

## **Helena Citizens Council Regular Meeting February 28, 2007**

**Members present:** Allen Tompkins, Bill Roberts, Bob Habeck, Ellen Bell, George Hoff, George McCauley, Jim Tucker, Jr., Justin Trafton, Ken Saunders, Larry Mitchell, Lynne Boone, Marshall Gingery, Mary Ann Dunwell, Matthew Cohn, Rebecca Ridenour, Teresa Klotz and Thom Warsinski. Also present: Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown.

**Members absent:** Jim Christnacht and Mark McDonnell.

**Visitors:** Keith Simendinger and Kelly Tuck, Helena Firefighters Union #448; Lt. Roger Johnson, Helena Police Department; Elroy Golemon, Community Development Department Zoning Officer; and Jack Stults.

### **January 24, 2007 HCC Meeting minutes**

The January 24, 2007 minutes were approved as submitted.

### **Helena Police Department Report**

Lt. Roger Johnson reviewed the successful conviction of Joshua Giddings for the murder of Amy Rolfe. Also, he reported the Police Department has concerns with traffic on Custer Avenue, specifically the section of road beginning east of Montana Avenue to Home Depot, and encouraged HCC participation in resolving the traffic issues. Lt. Johnson noted that HPD Officer Danny David has been named the new K9 Officer.

Discussion was held regarding the process for reporting speeding to the HPD. Lt. Johnson stated complaints need to include the time period the speeding is occurring. He noted the HPD also reviews the road structure and signage when responding to speeding complaints.

### **Helena Fire Department Report**

Lt. Kelly Tuck reported two new firefighters, Mike McDaniel and Matt Welch, were confirmed at the February 26, 2007 City Commission Meeting. He also noted there would only be one Firefighter's Union representative on the Fire Service Planning Committee instead of two as previously reported.

Al Tompkins commented Fire Chief Larson did a great job presenting Urban Wildland Interface Zone information at Hometown Helena on February 22, 2007.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bill Roberts reported there \$68 has been spent in the printing/duplication budget and \$309 in the advertising budget. \$762 remains in the contracted services budget and \$500 has been budgeted for the water bill insert. The \$50 fee owed to the city for the insert has been paid. A more detailed report will follow in March.

### **City Administration Report**

Community Development Zoning Officer Elroy Goleman gave an overview of the portion of the Zoning Ordinance related to "sandwich board" signs. They are allowed to be temporary (advertising an event, etc) or directional but cannot be located in the public right-of-way. City staff is currently working to ensure the business community is in compliance.

### **District Discussions**

**District 1** - Amy Glasscock has resigned; there are two vacancies in the district. Ken Saunders noted there is a HCC vacancy on the Downtown Visioning Partnership (DVP) due to Amy's resignation. It was decided the vacancy would not be filled but Ellen Bell will attend the DVP March meeting, as Ken will be absent.

**District 2** - George McCauley reported Starbucks is no longer allowing patrons to park on the sidewalk and he is still working with Coldwell Banker to get them to remove their "sandwich board" sign.

Lynne Boone reported the Jackson Street neighborhood is concerned State Fund employees will park in their neighborhood if their new office building is built in the Great Northern, as they already have problems with employees from the Federal Building. Matthew Cohn commented the State Fund would not relocate in the Great Northern Area unless they can secure parking in the same area for their employees. Marshall Gingery concurred with Matthew, and reported State Fund officials stated the same at the Administrative Meeting on February 21, 2007. Lt. Johnson noted the Great Northern Town Center garage has alleviated concerns about Civic Center event parking and Great Northern parking in the Getchell/Kessler Street neighborhood.

**District 3** - There is one vacancy in the district.

**District 4** - There are three vacancies in the district.

**District 5** - There are two vacancies in the district.

**District 6** - There is one vacancy in the district. HCC Chair Justin Trafton reported the Midtown/6<sup>th</sup> Ward Neighborhood Association would be meeting to elect a Board of Directors on March 1, 2007 from 7:00 - 9:00pm at HCT. The Association is requiring \$5.00 dues for voting members.

**District 7** - There is one vacancy in the district. Matthew Cohn gave an update on the proceedings of the Urban Wildlife Task Force.

### Old Business

**Water bill stuffer update** - Lynne Boone reported the insert was submitted to the City and will be considered at the March 12, 2007 Commission meeting. Bill Roberts suggested acquiring free posters from Allegra and other print shops in town to promote the neighborhood meetings. Mary Anne Dunwell suggested placing block ads in the Independent Record, Queen City News and on HCTV. Lynne Boone noted with Amy's resignation, she is the lone member of the Public Relations Committee. Please contact Lynne if you are interested in serving on the committee.

**Quality of Life (QOL) Survey Committee report** - Teresa Klotz reported the committee would like the top three issues from the survey (growth and planning, transportation, and bike and pedestrian issues) on the quarterly meeting agendas. The Committee is also hoping to review the QOL survey results with City Department Heads.

**Monthly meeting with the City Manager** - Chair Trafton stated he would discuss the proposed QOL survey review with City Department Heads at the next monthly meeting with the City Manager on March 8, 2007 at 1:00pm in Room 414. He noted the monthly meeting with the Manager is open to one member of the HCC Executive Board and all of the District chairs or their designee. Marshall noted the City/County Planning Board is reviewing the subdivision regulations and further expansion of the city on March 5 and 12, 2007 at 6:00pm in City/County Building Room 309.

Chair Trafton reported the Water Quality Protection District is planning a retreat for March or April to discuss the vision of the district.

Lynne Boone noted the Neighborhood Transportation Specialist position is currently being advertised. Also, the Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed zoning ordinance revisions on March 27, 2007 in the Commission Chambers.

