



**Helena International Affairs Council  
10/21/08 Minutes  
DRAFT**

**Welcome and Introductions**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE	AFFILIATES IN ATTENDANCE	GUESTS
Gabe Furshong	Will Garvin		
Jessica Peterson, Chair Mark Annas, Secretary			
Shahid Haque- Hausrath	Alex Rincón		
vacant			
vacant			
Campbell Pryor			

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Meeting brought to order at 5:17. Mark was introduced to Shahid.

**Review Agenda, Approve Minutes:**

Minutes for October reviewed. Jesse motioned they be approved, seconded by Gabe. Approved unanimously.

**Discussion and vote on costs for HCTV editing:**

We have \$3500 currently in our budget to spend. It would cost \$500 per quarter, or per show for the editing, use of HCTV's equipment. Mark suggested we have a MOA, to address specifically what that \$500 would bring. Jesse has spoken in broad terms with Steve about an agreement. Not knowing how the shows will go, discussion centered on what we would get for the \$500. It was felt HCTV would give a good product for the \$500. The first year it would be \$2000 (for 4 shows). Gabe will approach HCTV as to what the \$500 would bring, and develop some document which would capture their thoughts. An agreement would address the issue of accountability (using public monies), as well as having a formal benchmark in the HIAC/HCTV relationship. Having HCTV help with the production would allow for more a more dramatic production (music, effects). We could use "off the shelf" music that's available at HCTV. In time could we present an original score concept to area schools. Jesse moved we spend \$1000 for FY09 (ending in June, 09) for 2 productions. This would be a vote for the concept of spending the money; contingent on Gabe obtaining a document broadly identifying this relationship. It was seconded by Gabe, approved unanimously. Gabe expressed a desire to move expeditiously on the first production. We will stay with the original theme of Health (possible foci: the s-chip program, Baucus having recently presented his health plan). Mark will likely work with Doreen, a potential new HIAC member. Jesse or Gabe could arrange a luncheon previous to the beginning of December for purposes of introducing them.

Mark will followup with Steve re. the training discussed previously, which had been sidelined due to Kirsten's health. Advised we try to have the training in Dec. Will ask Steve, Kirsten what times they have available in Dec., and report that time back to HIAC. Briefly discussed doing art theme for fall '09 broadcast.

### **Discussion and Vote on HIAC "Your Turn" column in the IR:**

Some of the HIAC members have written "Your Turn" pieces. Jesse felt each HIAC member taking turns would heighten our visibility, and facilitate dialogue on important issues. This might also heighten citizen involvement in issues before them as citizens of Helena. She cautioned these pieces should not be political. Some topics could include direction of growth for the City of Helena. Jesse shared there will be a growth planning meeting in the near future, to be sponsored by the City and Planning Committee of Helena. These themes could then be compared to how the particular theme is playing out in other cities. Campbell stated there may be changes at the IR regarding "Your Turn" pieces. Gabe wondered if it's like a guest editorial. Jesse would like to see HIAC do about 3 a year. She had also sent a link to a "Your Turn" in one of her recent emails to HIAC members. Campbell felt we should vote on any "Your Turn" pieces prior to it being submitted. Members would have flexibility to choose the topic. Gabe felt we should write down a protocol vis a vis the intent/purpose, and make that available for City Commission members, the Mayor, and Debbie Havens, City Clerk. Jesse will write a draft protocol for presentation for next meeting.

### **Website Photos and Bio Update**

Thanks given for those who have submitted their bios. David A., the city employee involved with website development, will come to our next month's meeting to show us a template of our site. Intent is for it to be transparent, totally public, links for citizens to give comments, and interactive. Next month will be a vote on the website template.

### **Past and Future event:**

Shahid and Gabe, in Jesse's absence, will present HIAC's Annual Report to the City Commission on Dec. 1, 2008.

Also, we should begin discussing what additional budget needs there are for HIAC; will need to have some idea by Jan., Feb. of '09. Will need to vote on Vice Pres. For HIAC at the January, 2009 meeting. Jesse met with a member of the Citizen's Council, Julie Hachnel, today. She will come to our next month's meeting. Jesse may present at an upcoming Citizen's Council meeting. Jesse has met with a member of Gov. Schweitzer's office, as a potential HIAC member, but she may be leaving within the year. Discussed other potential members; Umoh Essiet was mentioned by Shahid. Tony Warren, who does international work for coffee traders, was suggested by Gabe. Gabe will pursue that with him. Gabe asked how we could more functionally serve immigrants in Helena. Shahid said he would be contacting the Archdiocese about a possible workshop on immigration issues. Campbell stated Helena is positioning itself as the Learning City, and thought it would be helpful to go into schools to draw in young people to international issues. As an example, she stated it would have been interesting to see how people in different cultures celebrate Christmas. Jesse stated there are indigenous issues which also could be part of HIAC's activities; specifically the Native American population. Gabe encouraged HIAC members make contacts with people who already are involved with immigration issues. Shahid will speak with the state refugee coordinator. Would be good to have a link from our site to any this coordinator might suggest. Gabe asked about contacts to Montana Legal Services, and rural employment. Gabe will contact Rural Employment Opportunities, who do outreach to migrant workers in MT. Mark will contact the Montana Legal Services. Jesse stated she would contact Denise Juneau, newly elected Supt. of Public

Instruction. Gabe wondered about MT Business Assistance. Jesse will make contact with them. Purpose is to get ideas as to what overlap their might be; what information they may have which could help HIAC be more functional, and a benefit to citizens of Helena. We can, for example, let these organizations know we have a website with an international theme. Shahid wondered if HIAC is interested in doing events with other organizations, such as Montana Legal Services. Campbell stated it would be good to get out more into the mainstream of what's happening in Helena, for example doing something with an already established art event, or doing something that is educational for children, specifically middle school aged.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment. Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.