



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)  
Monthly Meeting  
November 29, 2017- 7:00 PM  
City/County Building - Room 326  
Helena, Montana**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendance**

#### **Members Present:**

District 1 Mary Ann George, Pat Christian, Sarah Sadowski

District 2 Gary Spaeth, Tyrel Suzor-Hoy

District 3 Sumner Sharpe, Gary Dalton, Eric Seidle

District 4 Tom Woodgerd, Art Pembroke

District 5 Carolan Bunegar

District 6 Terry Ray, Maureen Kiely

District 7 Dick Sloan, Denise Roth Barber, Doris Davis

**Other Attendees:** Nancy Perry, citizen; Doug Hunsaker, member-elect, District 4; John Andrew, member-elect, District 1; Chris Stockwell, 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Garden Park Advisory Council; Mary Vandebosch, HCC Coordinator

### **Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Gary Spaeth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Approval of October 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the October 25, 2017 meeting were approved as corrected on November 28, 2017.

### **HCC Budget**

HCC Treasurer Dick Sloan reported that expenditures are significantly below budget. There is money available for publicity and programs.

### **Recommendations re: Civic Center**

Sarah Sadowski reviewed a draft memo (revised November 27, 2017) providing advice from the HCC to the City Commission. Denise Roth Barber moved to approve the memo as written. The motion was approved, with one member opposed.

### **Highway 12 Crossing Safety Improvements**

Maureen Kiely discussed the Highway 12 crossing at Kessler school. She presented a memo dated November 29, 2017 re: "The Need to Improve the Pedestrian Crossing on Highway 12 at Kessler School. A video showing children crossing the highway was distributed to HCC members before the meeting. Kiely serves as the HCC's voting representative on the Non-Motorized Travel Advisory Council (NMTAC). She reported that the NMTAC agrees that some improvement should be made at this crossing; however, the NMTAC is not ready to specify what that improvement should be. Member-elect John Andrew is also a member of the NMTAC. He reported that the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) did analysis in March and June and that pedestrian traffic does not support a lighted intersection in this location.

The HCC discussed whether or not to make a general or specific recommendation. It was noted that MDT has jurisdiction over Highway 12. No action was taken. Some members recommended inviting the City Engineer to speak to the HCC.

### **Grant for 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Garden Park**

HCC Chairman Gary Spaeth expressed his interest in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Garden Park. He would like the HCC to support this park with a financial contribution.

Chris Stockwell, representing the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Garden Park Advisory Council, presented information about the Garden Park, which includes a community garden and an edible forest garden. Denise Roth Barber asked that the written request from Dianna Hammer for funding for interpretive signs be provided to HCC Members. Maureen Kiely recommended that the HCC develop criteria and procedures for consideration of such requests. Mary Ann George, Dick Sloan, and Maureen Kiely volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to develop proposed criteria and procedures.

### **City Budget**

HCC Treasurer Dick Sloan reviewed his plans to set up meetings with City Department heads. He plans to schedule 8 or 10 one hour meetings starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in December. The meetings may extend into January. He is asking three or four HCC members to volunteer to attend as many meetings as possible. He would like the HCC to make recommendations to the City Manager by the middle of March.

### **Preparing for 2018-2019**

HCC Chair Gary Spaeth appointed Bob Habeck, Mary Ann George, and Denise Roth Barber to the Nominating Committee, which is charged with nominating a slate of candidates to service as HCC officers for 2018.

### **Reports from Districts, Boards, and Committees**

The representatives of District 7 met and made the following recommendations to the HCC:

- Hold a new HCC member orientation and work plan session
- Host additional FireSafe presentations. District 7 offered to coordinate these.

- Invite each city program administrator to present information to the HCC at regular meetings. Invite a program administrator each month.
- Approve a recommendation to the new City Commission that HCC elections not be cancelled. The District 7 representatives questioned whether \$30,000 was saved by cancellation of elections.

Maureen Kiely attended the first two meetings of the Railroad Tax Increment Finance Advisory Board Meeting. She distributed a memo dated November 29, 2017 reporting on the meetings. She explained that the Advisory Board makes recommendations to the City Commission on how the funds raised should be spent. The Board has rated goals and objectives, based on priority and time frame. District 6 representatives Terry Ray and Maureen Kiely will talk to the Advisory Board about recommendations that have been made by the HCC over the last 3 or 4 years.

Carolan Bunegar attended the Board of Adjustment meeting and reported that the City did not have authority over the federal or state government with respect to zoning.

Mary Ann George reported that the City selected Clarke Street as a pilot project for reconstruction. Residents have concerns about the removal of brick sidewalks and trees. Maureen Kiely offered to request the City's list of failed streets. Sarah Sadowski questioned the process for prioritizing Clarke Street and asked whether it was prioritized in the City's transportation plan.

Denise Roth Barber reported that the Helena Open Lands Management Advisory Committee (HOLMAC) heard concerns about the City's plans to create a parking lot at the end of Beattie Street.

Terry Ray reported on the Planning Board's update to the subdivision rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.