



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Monthly Meeting
October 25, 2017- 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 326
Helena, Montana**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members Present:

District 1 Mary Ann George, Pat Christian, Paul Pacini, Sarah Sadowski

District 2 Gary Spaeth, Tyrel Suzor-Hoy

District 3 Sumner Sharpe, Flannery Herbert, Eric Seidle

District 4 Tom Woodgerd, Art Pembroke

District 5 Carolan Bunegar

District 6 Terry Ray

District 7 Dick Sloan, Bob Habeck, Denise Roth Barber, Doris Davis

Other Attendees: Pat McKelvey, Mary Kelley, and Ray Prill, Tri-County FireSafe Working Group; Nancy Perry, citizen; Ken Wood, Helena Fire Department; Doug Hunsaker, citizen and member-elect District 4; Amy Teegarden, Helena Parks and Recreation; Mary Vandenbosch, HCC Coordinator

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chair Gary Spaeth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all present were introduced.

Helena Parks and Recreation

Amy Teegarden, Helena Parks and Recreation Director, provided an update on the activities of that Department. Highlights include:

- There was a 30% increase in park reservations for special events. Funds raised from park use fees go for park improvements.
- The preferred action is to rehabilitate the fire tower to meet building code structural requirements. This action requires a demolition permit; however, the fire tower will not be demolished.
- Facilities at Bill Roberts golf course are being expanded.
- A new VISTA volunteer will help with education and signage at the 6th Ward Garden Park.
- Parks and Recreation is working with other city departments to better manage the walking mall. They now have one-stop shopping for permitting on the walking mall.
- Amy is working with the Helena Public Art Committee and the Parks & Recreation Board on the Hill Park Public Art Project to install new art in that park.
- They are continuing with fuel treatment and a partnership with Narrate Church, which splits and distributes wood from tree-thinning activities to low-income households.
- There are concerns about disorderly conduct in city parks.

November Election

Denise Roth Barber expressed concern that the elections for Districts 2 through 7 were canceled. She expressed her opinion that the ballot raises awareness of the HCC and the opportunity to run as a write-in candidate. She suggested that the HCC write a letter to the City Commission supporting the elections. Members Gary Spaeth and Art Pembroke were concerned about the cost of the uncontested elections. Spaeth reported the cost was \$30,000. Mary Ann George suggested that this issue be taken up during the next term.

HCC Coordinator Mary Vandebosch reported that the representatives for District 1 will be elected on November 7, 2017 and the elections in District 2-7 were canceled by the City Commission because they are uncontested. The declared candidates were elected by acclamation. She distributed the resolution approved by the City Commission (Resolution No. 20403).

Under state law, the City Commission appoints members until the next HCC takes office. Applications for the next term (2018-2019) are being accepted by the City Clerk.

Helena Fire Department Update

Assistant Fire Chief Ken Wood reported on the Holmes Gulch Fire. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation was the lead agency for that fire. They were fortunate to have two DC-10 planes from Missoula working on that fire. Tom Woodgerd raised a concern about residents parking boats and trailers in the fire truck turnaround. Wood said people who observe this may call the Fire Department and they will look into it. Flannery Herbert suggested posting the turnaround to raise awareness. The Fire Department is using a 6 x 6 all terrain vehicle that they acquired from Parks and Recreation to assist in calls on Mt. Helena and Mt. Ascension.

Tri-County FireSafe Working Group

Pat McKelvey and Ray Prill, Tri-County FireSafe Working Group, presented information about fire risks and mitigation. They distributed handouts entitled: *Living with Fire: Homeowners' Firesafe Guide for Montana*, *Map Your Neighborhood – MYN: Neighborhood Disaster Readiness*, *Ignition Resistant Construction Guide*, and *Evacuating to Safety*. They also referenced the Community Wildland Fire Protection [Plan](#) for the tri-county area (Lewis & Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater counties). They are promoting mitigation and have grant funding to assist with projects. They encouraged HCC members to sponsor neighborhood events where they can talk to residents about assistance with fire mitigation projects. Several HCC members expressed interest in an additional presentation from this group at a future HCC meeting.

Tenmile Watershed Zinc Loading Reduction Strategy

Treasurer Dick Sloan reported that he is the HCC representative to the Lewis & Clark County Water Quality Protection District Board. He distributed several handouts and explained that the zinc loading in the water supply from the Upper Tenmile Creek watershed causes the effluent from the Helena waste water treatment plant to exceed the aquatic toxicity standard for zinc. Modification of the treatment facility to meet the standard would cost about \$60 million. They are seeking \$10 million in grant funding to reduce zinc at the source in the upper Tenmile watershed instead of spending \$60 million to upgrade the wastewater treatment facility.

City Budget

HCC Treasurer Dick Sloan discussed the process for developing the City's FY '19 budget and the HCC's role in making recommendations. He referred to a package of handouts. He wants to work with city departments early and get recommendations and comments to the City Commission by February; however, the budget book did not come out until April last year. He also explained that the capital program is a key part of the budget. HCC Chair Gary Spaeth suggested inviting the City's Administrative Services Department Director, Glenn Jorgenson, to speak to the HCC.

HCC Budget

Treasurer Dick Sloan noted that the report on the HCC budget through the end of September shows the HCC budget is in excellent shape and \$4,800 is available for outreach and district gatherings.

September 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 27, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

Publicity

Eric Seidle reported that he and HCC Vice Chair Sumner Sharpe met with HCC Coordinator Mary Vandebosch regarding the portable display. He asked for input and contributions from HCC members for the content of the display, including pictures, ideas, accomplishments, and offers of help. The portable display will include a logo, contact information, a map, and other content. Members suggested: a group photo, individual photos of HCC members, and information from the HCC Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles.

Appointments

The remaining members of District 7 appointed Doris Davis to fill the vacancy in that district.

There being no remaining members in District 5, the HCC appointed Carolan Bunegar to represent that district.

Reports on Boards and Committees

Sarah Sadowski expressed concerns about the Civic Center Board: board members are not term-limited, terms are not staggered, and the recently hired manager left. She wants the HCC to recommend that Civic Center Board member terms be limited.

Coordinator's Report

HCC Coordinator Mary Vandebosch explained that the HCC's officers – the Executive Committee – determines the agenda. The officers are: Gary Spaeth, Chair; Sumner Sharpe, Vice Chair; Mary Ann George, Secretary; and Dick Sloan, Treasurer. They meet on the 2nd Monday of each month. Members should submit suggested agenda items to the coordinator before the 2nd Monday of the month. Only the Executive Committee can make work assignments for the coordinator. However, most requests for information can be handled quickly and do not require Executive Committee approval.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.