consider Broadway and Beattie Crosswalk Recommendation (previously tabled)
 - 1. Public Comment
 - 2. Member Communications



3. Motion
- B. Consider City Manager Recruitment Recommendation
 1. Public Comment
 2. Member Communications
 3. Motion
- C. Consider Helena Forward Recommendation
 1. Public Comment
 2. Member Communications
 3. Motion

Member Communications

Public Comment

Adjournment – Next meeting: November 26, 2025 – 7:00pm

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Phone: (406) 447- 8490

TTY Relay Service 1-800-253-4091 or 711 Email: citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov

Mailing Address & Physical Location: 316 North Park Avenue, Room 445, Helena, MT 59623.



City of Helena
Helena Citizens Council – Regular Meeting
June 25, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Zoom Hub Link; <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85940590726>
City County Building Conference Room 326

Call to Order and Roll Call

(00:03:30) The following responded present, either via zoom or in person:

In Person

Diana Hammer – District 1
Lori FitzGerald – District 1
Nancy Perry – District 2
Anne Hausrath – District 2
Jeff Brown – District 3
Bob Schlack – District 4
Ben Kuiper – District 4
Bob Habeck – District 7
Susan Steffens – District 7

Via Zoom

Joseph Lehman – District 2
Emily Mowers – District 3
Ryan Schwochert – District 5
Dylan Klapmeier – District 7
Denise Roth Barber – District 7
Denise Roth Barber – District 7

The following were absent:

Patricia Bik – District 1
Sonda Gaub – District 2
Jeff Brown – District 3

Paige Myers – District 3
Janet Zimmerman – District 4
Chase Eaton – District 4
Katie Ryan – District 5
Bob Habeck – District 7

Minutes

A. 1-9-23 Full HCC Meeting Minutes Draft

(00:05:57) There being no comments or questions, Chair Kuiper accepted Minutes A.

Officer Reports



A. Chair, Ben Kuiper – District 4

(00:06:30) Chair Kuiper talks about people running for the elections, and no new one is running, as well as general election information.

(00:09:45) D Barber asks about vacancies in the election.

B. Vice Chair, Sonda Gaub – District 2 AB

C. Treasurer, Lori FitzGerald – District 1

(00:12:55) Treasurer FitzGerald asks about HCC yard signs.

D. Secretary, Diana Hammer – District 1

(00:13:41) Secretary Hammer Differs reports to E Mowers.

Coordinator Report

A. Coordinator, Damon Hudson

(00:13:50) Coordinator Hudson talks about public meeting laws and staying within bounds of what is okay and not okay.

(00:17:05) D Barber asks If a legal opinion can be shown that each district is their own entity.

(00:21:10) Coordinator Hudson informs the HCC about reasons why it is important to have meetings recorded to have public feedback.

(00:21:45)	A Hausrath asks for the citation of the open meetings law.
(00:23:20)	Members would like a citation or legal opinion about whether open meeting laws apply to a single district.
(00:23:50)	Deputy Clerk Montiel explains that each district is their own council
(00:25:20)	D Barber would like a different opinion on the open meeting laws other than the one provided by staff
(00:26:30)	Members discuss the option of getting the city attorney's opinion on these things.
(00:27:55)	Coordinator Hudson asks members if they can sign up for commission meetings.

Outreach Committee Report



- (00:48:33) E Mowers informs the group on the September 16th open house, also informing members on the Good Kind Building and doing the display in October.

Commission/Board Meeting Attendee Reports

A. September 22nd Commission Meeting

- (00:33:23) Chair Kuiper gives a summary of the September 22nd Commission Meeting

B. City Board Meeting Attendees

- (00:34:12) A Hausrath Sent out notes and talks about the MPO informing other members about it.
- (00:36:03) Chair Kuiper informs members about the public arts committee

New Business - Budget

A. Potential Expenditures

- (00:37:05) Chair Kuiper asks the board if there are any expenditures that the group would like to add

B. Consideration Expenditures for Table Fee for the Block Party

- (00:37:37) Secretary Hammer requests members take this into item and approve it.

