

Chair Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Committee members present were Mark Gomolski, Jesse Roa, and Alberto Munoz. Also present were Council Representatives Maria Duron and Roy Barron, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

## **New Member Introduction- Alberto Munoz**

Alberto Munoz introduced himself stating his desire to be establish roots in the community and doing what he can to make Hermiston the best place to live for his family and thanked the City for the opportunity to be part of the HAC.

The Committee members welcomed Alberto to HAC.

## **Stepping Stones Alliance**

Stepping Stones Alliance Executive Director Jesalyn Cole and Navigation Center Director Carolina Delgado gave updates and information (attached) regarding: the overall program and goals, resources they offer now at their temporary site and what they are working to establish at the permanent site, construction updates to open the permanent site on Bensel Rd, and more.

Jesalyn and Carolina answered questions from the committee and the public stating Stepping Stones:

- Is providing outreach to let the homeless know about the services offered by attending many community events and going onsite, where homeless individuals are known to frequent and giving them information in person
- Has replaced the Warming Station providing these warming services throughout the year instead of only during the winter months
- Current Sleep Center hours are 7pm to 7am but this time changes throughout the year depending on the weather
- The public is welcome to attend a tour of the temporary facility and there will be an Open House once construction of the Sleep Center permanent site has been completed
- The permanent Sleep Center will provide 21 shelter units for those individuals/families who are going through the Navigation Center Program, ie: finding jobs, treatment, working to transition into permanent housing, etc; and 25 emergency shelters for those needing safe and warm sleeping arrangements that do not wish to participate in the Navigation Center Program. Those participating in the Navigation Center Program must work or volunteer their time for at least 15 hours per week.
- Drugs and alcohol are not permitted in the facility. There are repercussions for those who do not adhere to this and other rules, however, the main goal of this program is to continue to help them get the resources they need to succeed
- Individuals and families of all ages and demographics have been given assisted from 19-75. ID's are not required as proof to stay in a shelter
- As of today, there has been a total of more than 2,000 stays with 119 different people. Some are "true transients" meaning they are not locals and are mostly passing through the area, however most people staying at Stepping Stones, from what they have said, are long time members of the community
- Spanish speaking employees/volunteers and literature area available to give information and answer questions regarding the program

Jesalyn and Carolina encouraged the community to volunteer and donate if they can. More information can be found at: <https://stepping-stones-alliance.org/> as well as information regarding Project PATH at:

<https://www.hermiston.or.us/commdev/page/project-path>

## Meeting Minutes

Mark moved and Alberto seconded to approve the minutes of the May meeting. Motion carried unanimously. (There were no meetings held in June or July)

## Changing Monthly Meetings to Bi-Monthly Meeting

Jose asked that Committee members voice their opinions on whether or not to change the frequency of meetings.

Committee members stated they felt meetings should continue on a monthly basis with summers and the month of December off as summer months are difficult months for the committee and community to attend due to work and many other obligations.

## Community Comment

Virginia Rome and Deloris Veliz echoed the committee members opinions and asked that the committee continue to connect with the community and do more outreach and also thanked the Committee for their commitment.

## Election of Committee Chair through 06/30/2024

Mark moved and Jesse seconded to nominate Jose as the Committee Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

## Election of Committee Vice Chair through 06/30/2024

Alberto moved and Jesse seconded to nominate Mark as the Committee Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

## Closing Comments

### Public Comments

Virginia Rome asked how the HAC could get info out to the community regarding emergencies stating she saw people outside with small children while the air quality was at unhealthy levels due to smoke.

There was some discussion regarding outreach on social media and working with Euvalcree regarding some sort of notification or similar system, as well as helping people find the information on their phones and through Umatilla County Emergency Management who would most likely be the organization pushing this information out. Maria stated she will look further into this issue and report back at the next meeting.

### Committee Comments

Mark asked that the public drive to see improvements made at Agape House.

Jesse asked that the Committee make a motion to sponsor an event he is putting on for the community at the end of the week.

There was some discussion regarding Committee expectations and duties and Lilly was asked to look into this further before the Committee made a motion to sponsor the event in question.

