



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Monthly Meeting
March 28, 2018- 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 326
Helena, Montana**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members Present:

District 1 Mary Ann George, Pat Christian, John Andrew

District 2

District 3 Sumner Sharpe, Gary Dalton

District 4 Tom Woodgerd, Doug Hunsaker

District 5 Carolan Bunegar

District 6 Terry Ray, Maureen Kiely, Alyssa Townsend

District 7 Dick Sloan, Bob Habeck, Doris Davis

Other Attendees: Marissa Rivera, Nancy Perry, Kori Dee, Tom Kilmer, Crystalyn Black, Whitney Bausch, Tom Kilmer, citizens; Mary Vandenbosch, HCC Coordinator

Call to Order

Chairman Sumner Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Appointment of HCC Representative

Terry Ray announced that the representatives of District 6 have appointed Alyssa Townsend to represent District 6.

Public Comment

Tom Kilmer, citizen, expressed support for HCC efforts to address abandoned cars, parked boats, and junk vehicles. He expressed frustration that cars are rarely tagged. When they are tagged, the owners are only required to move their cars a short distance. Bellingham, Washington's ordinance requires that cars and boats be moved four blocks. This requirement provides an incentive for owners to find storage for their vehicles and boats, because it is inconvenient to park them four blocks away. Chairman Sharpe stated that a representative of the Helena Police Department would attend the next HCC meeting to discuss abandoned cars.

Recommendations on City FY '19 Budget

Vice Chair Dick Sloan presented revised draft recommendations to the City Commission on the FY '19 budget. An earlier draft was distributed to HCC members for comment. Sloan reported that four comments were received and all were incorporated. Motion by Mary Ann George, seconded by Pat Christian, to approve submittal of the memo, as written. Motion approved unanimously. Chairman Sharpe announced that the HCC will present budget recommendations to the City Commission on May 7.

Fact Finding Teams and Strategies to Address Top HCC Issues

HCC members formed teams, which discussed and reported on strategies to address the highest priority issues that were identified by HCC members at the February HCC meeting.

Proactive enforcement of ordinances and traffic laws instead of relying on citizen complaints: Terry Ray agreed to initially convene the group. Elements of their strategy include:

- Research on applicable laws, ordinances.
- Put together a single document that includes all applicable laws.
- Do an assessment of the extent of violations. Identify the biggest issue and target that first.
- Focus on education, information and behavioral campaigns first. Enforcement resources are limited and behavioral campaigns are most effective.

Chairman Sharpe suggested following up on the effectiveness of the pilot project implemented by the City this winter to encourage residents to move parked cars for snow plowing on certain streets.

Monitor HCC recommendations re: Civic Center: John Andrew will convene the team. He has started attending the Civic Center Board meetings and will communicate with Board Chair Judy Kline about the HCC recommendations.

Engage and coordinate volunteers in neighborhood projects: Carolan Bunegar will convene the team. They will work with the City's Parks and Recreation Department to conduct a pilot project. They will propose a media campaign to enlist volunteers for an event, such as weeding Nature Park.

Regional revenue to pay for city-provided regional services: None of the members present at the meeting volunteered to investigate this topic.

City's role in economic development: Maureen Kiely will convene the team. The team's first step will involve learning more about current economic development activities by talking with representatives of organizations that are promoting economic development activities. They also recommended that the HCC have a voice in the process of hiring the next City Manager. For example, "expertise in economic development" could be a recommended qualification for that position. Chairman Sharpe recommended that the team speak to a representative of the Helena Regional Airport Authority.

Chairman Sharpe requested that teams report back at the next meeting. HCC members may participate on more than one team.

Reports and Announcements

Tom Woodgerd expressed his concern about a new subdivision in the City. He stated that because there are several homes on one lot, internal roads are considered driveways, not streets, and the requirements for sidewalks and boulevards do not apply. He also expressed concern about the open space dedicated.

Chairman Sharpe requested that members provide suggestions regarding the draft layout of the HCC's portable display (handout distributed) to himself or Eric Seidle. HCC Secretary Doug Hunsaker recommended that anyone who suggests adding information to the display should also make a suggestion regarding what can be eliminated.

Marissa Rivera informed HCC members that she attended the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Committee meeting and expressed concern that they are not meeting often enough. She said they meet bi-monthly.

HCC Treasurer Maureen Kiely reported that the City Commission nominated two census tracts for consideration by Governor Bullock in making recommendations for Opportunity Zones.

Chairman Sharpe asked that any HCC member who is willing to serve as a voting representative on the Non-Motorized Travel Advisory Council (NMTAC) contact him.

HCC Secretary Doug Hunsaker announced that Bob Habeck will develop a model and run one survey per year for the HCC.

Agenda Items for April 25, 2018 HCC Meeting

Chairman Sharpe announced that a representative of the Helena Police Department and Commissioner O'Loughlin will be on the agenda for the April meeting. Alyssa Townsend requested that a representative of the Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) be invited to the meeting to speak about economic development initiatives.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 28, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

Coordinator's Report

HCC Coordinator Mary Vandebosch presented an overview of information that is available on the HCC website (www.HelenaCitizensCouncil.com) and the City of Helena website (www.HelenaMt.Gov).

Adjournment

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