- (00:39:03) **A Hausrath Made a motion to approve Agenda Item Language. S Steffens seconded the motion.**

- (00:39:03) Chairperson Kuiper called for a vote. Votes were cast as follows:

John Andrew	N/A	Bob Schlack	Aye
Diana Hammer	Aye	Janet Zimmerman	Aye
Lori FitzGerald	Aye	Chase Eaton	N/A
Patricia Bik	Aye	Ben Kuiper	Aye
Joseph Lehman	Aye	Robert Hoffman	Aye
Nancy Perry	Aye	Katie Ryan	N/A
Anne Hausrath	Aye	Ryan Schwochert	Aye
Sonda Gaub	N/A	Anna Kratz	N/A



Paige Myers	N/A	Dylan Klapmeier	Aye
Emily Mowers	Aye	Bob Habeck	Aye
Denise Barber	Aye	Susan Steffens	Aye

The motion Passed Unanimously

New Business – Future Growth of the City

A. Consider Broadway and Beattie Pedestrian Crossing

(00:43:14) Chair Kuiper recommends the board to table this considering the person who made the recommendation was not in the meeting.

(00:43:26) **Hausrath Made a motion to table Agenda Item Language. S Steffens seconded the motion.**

Member Communications

(00:43:50) Members discuss that, if possible, could the May/commissioners attend meetings in the future, asking the staff if they could possibly relay information to them about meeting dates and times.

(00:45:10) Secretary Hammer informs the group about the land use plan and how to put in more public comment.

Public Communications

(00:48:16) No public comment at that time.

Adjournment – Next meeting:

(00:52:11) There being no further business before the Helena Citizens Council, the meeting adjourned at 08:52pm.

Helena Citizens' Council Bylaws
November 30, 2022

ARTICLE I - PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Helena Citizens' Council (HCC or Council) is established by the City Charter, Article IV, Section 4.01.

Section 2. All actions of HCC are outlined in its Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles document.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. HCC composition, election, terms, and qualifications of members are governed by the City Charter: Article IV Section 4.02 and Article V., as well as Montana Code Annotated Title 7.

Section 2. A member's position is deemed vacant before the expiration of their term on the occurrence of any one of the following:

- A. Ineligibility according to applicable state law(s);
- B. The death of a member;
- C. The voluntary resignation of a member;
- D. The voluntary resignation of a member at the prompting by the Chair for cause; or
- E. The member no longer resides in the District that they were elected or appointed to represent.

Section 3. District member vacancy protocol is governed by the City Charter, Article IV, Section 4.02(4).

Section 4. HCC shall give public notification of all District vacancies.

Section 5. HCC members serve a two-year term beginning the first Monday in January immediately following the municipal election.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS, NOMINATING COMMITTEE, AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of HCC shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. After the second Tuesday of each November, but no later than its final regular meeting of the year, HCC shall appoint a Nominating Committee charged with nominating members and/or members-elect of HCC as candidates for election of officers.

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of a minimum of three members appointed by the Chair and approved by the membership. The Nominating Committee shall receive

suggested nominees from members and members-elect and develop a slate of candidates for consideration. Members of the Nominating Committee cannot nominate themselves to the slate of candidates.

The slate of candidates will be provided to members and members-elect no later than seven days prior to the January meeting. Election of officers shall take place in January of each year at the regular monthly meeting. In addition to the slate of nominees, nominations for candidates may be made from the floor prior to the election.

Section 3. Officers shall be members of HCC and serve a one-year term as an officer until their successors have been elected. HCC shall fill any unexpired officer positions at the next regular monthly meeting following the vacancy. Vacant officer positions shall be advertised to the Council and interested members must notify the Executive Committee. Prior to member voting, the Chair will solicit floor nominations.

ARTICLE IV - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Executive Committee is composed of all four officers of HCC. The Executive Committee is responsible for setting the agenda of any/all Council meetings. Any member of the Council may attend Executive Committee meetings.

