



Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Meeting April 24th, 2019 7:00pm
City/County Building - Room 326

April 26, 2019

To: Mayor Collins and City Commissioners

From: Sumner Sharpe, Helena Citizens Council Chair

At the HCC meeting on April 24, a plastic recycling recommendation was approved by a vote of the members:

The HCC urges the City Commission to continue its practice of plastic recycling and, in addition, launch a public education effort. The city should explore policies and strategies to further reduce the use of plastics.

During the discussion on the motion, a variety of education, incentive and disincentive policies and action ideas were suggested in support of this recommendation and pertinent to all three basic approaches - reduce, reuse and recycle.

Some of the suggestions included: researching other cities' experiences with reduce, reuse and recycle efforts; "refusing" plastic bags and encourage use of paper, cloth or other reusable bags when shopping; adding a deposit fee to plastic containers; charging a fee for use of plastic bags; using paper products in place of plastic containers in restaurants; focusing education on clean recyclable plastics; promoting curbside recycling; storing recycled plastic bales until the market improves.; etc.

In addition, three members volunteered to work as a committee to research reduce, reuse and recycling policies and strategies for City consideration.