



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2025

Present were committee members Dan Mahon, Rafael Vargas, Terry Cummings, Joe Sharon, and James Lafolette (arrived at 4:08pm). Also present were Council Representative Allen Hayward and Planning Assistant Heather La Beau. Council Representative Jackie Linton was not in attendance. Joe opened the meeting in prayer at 4:03pm.

Minutes

James moved and Rafael seconded to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2025, regular meeting. Motion passed.

Public Comment

None given.

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) Updates SSA Executive Director Jessalyn Cole invited everyone to a showing of the movie, No Address, on August 20 at 7pm at the Hermiston Cinema. Seating capacity has increased to 425 for the show. Registered is required for this free event. Donations will be accepted. The film depicts the struggles of a group of homeless people in an unforgiving community.

Jessalyn provided additional updates on awning installation, shower trailer replacement, and installing automation at the main gate. Tickets are available now for Stepping Stones Alliance's fundraising gala and auction scheduled for October 11.

The shelter continues to be busy, seeing between 4 and 12 people a night. Most of the clients are from the area. There are currently 6 unoccupied units. Clients are fulfilling necessary requirements to occupy 4 of the units. A suggestion was made to reach out to venues to make them aware the shelter will accept left over food from events.

Food Insecurity

Solid Rock Community Church, located at 140 SW 2nd St, hosted a barbeque on July 1 along with Oasis Church, New Hope Church, Good Shepherd Hospital, and Euvalcree. Approximately 20 community members attended and were able to make connections. Joe offered the LDS church on 11th & W Highland Ave for a future event.

Oasis Church has been hosting a vegetable give-away on Thursday evenings, with produce from their on-site garden. Roughly 40 families a week have benefited.

School Adoption support

A current list of churches and adopted schools will be sent out to the members. Dan will create a shared Google document for members to list ideas of ways to support and encourage the schools.

Made to Thrive Community Outreach

Rafael reported Made to Thrive will be giving away backpacks at Harrison Park on August 23 at 6pm. A



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meal, vegetables, haircuts, and backpacks will be available. As Made to Thrive seeks additional funding, it was suggested a presentation be made to the city council.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9 at 4pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located at 1035 SE 9th St.

Adjournment

There was no other business, and Terry adjourned the meeting in prayer at 5:01pm.