Section 2. The Chair will preside over monthly meetings and its Executive Committee. The Chair is eligible to vote. The Chair shall:

- A. Appoint chairs to the standing committees;
- B. Appoint special ad hoc committees as necessary;
- C. Be responsible for the preparation of the agenda, along with the Executive Committee;
- D. Conduct all meetings in an orderly manner;
- E. Ensure periodic reports are made to the City Commission regarding the progress and recommendations of the Council; and
- F. With the approval of the Council, appoint or remove representatives to serve as voting members on Council-allotted city advisory boards.

Section 3. The Vice Chair shall:

- A. Perform all duties as mutually agreed upon with the Chair;
- B. Assume all responsibilities of the Chair should the person be absent or unable to serve; and,
- C. Succeed to the position of Chair in the event of a vacancy. The Vice Chair position shall then be declared vacant and must be replaced following Article III, Section 3.

Section 4. The Secretary shall ~~supervise~~ensure for the keeping of accurate records on all Council proceedings, ~~supervise~~ the issuance of all necessary notices and reports, and keep~~ing~~ attendance records. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Secretary shall conduct the regular meetings. The Secretary is responsible for leading the Council's publicity

efforts~~and~~ working with members and HCC Coordinator (a city employee) to publicize Council activities and actions. The Secretary shall be a member of the Outreach Committee.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall account for funds entrusted to ~~HCC~~the Council and shall report on the status of the budget and expenditures at the monthly meetings. The Treasurer will chair the Budget Committee and attend all city budget work sessions and other related meetings. The Treasurer shall meet on a regular basis with other members of the Budget Committee to formulate Council budget recommendations and present them to the Council for a final vote of approval.

The Treasurer shall present HCC's budget recommendations to the City Commission during the public hearing for the City of Helena annual budget. The Treasurer, as chair of the Budget Committee, will present committee goals as needed at the monthly meetings. In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, the Treasurer shall facilitate Council meetings.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held each month, excluding December, unless canceled by a majority vote of the membership. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chair or by a majority vote of the membership made up of the current HCC District members.

Regular meetings, except for the January meeting immediately following a municipal election, shall occur monthly on a regular basis (standing day, time, location) and publicly noticed the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm with both in-person and virtual participation options, unless either platform is waived with cause by the Chair. In accordance with MCA 7-4-4107 and City Charter 4.02 (6), the January meeting immediately following the municipal election shall be on the first Tuesday in January where members-elect will be sworn in and officers elected. Meetings of HCC committees will be held in accessible locations and publicly noticed.

Section 2. A quorum consists of a majority of the HCC membership. Membership is defined as current, filled HCC District seats (vacant seats are not included). A quorum is necessary for the transaction of any official business of the Council.

Section 3. Parliamentary conduct of the meetings shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, unless otherwise specifically stated herein. Strict observance of Robert's Rules of Order may be waived at the discretion of the Chair.

Section 4. Members from each District may host meetings in their neighborhood to address issues as they arise; to seek opinions relating to questions before the City Commission or for other neighborhood business as appropriate.

Section 5. All Council, committee and District meetings shall be open to the public. Public notice of meetings shall be provided no later than 48 hours prior to a meeting and is the

Commented [1]: Honestly, Bob, as Secretary, I don't know how I am supposed to do much of this with how unfriendly the Clerk's Office has been to the HCC recently. I don't really 'supervise' anything. Not suggesting this be changed but noticing how unrealistic this sounds, given the current HCC and the Clerk of Commission's relationship.

Commented [BH2R1]: I agree. A lot of this language is antiquated. But, going forward, this position ensures that key duties get done. Let me suggest some edits to 'ensure' things get done.

Commented [3]: I'm not 100% sure now how we were told to run votes - (1) majority of members present; (2) majority of members out of a total of 28; or (3) majority of members from occupied seats (<28).

