



# Hispanic Advisory Committee Minutes

## November 17, 2025

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Chair Alberto Munoz opened the Meeting at 7:00pm. Committee member(s) present were Jesse Roa and Jessica De La Cruz. Carolina Delgado and Maryanna Hardin were excused. Also present were Council representatives Maria Duron and Jeff Kelso, as well as staff representative City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Youth Advisor Kari Bazan was also in attendance (arrived at 7:14pm). The pledge of allegiance was given.

### **Introduction of Newest HAC Member Maryanna Hardin**

Alberto announced that Maryanna Hardin had just recently resigned from the Committee and encouraged members of the Committee to apply.

### **Oregon Department of Human Services- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Government Shutdown Information**

Representatives from the ODHS spoke regarding requirements for able bodied adults to receive benefits must be employed, receive unemployment, be pregnant, be a part-time student, volunteer, be in training, or the like. Benefits are also not long-term with a stopping point of three months. Some immigrants are still receiving benefits and will continue to receive benefits as long as they continue to qualify. Those that no longer qualify for benefits are receiving letters with this information. Information is also being shared via social media and other avenues. There will be additional changes to Medicaid within the next 12-18 months. Individuals are encouraged to contact ODHS if they have additional questions or concerns and are asked to be cautious of the misinformation that is being spread.

Rosa Armenta from Oregon Health Authority stated they are working diligently to make sure all persons have health care and can be contacted for questions or concerns.

(Youth Advisor Kari Bazan arrived 7:14pm)

### **Euvalcree's Food Pantry**

Marissa Avila and Angeles Padilla from Euvalcree gave information regarding the Food Pantry offered at Euvalcree serving families from Umatilla County. They have seen an increase in numbers for those in need and are also always accepting donations, however cash donations are not accepted at this time.

### **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration**

Alberto and Jeff stated the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on October 4<sup>th</sup> was a great success with many in attendance. There were lots of different types of entertainment, raffles, resource booths, and much more. The Committee thanked all those who participated in the event and all those who volunteered to put on the event.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Alberto moved and Jesse seconded to approve the May meeting minutes. Jesse asked Lilly if the meeting minutes were amended. Lilly stated no, as a request to amend the minutes was not made by committee members. Role was not taken. No meetings were held June-October.



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### Review 2025 Committee Goals and Calendar Events

Events to include:

1. ASAP: Immigration/Know Your Rights (organizers)
  - Completed – Held event on February 16<sup>th</sup>
2. May 4: Cinco de Mayo (booth/volunteer)
  - Completed
3. Saturday, August 16th Melon Fest (booth)
  - Completed- held August 16<sup>th</sup>
4. August: Back to School Event at Harrison Park with Made to Thrive (booth/volunteer)
  - No updates to report
5. Sept 15 - Oct 15: Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration (organizers)
  - Completed- held on October 4<sup>th</sup>
6. Oct 31 – Nov 1: Dia de Los Muertos (booth)
  - Completed- held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jeff stated he attended and volunteered and was really impressed by the event organizers and volunteers who made this event a success.

Goals to include:

1. Efforts to increase the Latino Vote
  - No update to report
2. Marketing HAC and their meetings to attain more public meeting attendance by:
  - Completed- Alberto stated this is tied to the events HAC is volunteering at and organizing to spread the word about HAC and he has seen a difference this is making by building relationships with other organizations.

### Elect Chair and Vice Chair through July 2026

The Committee agreed to table these discussions and votes until the next meeting so Caroline could be present, stating they have a great working relationship and being Chair and Vice Chair is really just a formality for their Committee.

### Closing Comments

#### Public Comments

None given.

#### Committee Comments

None given.

### Youth Representatives

Kari Bazan apologized for being late stating she also has a responsibility to attend School Board Meetings during this same meeting timeframe, introduced herself, and thanked the Committee for allowing her to participate.

### City Representatives

Maria and Jeff spoke regarding:

- How proud of the Committee they are for the work they do



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- Suggested committee members reach out to the Chamber of Commerce to provide interpreting services during the City Council Candidate Forum as the Chamber hosts this event and possibly set up a booth to help people register to vote during events and/or meetings?
  - Virginia Garcia Rome stated she and others would volunteer to do this if needed
- Mandatory Curbside Recycling Services
- Municipal Court Updates
- Completed Remodeled Library- encouraged the public to see it
- City Council and HAC Goal Setting Sessions in January

### **City Updates Presented By City Manager Byron Smith**

Byron presented information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) City updates to include: Carnegie Library; new communication tools being used by the City in additional efforts to reach the community in various ways; City Chats- asking the community to attend different venues, outside of city buildings, to ask questions and give feedback; asking the community to participate in various city surveys; explaining what the City Charter is and the review process underway; and giving updates on various projects throughout the City. Byron stated he plans to attend HAC meetings a couple of times a year to give similar City updates.

