



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2025

Present were Dan Mahon, Terry Cummings, James Lafolette, Assistant City Recorder Heather La Beau and Council Representative Allen Hayward. Chris Hankel was excused. Council Representative Jackie Linton was not present. The meeting was opened in prayer at 4:03pm.

Public Comment

None given.

Introduction of new Council Representative, Councilor Allen Hayward

Brief introductions were made to welcome Councilor Hayward, new Council Representative to the committee. Councilor Hayward stated he is the sound man at his church and he and his wife are heavily involved with Campus Life.

Hermiston School District Communication

Dan shared he was able to meet with Dr. Tricia Mooney, Superintendent of the Hermiston School District, and was encouraged by the conversation. Dr. Mooney acknowledged and expressed gratitude for the faith-based community and work they do to help meet the needs of students.

Discussion followed regarding the need for updates from churches involved with the school adoption program. Suggestions included:

- Updated list of churches and schools and providing list to Dr. Mooney
- Include administrative & facilities personnel along with school faculty
- More communication with churches on activities and ways to support schools

Joe inquired about the program and was provided with the program guidelines. The program's intent is for churches to build relationships with the adopted school to meet the individual needs of the school while offering encouragement and support. Past activities have included prayer, staff lunches, readers, listeners, hygiene bags, coats, gloves, boots, and other tangible items.

Dan and James will follow-up by contacting the churches for updates after receiving the list from Lilly.

Committee Members Vacancy(s) and Applicant(s)

Rafael has applied for the vacant member position and his application will be reviewed by the Vacancy Review Board this month. If the application is recommended for appointment, it will be placed on the council agenda for two consecutive meetings, prior to becoming effective. The committee is pleased with the possibility of additional outreach to the Latino faith-based community.

FBAC & Faith Community Impact on the City

Dan suggested a survey study with the faith-based community to gather feedback regarding the capacity in which churches are serving the city as a whole and departments within the city. Several attendees shared their experience involving slim response from churches when attempting to reach out. Councilor



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Hayward mentioned a Facebook post on the city's account would allow individual church attendees to respond. James suggested city departments be invited to the committee meetings to share ideas of ways to serve. Dan and Terry will coordinate their church lists to compile a master list.

Faith & First Responders Event Update

Terry stated that after several years of partnering with the Kiwanis Kids Day, this year the event will be different. This year's event is being combined with the I Love My City activities on May 17 at McKenzie Park.

Food Insecurities Update

Dan reported the most recent quarterly lunch in October saw ten organizations represented. The next meeting is scheduled for later in January.

When asked, Jessalyn noted that there was an abundance of people helping at Stepping Stones in the month of December, but January has slowed considerably, with no one signing up to prepare meals. They are doing well using their reserved food, feeding approximately 40 meals a night.

Next Meeting

After discussing the accountability benefits of more frequent meetings, James moved, and Dean seconded to meet in February and March and then reevaluate meeting frequency. Motion passed. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 4 at 4:00PM in the large conference room at City Hall.

Minutes

No action was taken on the November 2024 minutes. No meeting was held in December.

Adjournment

There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned in prayer at 4:53pm.