Commented [4]: I'm suggesting this because the Outreach Committee has been meeting at the Library (with a remote option) and Alyx is now telling us we have to meet in the City-County Building. I don't see any reason why she can dictate when/where Committees meet. Thoughts?

responsibility of the Coordinator, committee chairs and District members, respectively. HCC will follow all the city's public notice legal requirements.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

Section 1. HCC will have both standing and ad hoc committees with members appointed by the Chair. Committees will have clear purpose, reporting requirements, and duration. Committees will be established and abolished by majority vote. Participation by members on committees is at the discretion of the Chair. Representative participation is encouraged.

Section 2. Standing Committees:

- A. **Budget Committee.** The Treasurer will be chair of this committee. The purpose is to review and make recommendations on the annual city budget. Recommendations by this committee will be voted on by the membership and, if approved, proposed to the City Commission. Committee members are encouraged to attend city budget work sessions, may work closely with appropriate city staff to understand budgetary methodology and issues, and to facilitate the flow of information and ideas between the citizenry and city government entities.
- B. **Executive Committee.** The purpose is to organize HCC activities. Members include the four elected positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Coordinator staffs this committee.
- C. **Nomination Committee.** The purpose is to establish an annual slate of candidates from members / members-elect for the four elected positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Article III, Section 2 of these bylaws outline committee requirements.
- D. **Outreach Committee.** The purpose is to improve HCC communications with the public to better represent their concerns [and increase public awareness of HCC and the District members](#). The priority of this committee is to represent HCC as a neighborhood voice providing input on city-wide issues, programs, and policies.

Section 3. Ad hoc Committees: The purpose, reporting requirements, and duration of ad hoc committees will be specified by the Chair upon formation.

ARTICLE VII - EXPENDITURES

Section 1. All discretionary expenditures by HCC, its committees, or Districts shall be made only in accordance with the budget line items and be approved by the Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Committee. [Once the HCC budget has been approved by the Council and adopted as part of the City's annual budget, the Executive Committee, Outreach Committee, and individual HCC Districts are authorized to spend funds in accordance with the budget and full HCC approval on each expenditure is not required. Any deviation from the approved budget will require full HCC approval.](#)

ARTICLE VIII - RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 1. Recommendations to the City Commission shall be approved by a [simple](#) majority vote of the membership at regular or special meetings. Members must be in attendance in order to vote. Proxy votes are not allowed. HCC may act on any actionable item listed on the agenda. However, proposed recommendations must be publicly noticed at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Recommendations must be related to the city budget or future development of the city. Only the Council may make official recommendations to the City Commission. Individual members or Districts may make recommendations, but must clearly state that the recommendation is not on behalf of the [entire](#) Council.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be presented at a regular monthly meeting, with two-thirds of the members voting in favor of the amendments in order for it to be adopted. Proposed amendments must be provided to every member in written form at least ten days prior to the meeting at which a vote is taken.

Originally adopted - August 18, 1977

Amended Article III, Section 2 - November 17, 1977

Amended Article III, Section 5 and Article IV, Section 5 - February 25, 1982

Amended Article II, Section 4 - January 24, 1984

Amended Article III, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - March 25, 1998

Amended Article III, Sections 4, 5 and Article IV, Section 4 and

Article V, Sections 4, 5 and Article VI, Sections 1, 2, 3, 6 and

Article VIII, Sections 1, 2 - May 26, 1999

Amended Article II, Sections 4, 5, 6 & 7 - March 28, 2001

Amended for general clarity - November 28, 2018

Amended Article IV, Section 4 and Article VI - February 23, 2022

Amended for general clarity - November 30, 2022

[Amended for general clarity - <date tbd>](#)

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Helena Citizens' Council

Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles

September 28, 2022

1.0 Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Helena Citizens' Council (HCC or Council) is to: (1) review and recommend actions relating to the annual budget; and (2) make recommendations relating to the future development of the city. The Council only makes recommendations to the City Commission and may include appropriate notification (s) to other entities.

2.0 Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles are based on Article IV of the City Charter (Charter) and HCC Bylaws (Bylaws). The Charter and Bylaws guide HCC activities that support the Purpose Statement.

