



**HCC Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2016  
City / County Building  
Room 326  
7:00 PM**

### **Members Present:**

- District 1: Mary Ann George, Sarah Sadowski, Paul Pacini and Patricia Christian
- District 2: Gary Spaeth and Robert Funk
- District 3: Gary Dalton, Sumner Sharpe and Jeanette Blize
- District 4: Tom Woodgerd, Sharon Hubble, Daniel DeWolf and Dave Maslowski
- District 6: Terry Ray and Ginger Aldrich
- District 7: John Forbes, Bob Habeck, and Dick Sloan

### **Excused Absence:**

- District 5: Carol Ann Frisch, Terry Frisch, Ginger Aldrich, and Shawn White Wolf

### **Call to Order/General Business**

- Gary Spaeth called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He underscored the importance of doing something influential this year. He has assured Mayor Smith that HCC members will soon be appointed to certain committees.
- Dick Sloan was appointed to serve as Treasurer of the HCC.
- December meeting minutes were approved.
- HCC signs were distributed to members.

### **Welcome and Introduction of HCC Members**

- John Forbes has served as Treasurer of the HCC Executive Board for the past four years. He hopes to hear comments, wishes, etc. from new HCC members as well as returning members.
- Sarah Sadowski is a volunteer grants manager for non-profit agencies. She feels that citizen voices are very appealing to the Helena community as well as the City Commissioners.
- Pat Christian is from Buffalo, New York. She teaches at Carroll College. She has always been involved in community organizations. She is "soaking up Helena and the community" and appreciates remarks of getting things done.
- Dan DeWolf was born and raised in Helena. He attended Montana State College in Bozeman, then joined the Air Force. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel. He has been an airplane pilot for SouthWest

Airlines. He moved back to Helena nine years ago and wants to help with decisions being made.

- Denise Roth Barber grew up in Chicago. She has been interested in the Citizens Council for some time. She has pre-teen and teen age children. She is interested in community growth policies.
- Bob Habeck works as a Program Manager for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. He enjoys the credibility of the Helena Citizens Council and the ability of getting things done.
- Gary Dalton taught at Helena High School for many years. This is his second go-around on the HCC. He hopes that people will voice their concerns.
- Dave Maslowski was born and raised in Bismark, North Dakota. He settled in Helena three years ago. He wants to do every thing he can to solve problems.
- Gary Spaeth mentioned that we do have turn over. However, your only way to move out of the HCC is moving to a new locale :).
- Tom Woodgerd is interested in new development, building codes, etc. He worked for the Montana Department of Justice for many years in information technology.
- Sumner Sharpe is retired. He moved to Helena five years ago from Portland, Oregon where he and his wife lived for 30 years. He is actively involved in community organizing and planning.
- Mary Ann George works with many non-profit agencies which requires good communication skills to share ideas on how to run things more smoothly.
- Jeanette Blize suggested that Mary Ann help with internal communications as well as helping us with public communications.
- Dick Sloan mentioned that the City Commissioners really want to hear from the Helena Citizens Council. So, it is important to have an HCC presence at all Administrative and Commission meetings. He also underscored the importance of keeping track of funds for making things happen and he mentioned that the City Manager has mentioned that, if we need additional funding, we need to prepare a proposal.
- Paul Pacini suggested that HCC members look to persons on their right and on their left. We have had large drop-out rates in the past. The theory is that we were hearing a number of reports from City staff. However, they were not looking for anything from us. As a result, the "Relevance Committee" was formed. A group of four people met for

three months and came up with a number of proposals, including a three-page listing of guidelines. At the last meeting, the committee took the existing guidelines and incorporated our ideas. The HCC Coordinator will send the guidelines to all HCC members by email. Paul mentioned that the guidelines are long and encouraged members to review this important document.

- Paul also mentioned the need to appoint HCC members to certain boards and committees. It was suggested that the HCC Secretary, Mary Ann George, could coordinate this.

### **HCC Budget, Vote to Approve**

Bob Habeck motioned to approve the Budget. The motion passed.

### **Helena Chamber of Commerce**

Gary Spaeth has joined the Helena Chamber of Commerce