



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Monthly Meeting
February 22, 2017- 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 326
Helena, Montana**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Members Present:

- District 1 Mary Ann George, Sarah Sadowski, Paul Pacini
- District 2 Gary Spaeth, John Rundquist
- District 3 Gary Dalton, Flannery Herbert, Elizabeth Rivard, Sumner Sharpe
- District 4 Dave Maslowski, Tom Woodgerd
- District 5
- District 6 Terry Ray, Maureen Kiely
- District 7 Dick Sloan, Denise Roth Barber

Guests Present: Brian Coplin, HELP; Joe Cohenour, Tenmile Collaborative Committee; Cory Bailey, Helena Police Department.

Call to Order, General Business and Announcements

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

Officer Cory Bailey reported on HPD activities. Spaeth reported that he presented two HCC resolutions regarding Passenger Rail Service and Community Decay at the City Commission's administrative meeting earlier in the day. Treasurer Dick Sloan reported on liability insurance coverage. A current budget report for the HCC was distributed.

January 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 25, 2017 HCC meeting were approved as written by unanimous consent.

Tenmile Collaborative

Tenmile Collaborative Committee Chair Joe Cohenour made a [presentation](#) about the group's efforts. The Committee was established by resolution in 2014. They make consensus recommendations to state and federal agencies on proposed projects in the Tenmile watershed and the south Helena area. They submitted 36 [recommendations](#) to the Helena National Forest on the Tenmile South Helena Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Additional recommendations were presented after the Forest Service released a new alternative. They are working on developing recommendations on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan Revision. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released in late spring or early summer. The Committee sunsets in 2017; however they are asking for reauthorization so the Committee can monitor project and plan implementation. Cohenour recommended visiting two websites for maps and additional information:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45725>

<https://www.helenamt.gov/tmwp.html>

City Water Supply Planning

Vice Chair Sumner Sharpe summarized a report on the City's water supply planning that was presented to the City Commission. The City has a water reservation for deep wells that sunsets in 2025. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has encouraged the City to make a case for extending the water reservation. The City contracted with HydroSolutions to conduct a study.

Identification of HCC Members Presenting Personal Views in Public Forums

The HCC discussed how members should identify themselves when presenting their personal views in public forums. The HCC agreed that, in this situation, members should include a statement to this effect: although they are a member of the HCC, they are not representing the HCC and the opinions they are presenting are their own. Members should not include a reference to their position on the HCC in their signature.

Reports from Fact Finding Teams, Boards, Committees, Districts

Walking Mall Maintenance. Member Paul Pacini presented a memo re: Walking Mall Maintenance. The memo, dated February 14, 2017, states that it is from the Mourning Cloak Team. The recommendation was prepared by the Mourning Cloak Team which, Paul explained, was presently composed of only himself. Other members originally assigned to the team had asked for reassignment to Teams studying issues which they found more to their liking. No action was taken on Pacini's three proposed recommendations. In discussion, HCC members identified the following ideas and issues: the Helena Business Improvement District (BID) and Downtown Helena were created for this type of coordination; the entire downtown area should be considered; the City doesn't have the money to pay for a coordinator; investigate previous maintenance agreements; the property owner's responsibilities under city code are not addressed; people don't know what their responsibilities are; and the relationship between this issue and implementation of the Downtown Master Plan.

HCC Chair Gary Spaeth stated that Mayor Smith asked the HCC to investigate walking mall maintenance issues and that he would meet with the Mayor to discuss the results.

ADA Compliance. Vice Chair Sumner Sharpe reminded HCC members that the City asked the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Committee to prioritize improvements required to comply with the federal law and that this is a budget issue. Sharpe asked if the HCC wanted to comment on these priorities since the HCC is charged with advising the city on the budget. No one volunteered.

West Side Neighborhood Traffic Safety Meeting. HCC Secretary Mary Ann George described her efforts to organize neighbors on the upper west side to collaborate on proactively identifying solutions about traffic safety.

Fact Finding Team Assignments. Paul Pacini handed out a list of fact finding team assignments. Chair Gary Spaeth announced that he wanted to discuss fact finding team assignments at the beginning of the next meeting. Members should contact Gary if they want a different assignment.

Other Reports. The following members provided updates on meetings and activities:

- Gary Dalton, City/County Parks Board
- Terry Ray, I-15 bridge replacement public meeting and City/County Planning Board discussion of rezoning an area where the city plans to grow
- Tom Woodgerd, Montana Avenue Rail Underpass project. This is likely on hold until the legislative session is over.

HCC Recommendation on Central School Demolition Permit

John Rundquist made a motion, seconded by Dick Sloan, that the HCC recommend that the City Commission deny the demolition permit application for Central School. Denise Barber made a substitute motion, seconded by Mary Ann George, that the HCC take no position on the demolition permit application for Central School. The substitute motion carried, with four opposed.

City Budget

Treasurer Dick Sloan encouraged members to sign up to attend City budget sessions by contacting Coordinator Mary Vandenbosch. Sloan plans to attend all sessions.

Public Comment

Brian Coplin invited HCC members Sumner Sharpe and Paul Pacini to attend the March ADA Compliance Committee Meeting

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.