2.1 Upholding the Charter and Bylaws

HCC will uphold, in a consistent manner, the Charter, Bylaws, and all statutes, regulations, and legal policies applicable to elected officials. Within the bounds of these laws and regulations, HCC will strive to make recommendations that balance with a commitment to community benefit.

2.2 Working for the Future Development of the City

HCC recognizes its actions are intended to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of Helena residents, including a sense of well-being and community satisfaction. HCC recognizes Helena residents value a quality environment and community and encourages all members to share responsibility for protecting and sustaining our community. HCC encourages innovative thinking and seeks practical, long-term solutions that serve the public interest.

2.3 Disclosing Conflicts of Interest

HCC members understand that avoiding conflicts of interest is paramount to conducting our duties in an ethical and professional manner. Members who have an actual or perceived conflict of interest shall disclose and abstain from voting on issues or official recommendations. Specifically, the standard of conduct is to avoid any conflicts of interest between the business of the council and members for personal, professional, and/or business gain.

2.4 Member Issue Resolution

The Chair, in coordination with the Executive Committee, may investigate member behavior or activities that are found to be inconsistent with member expectations in 2.5 (IX) and take the appropriate action. Investigations with findings will involve the city attorney to ensure appropriate legal procedures; i.e. member right to privacy.

2.5 HCC Meetings

- I. HCC conducts its meetings using Parliamentary Procedure to accomplish its business discussions and recommendations. The Chair is responsible for running the monthly meetings.
- II. The Executive Committee will consider and approve monthly agenda items for which there is potential for action. An “Action” is defined as a recommendation to the City Commission. Time may also be provided for informational presentations when approved by the Executive Committee in advance of the meeting.
- III. The Executive Committee will encourage the Council's attention to items of concern from its membership by including “New Business” on each meeting agenda. Each unscheduled “New Business” item will be granted five minutes for presentation and discussion. Unscheduled “New Business” items that have used the allotted five minutes and need further discussion, must be scheduled at a future meeting under “Unfinished Business.”
- IV. To address more complex issues, the Chair may create an ad hoc committee to gather information for presentation to the Council.
- V. The scope of HCC will focus only on issues allowed by the Charter and Bylaws.
- VI. HCC members are expected to attend all monthly meetings, in addition to attending other administrative meetings, to the greatest extent possible. Members must notify the Coordinator and Chair of any anticipated absence.
- VII. Each HCC member is asked to attend at least one City Commission meeting each year.
- VIII. HCC members should advance topics of interest from their respective Districts. This may include, but is not limited to, reporting citizen complaints to the Council and/or facilitating discussions to address neighborhood issues.
- IX. HCC members are expected to actively engage in discussion, debate and voting in meetings; contributing dialog in a mindful and constructive way; listening carefully; challenging others sensitively; and avoiding negative behaviors.
- X. HCC members are expected to acknowledge final HCC majority or consensus positions or recommendations. HCC members are also expected to participate in the collective decision making and accept the majority decision of the Council.

2.6 Working with the Public and other Entities

- I. HCC respects and encourages public input in all aspects of its work. HCC will provide the public with information on its positions, recommendations, and any other necessary information.

- II. HCC members are expected to be fully informed of community issues and should actively solicit public opinion by hosting or attending neighborhood meetings, returning phone calls, etc.
- III. HCC members are expected to become knowledgeable of city government processes, organization, and staff structure.
- IV. HCC members are expected to provide phone numbers, ~~street addresses~~, email addresses, and other contact information so the residents of Helena can contact members regarding public concerns.
- V. HCC members are expected to act professionally and to represent themselves and the council appropriately at all meetings and other public forums.

Commented [1]: I think we should remove this specific reference to physical addresses.

