

Helena Citizen Conservation Board - Regular Meeting

April 14, 2022; 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

1. Diana Hammer, Chair
2. Val Stacey, Vice-Chair
3. Denise Roth Barber, Secretary
4. Ann Brodsky
5. Becca Boslough
6. Steven Costle
7. Liz Grant
8. Patricia Heiser
9. Patrick Judge
10. Carlin Onstad
11. Brian Solan
12. Dick Sloan

Board Members Not Present: Lucy Lantz, Mark Juedeman (excused)

Public present: Cora Helm, Brooke Jenkinson, Dr. G.

City staff present: Ed Coleman, Leea Anderson, Jacki Pierson, Kim Karley

1. Diana began the meeting at 4:31 pm and welcomed all participants.

2. The March 10, 2022 meeting minutes were reviewed. Ann suggested several minor edits. Dick moved to approve with edits, Ann seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Report from the Public Works Department – Leea Anderson and Ed Coleman

The City and County are in the very early stages of developing the Solid Waste Master Plan. As described on the City's Be Heard page, "The City of Helena, in partnership with Lewis and Clark County and key stakeholders, is developing an Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan for the City and County. The plan must evaluate current City, County, and private waste management operations for their efficiency and effectiveness, identify alternatives to current practices, and discuss options for funding sources. Public outreach and education will be a critical component in the development of this Master Plan.

Leea will provide a copy of her presentation to be shared with the Board.

4. Officers' Report – Diana/Mark/Val/Denise

Several relevant OpEds were posted in March:

- [OpEd by Patrick Judge: GHG Emissions and Savings to Taxpayers \(3/17/22\)](#):
- [OpEd by Water Committee re: World Water Day \(3/22/22\)](#):
- Helena Joins [National Mayor's Challenge](#) for Water Conservation – [Take the Pledge](#)

The Mayor raised the issue of Advisory Board activities at the March 23, 2022 Administrative Departmental Meeting. Members of the CCB Executive Board (Diana, Mark, and Denise) and Stan Bradshaw (CCB Water Committee Member) then met with the Public Works Department (Ryan Leland, Ed Coleman, and Leea Anderson) on April 1st to discuss the issue. The concern is not just with the CCB, it's with all City Advisory Boards. The CCB has been asked to coordinate more closely with the City Commission on its activities so the Commission is aware - kind of a 'no surprises' policy. How exactly this 'coordination' will occur is not yet clear but we will begin by sharing our planned activities with the City Commission Clerk's Office and cc'g Ed and Leea. To that end, Diana asked that each Committee share any upcoming activities with the Executive Committee so we can better coordinate with the City. Diana mentioned that if Mark were in attendance, he would suggest we request that one of the City Commissioners be assigned to the CCB. Patrick suggested we formally make this request. Ed clarified that this is a 'work in progress' and that the CCB should provide information to the City and they can follow-up with any questions. He also reiterated that the CCB is not being singled out and that the City is trying to have some consistency among all its Advisory Boards.

Reminder: the CCB Committees need to comply with the Open Meeting requirements (if a quorum exists) and publicly notice our meetings. Please send the Meeting day/time/location and Agenda to Jake Garcin, City PIO, so he can post them and put them on the calendar. Committee meeting minutes should be sent to Ed and Leea, who will maintain a file.

5. Unfinished Business

Diana noted that the CCB needs to develop its priorities for the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). To that end, committees are asked to consider what funding they would like to request. Please submit to Diana this coming month. Dick suggested that one of our requests be for a FT Sustainability Coordinator. Ann suggests that we recommend a budget item of \$20,000 for waste reduction education efforts. Becca suggested we look at some potential grants for funding these efforts and potentially could use any City funds as matching funds for any grant. The timing is tight - we need to have a draft Budget Letter for the full CCB to review at the May meeting; the CCB would then send a letter to the Commission in early June with our budget recommendations.

6. Committee & Project Team Reports

Energy & Transportation – Pat reported that the committee did not meet this past month so there was no report out

Communication Committee - Liz reported that the committee did not meet this past month so there was no report out

Water – Val reported that the Water Committee is planning several water-related activities/workshops this summer in coordination with the Lake Helena Watershed Group and

the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District. Also continuing to develop the WaterWise Garden Tour (virtual and in-person) for this summer.

Waste - Denise serves on the SW Master Plan city/county Steering Committee. A firm was selected to develop the plan - Great West Engineering *and* Burns and McConnell. The committee is meeting biweekly. Next step is to finalize the scope and the cost.

The City of Helena is continuing its work with Zero Waste Associates (ZWA) on the development of the Strategic Waste Reduction Plan. ZWA will present the plan to the community on **Wednesday June 8th, from 4:30 - 6:00pm** (via Zoom)

7. Emerging Issues / Other Business

We will consider a CCB Board retreat in early fall

We will consider meeting in person in May - if so, the meeting will be a hybrid-meeting. The next CCB meeting will be Thursday, May 12 and will focus on the City Budget and we will also hear from the student CCB Board members graduating this spring: Lucy Lantz from Helena High School and Carlin Onstad from Capital High School.

8. Diana thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting around 6 pm.