



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2026

Present were committee members Dan Mahon, James Lafolette, Rafael Vargas, and Chaplain Terry Cummings. Joe Sharon was absent. Planning Assistant Heather La Beau was in attendance. Council Representative Allen Hayward was excused. Council Representative Jackie Linton was absent. No Youth Advisors attended the meeting. Rafael opened the meeting in prayer at 4:05pm.

Minutes

Terry moved and James seconded to approve the April 21, 2026, minutes. Motion carried unanimously with Dan, James, Rafael, and Terry all voting in favor.

Public Comment

None given.

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) Updates: SSA Executive Director Jesalyn Cole delivered an update on Stepping Stones to include:

- Groundwork has begun for the outdoor kitchen cover & contractor hired for the kitchen work
- Indoor kitchen suppression system is being installed
- Boardman & Irrigon have signed agreements with PATH
- Sleep Center averaging 20 guests a night, which is higher than usual for this time of year

Jessalyn spoke of the organization's current goals to raise funds for connection to city utilities and developing the additional acre of land with apartment buildings. James suggested she contact My Father's House in Gresham as they have similar services.

Faith and First Responders/I Love My City

Terry shared the half-day Faith & First Responders event was a success with several hundred people attending. There were police and fire department vehicles and equipment as well as drones. Activities also included face painting, balloon artists, plenty of giveaways, and lunch provided by Community Fellowship Dinner.

The event has been partnered with other organizations over the years and there is a desire to increase the event and bring the focus back on the youth attendees. It is a wonderful opportunity for pastors and congregations to engage with the community and show support for our first responders.

Dan provided an update for the 10th I Love My City event. The rough weather may have been a factor in participation dropping from the previous year. The event included grounds cleanup at various locations, Laundry Love, haircuts at Stepping Stones, car wash, prayer tent, diaper giveaway, and the recycling event.

Rafael noted there were 45 volunteers for the car wash. They are considering adding a prayer tent to the car wash next year.

Food Insecurity Updates



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Rafael stated their church has signed up to serve Friday lunches at the Catholic Church six times a year. This will be shared 3 times each for the Hispanic and Caucasian congregations. The Friday lunches are serving between 80 – 100 people each week.

James provided information about the hospital's community garden program. GSHS provides the ground area and the water. Elmer's irrigation donates the irrigation supplies and the OSU Master Gardener's help mentor the gardeners. Applications for a plot are available at multiple agencies around town. The Lovin' Spadefuls contact is Chelle Hankinson 541-564-6878.

James is researching ownership of the Lion's food truck to see if there is a possibility of using it to serve meals.

School Adoption Updates

Dan shared that they sponsored a pulled pork staff lunch in May for their school. James' church handed out journals to teachers with suggestions for their use as a year-end contact for their school. Lisa is creating a list of ideas that churches can do for their schools throughout the year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2026, at 4pm at City Hall.

There was no further business and James closed the meeting in prayer at 4:59pm.