Commented [BH2R1]: agreed

2.7 HCC Member Expectations

- I. Voting memberships on boards, committees, or other organizations require representation by designated HCC ~~members~~. Those members are expected to present a monthly report summarizing the meetings or activities, either during the monthly meeting if action needs to be taken by the Council, or by email to keep members informed.
- II. Non-voting memberships on any board or committee are encouraged, but entirely voluntary and dependent upon member interest.
- III. The Secretary and Coordinator will work together to encourage members to volunteer to represent the Council on all boards and/or committees where HCC has a voting membership. The Secretary and Coordinator will assist, as necessary, members to report to the Council on their actions.
- IV. In addition to monthly HCC meetings, members are encouraged to attend any city and administration meetings that are necessary or relevant to an ongoing committee, issue, or interest of HCC.
- V. HCC members are encouraged to participate in one external Board or Committee of interest and are expected to attend the meetings of their chosen boards. All external Board and Committee meetings require a brief (2-3 minute) written or oral report that can be presented at the following HCC monthly meeting.

Commented [3]: Do we have voting membership on any boards / committees anymore?

2.8 Reaching Potential with our Members

HCC members are our most important asset. The Executive Committee empowers members to exercise professional judgment in carrying out their duties. HCC encourages the use of member expertise to find solutions to any challenges facing the city.

Recommendation to the City Commission

Date:

Subject: Broadway and Beattie pedestrian crossing

To: Mayor and City Commission

From: Helena Citizen's Council

Proposal: Paint an official Pedestrian crossing across Broadway and One pedestrian sign on the west side of the crossing to alert drivers of the crossing going eastbound on Broadway.

Background: HCC was contacted by MacKenzie Mann of 315 Chaucer Street about the difficulty of crossing Broadway between Rodney and Beattie. This stretch of road has a dip and curve, which creates blind spots for cars and pedestrians. For further reference the email for Mann.

Present Situation: Pedestrians crossing along this stretch of road have difficulty seeing cars heading east on Broadway. See north west corner photo.

Public Process: On Sunday, July 7, 2025, Sonda Gaub met with MacKenzie Mann at the intersection. The street appeared to be very busy for a Sunday afternoon. They collected data, and during a period of 5 minutes, 25 cars passed. They also thought to knock on the four corner houses at the intersection. Two of the four corner houses had a response that a crosswalk would be beneficial; the other two did not answer the knock. They agreed to gather more data during the weekday. On Monday at 7:30 am for 5 minutes, 44 cars, 2 pedestrians and a bike were observed. At 11:55, on the same day, 62 cars and 2 runners and then again at 7:55 pm 39 cars and 3 pedestrians.

Authors

MacKenzie Mann of 315 Chaucer Street

Sonda Gaub of HCC District 2

Ryan Schowochert of HCC District 5

Photos:



North West Corner looking west



and looking east

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mackenzie Mann** <mackenz.mann@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, May 5, 2025
Subject: Crosswalk
To: ryan schwochert <ryan.schwochert@gmail.com>

Hi Ryan!

It was nice chatting with you on Thursday. Thank you for your interest in this project!

Here is my thought on the crosswalk at the intersection of E Broadway and Beattie St. Broadway is one of the more trafficked streets in town, both for vehicles and walking/biking commuters who travel between the Capitol and downtown. An additional crosswalk would improve walkability and safety in the neighborhood by decreasing the number of pedestrians crossing at non-designated locations. (Many people already cross at that intersection, but do so without the protections of a crosswalk). Beattie St is the perfect location for a crosswalk because it lies in between two others on the street (0.6 miles east from the crosswalk at Broadway and S Davis, and 0.6 miles west from the crosswalk at Jefferson Elementary) and because it is an access point to the Mt. Ascension trail system. The neighborhoods north and south of Broadway are active, with lots of people crossing the street for fitness activities (biking, running, dog walking) and to access the Beattie St trailhead by foot. Both neighborhoods also have lots of kids, so I imagine a crosswalk would improve safety for families as well.

I would be happy to get signatures on a petition or do a pedestrian count this summer. I am curious what the Council thinks about the likelihood of the request getting approved, though, before I go down that route.

See you on Thursday!