Byron asked the Committee to consider moving the HAC meetings to the Library as the County gave additional funding for the Library remodel in an effort to enhance the Library as a Multicultural Resource Center. Byron stated the Library is working towards this effort and it would be a good addition to host HAC meetings there as a way to encourage the public's use of the Library. Byron also asked that the Committee consider meeting a different day of the week to better align with the Library's hours of operation.

Jessica stated meetings held in the Library would be better than City Hall.

Alberto stated meetings held Tuesday-Thursday may be better but would like to discuss this in further detail at another time so Carolina can be a part of the decision. Jesse and Kari agreed that changing the day of the week would be best as well.

### **Next Meeting**

Next Meeting: Alberto stated the next meeting is yet to be determined as HAC will be discussing possible meeting schedule changes.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:01pm.



## Outline

- Carnegie Building
- Communication Tools
- City Chats
- Charter Review
- Project Updates



## What is the Carnegie Building?



- Built in 1918 (11 years after Hermiston was incorporated)
- One of nearly 1,700 libraries in the U.S. funded by Andrew Carnegie to improve literacy
- Served as the library until new building was completed in 1986
- Has been used for city offices and temporary library
- Multi-story building with modest upstairs space



## What's Next for the Carnegie?



- Library moved into remodeled building in October 2025
- \$1 million in State Funding secured during the Legislative Session for revitalization
- Civic Leadership Academy Class of 2025 studied options and next steps
- Ideas include history, arts, gatherings, education, youth services, and more.







## Seeking Community Feedback

- Tell us what you think!
- Survey results and other public feedback will help the City determine and refine a revitalization plan

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Share your thoughts about the future of the Carnegie Building.

TAKE THE SURVEY →



HERMISTON.GOV/CARNEGIE



## New Communication Tools

SIGN UP TODAY



INSIDE  
**Hermiston**  
Community Newsletter

- **Inside Hermiston**  
Monthly email newsletter with City, Council and community news

- **Rep'd**  
Website platform to answer questions with short videos

- **My Hermiston App**  
Allows residents to make direct requests and the city to push out alerts and other information



## City Chats

### Next City Chat

January 13, 2026 Hermiston Drug  
4-6pm

PLEASE JOIN US IN 2025-2026

### HERMISTON CITY CHATS

Please join us for open and meaningful conversations about the Hermiston's present and future. City staff and elected officials will share information, answer questions and want important topics to your thoughts and ideas.

If you have a question or comment that you'd like to share but are not able to attend a City Chat event, you can still ask Hermiston at [repd@hermiston](mailto:repd@hermiston) to find answers and connect to city staff.

- **TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 4-6 p.m.**  
The Fountain at Hermiston Drug, 104 E Main St
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 10 a.m.-noon**  
Hawarden West Community House, 555 SW 12th Place
- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1-3 p.m.**  
Russett Nursery & Florist, 465 SE Thacker Lane



## What is a City Charter?

Where Life is Sweet™

## Charter Review

- History of Hermiston Charter
  - Original Adoption on March 15, 1910
  - Modified by several amendments on the following dates:
    - January 24, 1943
    - July 26, 1965
    - May 24, 1966
    - April 3, 1967
    - October 14, 1970
    - March 2, 1976
    - March 8, 1977
    - December 20, 1977
    - November 2, 1982
    - November 8, 1960
    - May 1, 1959
    - May 18, 1956
    - May 18, 1999
    - November 2, 1954
- Current Charter Adopted 2015 After a Comprehensive Review



## Why Charter Review?



Change in the Law



Complexity



Representation



Structure



Accountability



Poor Performance



Standard Practice

**Adopted Council Goal**  
**10 Year's Since Adoption**  
**Review ≠ Change**



## Charter Review Process

- Review Committee
  - David Drotzmann, Chair
  - Monique Brandley
  - Karyn Jones
  - Paul Wolverton
  - Kyndra Stone
  - Rod Hardin
  - Val Hoxie
- Look at the whole charter
- Recommendations to Council
- Potential Ballot Measure



## Project Updates

- Geer/Harper Realignment- full design expected by fall
- N. 1<sup>st</sup> Place Sidewalk (additional ROW with UPRR has begun)
- Various Water/Sewer Projects
  - Lines/Wells/Lift Stations







## Project Updates

- **Aquifer Storage/Recovery**
  - ~1400 feet deep








## Project Updates

- **Hangar Replacement** – ‘kit’ delivered and set up has begun
- **Sherman Park** – design is nearly complete
- **Public Safety Center** – Interior Work Progressing; parking lot paving complete





## Project Updates

- **Library** – Final punch list items.







## Project Updates

- **Library** –








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**QUESTIONS??**

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