



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Monthly Meeting
June 28, 2017- 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 326
Helena, Montana**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members Present:

District 1 Mary Ann George, Paul Pacini, Sarah Sadowski

District 2 Gary Spaeth, Tyrel Suzor-Hoy

District 3 Gary Dalton

District 4 Dave Maslowski

District 5

District 6 Terry Ray

District 7 Dick Sloan, Denise Roth Barber

Guests Present: Peggy Stringer, Helena Regional Sports Association; Jayson Zander, Helena Police Department; Mark Emert, Helena Fire Department; Gery Carpenter, City of Helena Community Facilities Director;

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 Police Department (HPD)

Lieutenant Jayson Zander announced that the volunteer who monitors abandoned cars is back to work on this project. Zander coordinates volunteers for the HPD. The HPD continues to be challenged with maintaining full staff.

Helena Fire Department (HFD)

Helena Fire Chief Mark Emert updated the HCC on Fire Department Services. They have new engines and a six-wheeler. The six-wheeler improves efficiency and access to respond to calls to assist people on mountains and trails. They have a new emergency medical dispatching program. The dispatcher asks questions to determine who should respond to a call instead of sending out all types of responders for every call. Staff make radio contact with the railroad immediately when it is necessary to cross the tracks. The HFD is exploring options for stationing equipment on the other side of the tracks, including collaborating with the Airport Authority and dedicating property through the Community Development Division. They are making up kits so they can assist homeowners with fire safety and prevention (e.g., smoke detectors) when they go out on call to a home.

Helena Regional Sports Association

Helena Regional Sports Association (HRSA) Board member Peggy Stringer presented information about the Association's efforts to build and operate a multi-sport facility in Helena. She distributed a handout that identifies facility options. The HRSA would like the HCC to support this initiative. They are in the process of completing a feasibility study. The HRSA is seeking partners. More information is available at HelenaSports.org

Recommendations re: Helena Civic Center Operations

Dave Maslowski presented the Sapphire fact-finding team's report and recommendations regarding Civic Center operations. (See memo from Sapphire Team dated 6/16/17.)

Maslowski moved to approve the recommendations and submit them to the Civic Center Board and City Commission. Sarah Sadowski seconded the motion, which was approved with six in favor. In discussion on the motion Sadowski offered additional recommendations. Chair Spaeth urged Sadowski to present these as an addendum at a future meeting.

Caird Property Development

Tyrel Suzor-Hoy reported on his efforts to investigate the status of redevelopment of the Caird Property. (See handout dated 6/21/2017.) Chairman Spaeth agreed to put this topic on the agenda for the August 23 HCC meeting and to invite Montana Department of Transportation staff to the meeting. In discussion, some HCC members expressed concern about getting involved with a particular development. However, members also noted that improved access at the “malfunction junction” intersection is important to development of the City and also to access Bryant Elementary School. Terry Ray explained that the City’s growth policy can’t be implemented unless access is improved. Suzor-Hoy intends to discuss this topic with the City’s Transportation Coordinating Committee. Suzor-Hoy is the HCC’s voting representative on this committee. HCC Secretary Mary Ann George mentioned that Maureen Kiely volunteered to serve on the fact-finding team investigating this topic and is still interested in participating.

Climate Change Action Team

HCC Chair Gary Spaeth expressed his interest in establishing an HCC subcommittee to update the City’s Climate Change Action Plan and to develop educational materials for citizen action. On behalf of the City Manager, Gery Carpenter asked if the Helena Citizens’ Council would be willing to serve as a Citizen Conservation Board and make recommendations regarding sustainability. A Citizen Conservation Board will be appointed by the City Commission following the recent approval of “A Resolution Affirming Helena’s Continued Efforts to Combat Climate Change.” Mary Ann George, Dick Sloan, and Denise Roth Barber volunteered to serve.

HCC Chair Gary Spaeth left the meeting and Secretary Mary Ann George took over as Acting Chair.

City Budget

HCC Treasurer Dick Sloan distributed a document entitled “Proposed 2018 Helena City Budget” and reviewed proposed comments regarding the City’s FY ’18 Budget. Motion by Denise Roth Barber, seconded by Paul Pacini, to send the comments contained in the document to the City Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

May 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Dick Sloan, seconded by Denise Roth Barber, the minutes of the May 24, 2017 HCC meeting were approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

July Meeting

Secretary Mary Ann George asked if there were objections to canceling the July HCC meeting. No objections were raised.

Other Business

Gary Dalton moved that the HCC spend \$100 on a floral arrangement for the service of Chair Gary Spaeth’s partner. The motion was seconded by Dick Sloan and approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.