



**HCC Monthly Meeting
April 27, 2016 - 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 326**

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

District 1 Patricia Christian, Mary Ann George Paul Pacini, Sarah Sadowski
District 2 Eric Kiltz, Gary Spaeth
District 3 Jeanette Blize, Gary Dalton, Sumner Sharpe
District 4 Sharon Hubbell, Tom Woodgerd
District 5 Terry Frisch, Carol Frisch, Shawn White Wolf
District 6 Ria Steffins
District 7 John Forbes, Denise Barber, Dick Sloan

Excused Absences:

Bob Funk- District 2, Terry Ray- District 6, Maureen Kiely- District 6 and Bob Habeck- District 7.

Call to Order / General Business

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Gary Spaeth called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Officer Corey Bailey reported to the group about traffic revisions around town at Fuller and Lawrence and Joslyn and Country Club.

A question was asked about the lower speed limit on Benton near entrance to Bill Roberts Golf Course. Officer Bailey responded that the state regulates that street and based the reduction on a study of traffic speed in that area.

Guests:

Doris Davis announced the upcoming Fire Safety Event on May 7 at the Albertsons north parking lot. This is part one of a two part event. Part 2 is on June 18 that will include a 1/3 mile walk to safety. She distributed posters to interested members present.

Al Roy introduced himself. He is representing the Business Improvement District and is assisting Mark Roylance in tonight's presentation. Mark will be introduced when he begins his presentation.

Emilia is a student observing for a project.

Approval of Minutes

March 24, 2016 corrected minutes were approved unanimously. Chair Spaeth called for the vote. Gary reported that a potential coordinator is being interviewed on Tuesday.

Downtown Improvement Plan Presentation

Mark Roylance, provided an overview of the Downtown Helena Master Plan. Mark is an architect for Mosaic but was not an architect for this project. He is presenting in his capacity as a Commissioner of the Downtown Business Improvement District.

The purpose of the Mater Plan was to explore goals, ideas and aspirations for the downtown area. This was the first time Helena has ever done a Master Plan. Plan is based on an online survey (very strong response) and three charrettes that were attended by all interested members of the public. Mark presented the Executive Summary. The full plan is located on the Helena Improvement District website <http://downtownhelena.com/dhibid/bid/>.

Questions:

Sarah S. asked if the Helena Citizen's Council is on the list of city partners.

What can HCC do? Support the plan at the City Commission meeting as part of our growth policy.

Al Roy stated that this plan is a 30 – 40 years and happens in stages. Changes happen when citizen groups stay engaged.

Tracy Reich (Executive Director, Helena BID, treich@helenabid.com) is the primary contact for the Downtown Master Plan.

Budget

Dick Sloan presented the City of Helena preliminary budget to the council.

The budget is available on line. <http://www.helenamt.gov/asf.html>. Dick will send information before each working meeting to Mary Ann who will forward to members. Interested members are welcome to attend and Dick will attend all meetings. The importance of HCC being involved in the process was stressed.

Transportation Infrastructure Update

Sumner Sharpe presented the Helena Citizens Council Resolution on Local Motor Fuel Tax Option. He answered questions including how to market the idea to the public and supplant and supplement questions from the previous meeting. A similar measure was defeated in Missoula recently. Sumner believed that it was going to be pursued again.

Sumner stated that there is currently a \$12,000,000 backlog of street maintenance. May be a drop in the bucket but better than an empty bucket.

Pat Christian made motions that we accept the resolution and Dick Sloan seconded. Resolution was accepted with a 14 in favor, 4 opposed vote.

Study Groups

Paul reviewed the process that he used to create the study groups and list of concerns. He stated that groups would research top 6 issues unless something comes up of more pressing concern or interest.

Denise Barber asked if the various surveys could be coordinated to make the best fit for members to attend City meetings. The two surveys sent to members are separate from this process and will be used together to place members with the best match.

Eric Kiltz asked about clarifying topics to teams (I have no idea what I wrote here, Eric!)

Mary Ann suggested that study groups take the initiative and e-mail Gary with topics they will be exploring.

Paul clarified that group should compile information by whatever means they choose. Communicate with public, agencies, etc.

Open Forum/Other items

Gary asked members to send agenda items to him, if possible, by the 2nd Monday of the month when the Executive Committee meets. All are welcome to attend. Our regular room at 3:00. Gary wants to maintain transparency.

We currently have voting seats on 5 city committees and one ex officio seat. Gary wants to have ex officio seats on all remaining city boards and committees.

Sumner made a motion that the Helena Citizens Council authorize Chair, Gary Spaeth to write a letter to city officials and city commissioners to change ordinances that would enable HCC members to be ex officio members on all city and joint city/county commissions and boards in addition to the five boards we currently are represented.

Denise asked, if this passes, would we be required to have someone in attendance. Will we be asking for something that we won't be able to commit to?

Paul asked for clarification of the difference between current participation and participation if this ordinance were passed.

Discussion was held on the issue.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Spaeth adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.