Hispanic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2026

Chair Jessica De La Cruz opened the Meeting at 6:01pm. Committee members Carolina Delgado and Janizee Serrano were present. Jacobo Gutierrez and Jesse Roa were absent. Also present was Council representative Maria Duron and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Councilor Jeff Kelso was excused. Youth Advisors Kristian Llernas and Evanie Macias Hernandez were also in attendance. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Introduction of Student Representatives

Kristian Llernas stated he is a Hermiston High School Senior and this is his first year as a student representative and will be attending HAC and Library Meetings.

Evanie Macias Hernandez stated she is a Hermiston High School Junior and became involved because she believes as a member of the Hispanic LGBTQ Community, this group is overlooked and wants an opportunity to be a voice for them.

Latinos in Computer Science Event at the Hermiston Public Library

Zeferino Araiza-Flores joined the Committee via Zoom giving information regarding his attempt to encourage Hispanics and youths to look into computer science careers at Hermiston High School and the Hermiston Public Library as this career field is highly underrepresented by the Latino population. Zeferino stated he will be at the Hermiston High School Tech Day on November 7th and Hermiston Public Library on December 5th facilitating an Awareness Campaign and Resource Guild and encouraged the community, specifically the youth, to attend.

Maria asked that Zeferino share flyers about the events with HAC so they can distribute it and thanked Zeferina, a HHS graduate, for being a trailblazer.

Meeting Minutes

Caroline moved and Janizee seconded to approve the May meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously with Members Carolina, Jessica, and Janizee voting in favor.

Jessica stated HAC did not meet June through September as they planned the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

2026 Committee Goal Tasks

Jessica stated most Goals have been accomplished and is looking forward to establishing new goals next year.

Maria thanked Jessica and Carolina for all their work making the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration a success and encouraged all members of HAC and student representatives from all Committees to help with this event. Maria stated she understands everyone is busy but spoke regarding how time-consuming and stressful planning an event like this can be, especially without a lot of help, and asked if there was an opportunity to combine with Cinco de Mayo or remove the event if help is not received.

Jessica agreed that help is needed for the event, stating 341 community members attended, but would like to remain separate from Cinco de Mayo as Cinco de Mayo is its own group and that event has a more party vibe compared to the Hispanic Heritage Months event that has more of a Family Friendly vibe. Jessica stated she would like to continue to organize this event with help from other HAC members and also continue to attend other community events like Melon Fest, Marisols Event, and others, to represent HAC.

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Closing Comments

From the Public

No members of the public were present.

Committee Comments

None given.

Youth Representatives

None given.

City Representatives

Maria spoke regarding:

- Encouraged student advisors to fully be engaged in their committees, attend LOC & NLC Conferences when given the opportunity, and hopes they will continue to participate in their communities as they grow into adulthood
- Encouraged the public to attend lunch by the Senior Board at the Harkenrider Activity Center, meals are $5.00
- Thanked Willard and Judy Fordice for their 32 years of volunteerism at more than 40 hours per week with the Senior Board
- Promoted the many activities for youth and adults provided by the Parks and Recreation Department
- HWAC (Health, Wellness, and Aquatic Center) Facility conversations happening at the City level with many members of the public coming to City Council meetings to voice their support for the facility; however the facility is expensive and the City is looking for partners
- Encouraged the community to vote

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 17 at 6pm at City Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:42pm.

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