

Chair Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:03pm welcoming everyone to the first HAC meeting in the new City Hall building. Present were Committee members Mark Gomolski, Council Representatives Roy Barron (arrived at 7:21pm) and Maria Duron (arrived at 7:51pm), and Assistant City Recorder Heather La Beau. Youth Advisors Fernando Morales Garay and Jayson Gutierrez were also present. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Minutes

No action was taken as there was not a quorum present.

County Commissioner Candidate Susan Bower (via Zoom)

Ms. Bower stated that the Latino community is important and she has learned much from Jose. She encouraged everyone to vote on Nov 8th, stating there are many important items on the ballot. Some of her priorities if elected are:

- Spanish translations of county communications (i.e. agendas, minutes, notices)
- Establish a Hispanic Advisory Committee at the county level
- Ensuring diverse committees by bringing awareness of the opportunities to serve
- Stronger Spanish language presence at the county for serving citizens
- Prioritizing the proposed Cultural Center
- Expanding the existing program for high school students to tour county facilities for career exploration
- Adding a Youth Advisor Council at the county

Ms. Bower encouraged attendees to view her website where Spanish translations are available. She would like to attend HAC meetings on a regular basis. She plans to support the Spanish business community and would like to bring back a county program she helped administer with former Commissioner Elfering. Information regarding a Zoom call she is hosting on Friday is available on her website.

Committee members thanked Susan for attending and for her interest in the Latino community.

Euvalcree Presentation

No one from the organization was available to present.

Closing Comments

Public Comments

Virginia Garcia- Ms. Garcia stated that she enjoyed Ms. Bower's presentation, but has reserved feelings. She feels it is a conflict of interest for HAC committee members to endorse a particular candidate and it should not be done.

Representatives from the City

Roy, Maria, Jayson, and Heather spoke on the following:

- City Hall building - highlights county partnership and room for Hermiston to grow
- Two LTREZ agreements approved
- SHURA plan for development north of Feedville
- HEROS sports fields at EOTEC
- Treats on Main Oct 31
- Jazz Band Concert Oct 19
- High School mentorship program suggested by Jayson implemented, still more work to do
- Parent Teacher Conferences Oct 24-28
- Fall Welcome at HHS Oct 24 & 26
- FAFSA assistance Nov 1 at Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center
- Nuestro Futuro, a group for Spanish speaking parents at HHS

Committee Comments

Jose reported there were some logistical issues at Sunday's vaccination event held on Festival St. There were 300 attendees. Scheduling of additional events is dependent on the weather.

The Agape House is hosting several upcoming events to include

- Oct 20 10-2 Sign ups for Salvation Army food baskets
- Oct 27 Coat giveaway
- Dec 15, 16, & 19 Christmas Express

People are encouraged to provide names of those who need food/toys through the Christmas Express program.

Next Meeting

Monday, November 21 at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59pm.