



Hispanic Advisory Committee Minutes

March 17, 2025

Chair Alberto Munoz opened the Meeting at 7:00pm. Committee member(s) present was Jessica De La Cruz; Jesse Roa was excused. Also present were Council representatives Maria Duron and Jeff Kelso, as well as staff representative City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Youth Advisors present were Sarahi Gutierrez Ayala, Rebecca Godoy, Jeannine Heredia, and Aviana Navejar. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Meeting Minutes

Jessica moved and Alberto seconded to approve the minutes of the January meeting and February event. Motion carried unanimously.

Family Health Associates with Information on Immigration Physicals

Alejandra Monclova stated Dr. Earl at Family Health Associates is the only physician in the area who is approved by the Immigration Department to administer Immigration Physicals. Individuals from the region, including Spokane, Yakima, Walla Walla, are all seen by Dr. Earl for this service and appointments are booked out months in advance once the Immigration Department or Immigration Attorneys give clients the go-ahead to have them done. Physicals are a flat fee of \$350.00, however there can be additional fees if lab work or vaccines are needed. Those seeking additional information are encouraged to call the office where bilingual staff can address any questions at 541-567-6434.

Washington Federal (WaFD) Bank with information about ITIN numbers being used for Bank Accounts

Rosalba Salinas from WaFD stated she would like to dispel many rumors that are spreading on social media and being shared within the community. Recently, a rumor has started that all bank accounts using ITIN numbers are being closed and individuals are unable to withdraw funds from these accounts. This rumor is causing fear and panic within the community who use ITIN numbers for their bank accounts as customers are going to WaFD to close accounts and withdraw funds. When this happens, WaFD staff members are letting them know that what they are hearing is false but would like to share this information so the Committee can help dispel rumors and give accurate information. WaFD cares about people and the community and services are the same for all customer regardless of legal status. However, WaFD does recommend account holders have trusted joint owners and/or beneficiaries on their accounts just in case they are not able to access their account for any reason.

Rosalba was thanked for sharing this information and her efforts to stop fear mongering.

Select 2025 Committee Goals and Calendar Events

After reviewing the possible goals and calendar events as discussed at the January meeting, the Committee unanimously agreed on the following:

Events to include:

1. ASAP: Immigration/Know Your Rights (organizers)- COMPLETED – Held event on February 16th
2. May 2-4: Cinco de Mayo (booth/volunteers)
 - Jessica stated she is part of the Cinco de Mayo Committee (not a City Committee) and there has been talks about canceling this year's event due to the environment of fear currently taking place. The Committee will be meeting soon to decide.



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3. Saturday, August 16th Melon Fest (booth)
4. August: Back to School Event at Harrison Park with Made to Thrive (booth/volunteer)
5. Sept 15 - Oct 15: Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration (organizers)
 - The Committee spoke regarding dedicating additional time to plan this event and work with other community partners to make this event more successful
6. Oct 31 – Nov 1: Dia de Los Muertos (booth)

Goals to include:

1. Efforts to increase the Latino Vote
2. Marketing HAC and their meetings to attain more public meeting attendance by:
 - a. Additional outreach, engagement, and increased visibility in the community with information about HAC “to build trust about who we are and what we do” by:
 - Creating short in-person surveys given/taken during community events asking community members what is important to them so HAC has a better understanding of items HAC could focus on.
 - Have HAC information, including meeting days/times, already printed in a convenient way that can be easily given out to the public at community and other events. – COMPLETED- Business cards were created and given to Committee members for disbursement.
 - HAC Tablecloth and Red Cards, as requested at the last meeting, were also ordered and given to Committee members for disbursement.
 - b. Jeff spoke regarding the Juntos Club at the High School and suggested that perhaps a HAC member could be a liaison or mentor in this group to help with HAC outreach efforts
 - Alberto volunteered to reach out to this group to possibly be a liaison

Youth Advisors spoke regarding many students, whether they participate in clubs or not, would really like to help at these events if they are given information with enough notice.

Closing Comments

Public Comments

Virgina Rome Garcia, 435 E Sunset Dr- stated she recently noticed a \$6.XX penalty on her water/sewer bill and went to City Hall for an explanation on this issue as she is on autopay and should not have received a penalty. She stated she was not satisfied with the response she was given and asked that we all take the time to look at bills received and speak to the City about this issue. Virginia also stated she is grateful for the leak alert system the City has as it caught a leak that was happening in her home which saved her a lot of money. Virginia also spoke regarding Sarah, one of the City’s Customer Service Representatives, who she said she observed helping a Spanish speaking gentleman and being very kind, patient and explaining everything so well in Spanish.

Alberto thanked Virgina for attending and speaking about her concerns.

Rosalba Salinas asked if the Committee could publicize more information about events like Cinco de Mayo and the Umatilla County Fair Parade like the Downtown District does with a poster that highlights the coming months events.



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The Committee explained that both of these events are not City events and City events are posted throughout the City, including the Hermiston Live Calendar on the City's website, which was being displayed on the room monitors.

Committee Comments

Per the request of Alberto, Lilly spoke regarding the four application that have been received to fill the two vacancies, as well as a possible fifth application that may be received as another community member has shown interest in applying and gave information regarding the City's application review process which includes background checks, interviews by the Vacancy Review Board made up of the Mayor and two Council members, and applicant confirmations by the City Council at two City Council meetings; the entire process usually takes a couple of months.

Alberto spoke regarding the Immigration Event that HAC organized last month stating Immigration Attorney Eamon Roach did a great job giving facts and information.

Youth Representatives

Jeannine stated with graduation just around the corner, seniors have been very busy. Asked that anyone who has or knows 8th graders to encouraged them to really pay attention during Fly Up Day at the High School as a lot of important information is given.

Rebecca announced May 27th is Scholarship Night and encouraged individuals to reach out to Mrs. Bustillos for help with FASFA.

City Representatives

Maria stated she recently attended a Conference in Washington DC. Being an immigrant herself, she was so excited and extremely grateful for the opportunity the City gave her to travel to a place she's only ever seen on TV and be able to speak and represent the Community on issues that are important to our region.

Jeff stated he is excited to hear about the four applicants for this committee.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, April 21st at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:13pm.