Jose stated he attended a Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area (LUGMA) Community Meeting as one of the newest Board Members stating about 50 people attended the eight hour meeting to learn more about the issues regarding high nitrate levels in well water and what is being done to help provide safe drinking water now and for the future. Jose stated it was very apparent that there is a lot of mistrust of the government from the public regarding this issue and hopes it can be repaired for the good of the community.

### Youth Representatives

None present.

## City Representatives

Roy, Maria, and Lilly spoke on the following:

- City budget deficit and cuts, as well as looking into ways to increase revenues as public safety is a priority
- Recreation Project Advisory Committee meeting and awarding funding to eight non-profit organizations in the community
- Skate Park construction updates
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place infrastructure construction updates and asked that the community continue to support the businesses in the area
- Housing permits continue to be issued
- EOTEC Rebranding
- Renovation Projects for the Library, Harkenrider Senior Center, City Hall, Police Department and ARC buildings
- New businesses coming into the area to include: Popeyes and KFC

## Next Meeting


Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers.


Meeting Adjourned at 8:03pm.

# Who we are

The journey of Stepping Stones Alliance Center began years ago with the experience of a volunteer at the Hermiston Warming Station. The satisfaction of seeing the positive impact on others of a safe, secure shelter during cold winter months, led to the realization that for a larger portion of the year no such resource was available. Whatever the weather, cold or hot or wet or windy, the lack of shelter from the elements and any assurance of personal safety became a concern that couldn't be disregarded.

## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

 (541)371-7084

 80487 US Hwy 395  
Hermiston, OR. 97838

We are located North of Hermiston in the former Sears; now the AGRILABOR building



## SLEEP CENTER

An overnight emergency shelter in  
Hermiston



## Our Mission

The mission of Stepping Stones Alliance is to provide stepping stones -shelter, basic needs and supports that can lead to stability- to people experienciing homelessness in Umatilla county, Oregon.

### 1. Free Transportation

- Be at the parking lot of the Hermiston City Hall before 7:15pm.

### 2. Free meals

- Dinner and breakfast are available.

### 3. Free parking

- Secure parking on site if you have your own car.

### 4. Pet friendly

- Kennel is provided while at the Sleep Center.



## Our Hours of Operation

every night


7:30pm –  
7:30am



# Quiénes somos

El trayecto del Stepping Stones Alliance Center comenzó hace años con la experiencia de un voluntario en la Estación de Calentamiento de Hermiston. La satisfacción de ver el impacto positivo en los demás de un refugio seguro y protegido durante los fríos meses de invierno, le llevó a darse cuenta de que durante la mayor parte del año no había tal recurso disponible. Independientemente del clima, frío o caliente, húmedo o ventoso, la falta de protección contra los elementos y cualquier garantía de seguridad personal se convirtió en una preocupación que no podía pasarse por alto.

## CÓMO PONERSE EN CONTACTO

 (541)371-7084

 80487 US Hwy 395  
Hermiston, OR. 97838

Estamos ubicados al norte de Hermiston en el antiguo Sears; ahora el edificio AGRILABOR



## CENTRO DE DORMIR

Un refugio de emergencia durante la noche en Hermiston

[stepping-stones-alliance.org](http://stepping-stones-alliance.org)



## Nuestra Misión

La misión de Stepping Stones Alliance es proporcionar peldaños (refugio, necesidades básicas y apoyos que pueden conducir a la estabilidad) a las personas sin hogar en el condado de Umatilla, Oregón.

1.

### Transporte gratuito

- Esté en el estacionamiento del Ayuntamiento de Hermiston antes de las 7:15p.m.

2.

### Comidas gratis

- La cena y el desayuno están disponibles.

3.

### Estacionamiento gratis

- Estacionamiento seguro en el lugar si tiene su propio automóvil.

4.

### Mascota amigable

- La caseta de perro se proporciona mientras está en el Centro de Dormir. . . . .



## Nuestro Horario de Atención

cada noche

7:30pm –  
7:30am

