



# Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2024

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Present were Chris Hankel, and Dan Mahon. Members James Lafolette, Terry Cummings, and Dean Hackett were not present. Also present was City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong, Code Enforcement Official Daniel Taylor, and Council representatives Rod Hardin and Jackie Linton. The meeting was opened in prayer by Dan at 4:04pm.

## **Minutes**

March 5<sup>th</sup> minutes were unable to be voted on as there was not a quorum present. No meeting was held in April.

## **Stepping Stones Alliance Update**

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) Executive Director Jesalyn Cole gave updates to include:

- Average number of guests stays is about 14 people per night, with an unusual high of 23 for spring weather. Guest stays continue to increase with about 500 stays in April and about 50 new guests who say they are just passing through the area
- SSA is hiring various positions and have received many applications. They hope to have new staff hired soon
- SSA moved to its permanent location last week. There are a few issues that still need to be addressed and inspections completed before guests are able to be issued individual units
- Shuttle bus pick up/drop off will change from City Hall to COPES starting 05/13/2024
- Spoke about outreach efforts for homeless individuals who do not necessarily want/seek assistance from SSA and/or other organizations, ie: those in encampments in the area of Oxbow trail and the River
- Spoke regarding security measures at SSA now and when the individual shelter units come online
- Will be presenting SSA's Quarterly Report to the City Council at Monday's meeting

## **Potential Community Beautification Projects from Code Enforcement**

Code Enforcement Official Daniel Taylor introduced himself stating he has been with the City of Hermiston for about 7 months and would like to work with the FBAC on beautification projects throughout the City, to include: graffiti coverup, weeds control, and helping the elderly and disabled who are unable to care for the outside of their properties.

Daniel was asked to build a list of properties where services were needed and share those with Lilly on a reoccurring schedule so she can forward them on to FBAC for possible church service projects.

## **May 12-18 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week**

Chris stated Terry was scheduled to speak about this but was unable to attend. Magnets and ribbons in support of Law Enforcement are available in the lobby at City Hall.



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## **I Love My City Update**

Chris stated the I Love My City event is scheduled to take place May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> will be community service activities with the Recycling Day Event at New Hope Church, and Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> will be the City-Wide Worship Service at EOTEC. Currently, 18 churches are participating with Kiwanis, Wal-Mart, and others. Free haircuts will be offered to children and the homeless in the parking lot of Sherwin Williams, and a diaper drive will also be held at Agape House on Saturday.

Chris stated he has recently been approached by the Bureau of Reclamation in an effort to clean up land by Oxbow Trail with I Love My City support.

## **2024 Committee Service Goals – Food Insecurities Update**

Dan stated no additional progress has been made/needs to be reported; however, his church purchased and re-bagged over 350lbs of rice and beans last month as Agape House had ran out of food and would not have their normal food shipment come in for another two weeks. Dan stated after hearing this, his church has decided to continue with this effort each month.

## **Public Comment**

None given.

## **Next Meeting**

Chris and Dan felt the Committee should meet in June as a quorum was not present today. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the Large Board Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall.

## **Adjournment**

There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned in prayer by Rod at 4:42pm.