Kenzie

On Sun, May 4, 2025 at 11:48 AM ryan schwochert <ryan.schwochert@gmail.com> wrote:
oops, here is the link

<https://www.helenamt.gov/Government/Helena-Citizens-Council>

Ryan Schwochert
5th District Rep HCC
406-438-1041



Recommendation to the Helena City Commission

Date: October 22, 2025

Subject: City Manager Recruitment Process

To: Mayor and City Commission

From: Helena Citizen's Council (Benjamin Kuiper – Chair, District 4)

Greetings Mayor Collins and City Commissioners,

Whereas, the City of Helena is initiating a city manager recruitment process due to the retirement of the current city manager effective December 31, 2025.

Whereas, the City of Helena hired Communication and Management Services LLC to facilitate the upcoming city manager recruitment process alongside the City Manager Relations Subcommittee.

Whereas, the Helena Citizens Council assisted in the 2022 City Manager recruitment process via an interview panel.

Whereas, the Helena Citizens Council has successfully conducted public outreach events in the past regarding city transportation and the Helena Forward Plan which garnered robust public participation and feedback.

Whereas, the Helena Citizens Council recognizes the utmost importance of securing a city manager who understands the community and can effectively lead the City of Helena.

Whereas, the Helena Citizens Council understands that the recruitment process could be extended past December 31, 2025 if a suitable candidate is not identified by that time.

Whereas, the Helena Citizens Council understands that the new city manager will serve with the new Mayor and City Commission that will take office in or around January 2026.



Therefore, the Helena Citizens Council recommends that the Helena City Commission and the City Manager Relations Subcommittee utilize the Helena Citizens Council during the city manager recruitment process however the current Helena City Commission sees fit.

Therefore, the Helena Citizens Council further recommends that the Mayor-elect and City Commissioners-elect be meaningfully included in the City Manager recruitment process

Therefore, the Helena Citizens Council further recommends that the Helena City Commission ensures that the City Manager recruitment process consists of a thorough procedure that promotes robust public involvement and is not unnecessarily constrained by time in an effort to accumulate a pool of qualified City Manager candidates.

Let it be known that this recommendation was considered and approved by a majority vote of the Helena Citizens Council during a regular meeting on October 22, 2025. Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the Helena Citizens Council,

Benjamin Kuiper, Chair



Recommendation to the City Commission

Date: October 22, 2025

Subject: Recommendation Regarding Helena Land Use Plan

To: Mayor and City Commission

From: Helena Citizen's Council (Benjamin Kuiper – Chair, District 4)

Greetings Mayor Collins and City Commissioners,

Whereas, the City of Helena began the implementation of Senate Bill 382, The Montana Land Use Planning Act, in May 2023.

Whereas, the implementation of the Montana Land Use Planning Act in Helena was named "Helena Forward" and was administered by the City of Helena's Community Development Department in partnership with consultants at Housal-Lavigne.

Whereas, robust public comment regarding Helena Forward was gathered by multiple workshops and open house events hosted by the City of Helena's Community Development Department, the Helena Citizens Council, independent citizens, and other stakeholders.

Whereas, a joint City Planning Board and Helena Citizens Council working group was established to assist in the outreach for Helena Forward and to review the resulting Draft Land Use Plan.

Whereas, the Draft Land Use Plan was developed by Housal-Lavigne in conjunction with the City of Helena's Community Development Department using the public feedback individually submitted and gathered at the outreach events.

Whereas, the Draft Land Use Plan was reviewed and approved by a majority vote of the Helena Planning Commission on October 2, 2025.



Whereas, the Helena Citizens Council endorses the Draft Land Use Plan and recognizes the hard work and robust public outreach that was put into Helena Forward by the City of Helena's Community Development Department, Houseal-Lavigne, and all other contributing stakeholders.

Therefore, the Helena Citizens Council recommends that the Helena City Commission adopt the Draft Land Use Plan after consideration of any additional public comment that may be submitted prior to approval.

Let it be known that this recommendation was considered and approved by a majority vote of the Helena Citizens Council during a regular meeting on October 22, 2025. Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the Helena Citizens Council,

Benjamin Kuiper, Chair