



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Monthly Meeting
September 26, 2018- 7:00 PM
City/County Building - Room 326
Helena, Montana**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members Present:

- District 1 John Andrew, Pat Christian, Mary Ann George, Flannery Herbert
- District 2 Susan Lenard, Nancy Perry
- District 3 Sumner Sharpe, Gary Dalton
- District 4 Doug Hunsaker
- District 5 Carolan Bunegar
- District 6 Whitney Bausch, Alyssa Townsend, Maureen Kiely
- District 7 Doris Davis, Denise Roth Barber, Dick Sloan

Other Attendees Paul Pacini, citizen; Mary Vandenbosch, HCC Coordinator

Call to Order

Chairman Sumner Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Comment

An opportunity for public comment was solicited and no comments were provided.

Public Meet and Greet with City Manager Finalists

Chairman Sharpe provided an update on the public meet and greet with finalists for the Helena City Manager position. The date has been pushed back one month. It is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 1, 6-8 p.m. at the Civic Center. Sharpe will send details to HCC members when they are finalized. HCC members were encouraged to attend, wearing HCC name tags, and to circulate among the candidates and ask any questions they have. There will be an exit questionnaire to provide feedback. The HCC's officers emphasized that the event provides an opportunity to provide feedback about candidates, but also for HCC members to make a positive impression on the candidates. The City Manager plays an important role in the HCC's interactions with the City Commission and City Departments. The consulting firm hired by the City will publicize the event. The HCC will provide supplemental publicity as needed.

The City Commission will interview finalists after the meet and greet event. The HCC submitted questions to the City Commission for consideration in the interviews.

A Helena Job for Homeless Persons

Helena citizen Paul Pacini presented his proposal entitled “A Helena Job.” The proposal is based on a program implemented by the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The HCC listened to Albuquerque mayor Richard Berry’s TED talk about the program, which can be found at the link below:

https://www.ted.com/talks/richard_j_berry_a_practical_way_to_help_the_homeless_find_work_and_safety?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

Pacini emphasized that he drafted the proposal to initiate conversation and his proposal should not be considered the last word. He wants to see the program implemented for 20 weeks in the summer of 2019 and is willing to volunteer to administer the program for up to three years.

Motion by Doug Hunsaker, seconded by Denise Roth Barber, that the HCC endorse the program and recommend that Pacini’s proposal be presented to the City Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Sharpe called for comments, corrections, or clarifications to the draft minutes for the August 22, 2018 meeting. Whitney Bausch noted that she was not present. Sharpe declared the minutes approved with this correction.

HCC Coordinator’s Report

HCC Coordinator Mary Vandenbosch noted that members who haven’t done so may pick up name tags to wear in situations where they are representing the HCC. We have received 91 responses to the survey so far. Survey Coordinator Bob Habeck will report when he returns from fire duty. Members are encouraged to set up the HCC’s portable display at community events. Please contact Mary in advance to make arrangements to pick up the materials. The display could also be set up for a period of time in a location that is visible to City residents. For example, Mary will look into setting up the HCC’s portable display in the City-County building. Extra copies of the water bill insert are available to hand out at events.

Reports from Fact Finding Teams

John Andrew reported he intends to work with Survey Coordinator Bob Habeck and team members Gary Dalton, Alyssa Townsend, and Flannery Herbert to develop a survey to get input on the Civic Center direction.

Alyssa Townsend reported that the Citizen Notice and Involvement team met and members are contacting department heads, a former city employee, and other communities in Montana. There is no consistency between city departments with respect to citizen notice and involvement.

Carolan Bunegar interviewed Parks and Recreation and Helena Police Department staff who coordinate volunteers. The City of Billings has a volunteering section on their website. Bunegar is not ready to present a recommendation; however, she expressed interest in placing a form on the City's web page for volunteers.

Reports from Boards and Committees

Denise Roth Barber, HCC representative to the Helena Open Lands Committee, announced that Helena now has a one-directional trail. The City Parks Department is planning to hire a consulting firm to update the open lands plan.

Whitney Bausch attended the Railroad TF Board meeting. The correct amount of funding available is \$50,000. An application to apply for TIF money will be out at the next meeting.

Dick Sloan reminded the members that the Lewis & Clark Water Quality Protection District petitioned the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to establish a controlled ground water area. If approved, water wells will be limited and there will be pressure on the City to extend water and sewer services to the Helena Valley.

Sumner Sharpe reported that the Community Development Department is preparing to update the growth policy. They are interested in assistance from HCC districts with reaching out to residents. Members were encouraged to email Sharpe with ideas.

HCC Secretary Doug Hunsaker encouraged HCC members to attend at least one City Commission meeting each year.

Revisions to Bylaws

Doug Hunsaker noted that copies of the HCC bylaws with proposed revisions were distributed at the meeting. This is a study version. A document with proposed revisions shown will be distributed by email. The HCC will discuss proposed revisions in October and he wants the HCC to vote on the proposed revisions in November.

Member Announcements

Doris Davis requested assistance with a developing a community education program with information about fire safety. Denise Roth Barber and Pat Christian volunteered to help.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.