



Where Life is Sweet

FAITH-BASED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2nd Floor Large Conference Room, City Hall, 180 NE 2nd
Street

June 04, 2024 at 4:00 PM

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME / INVOCATION**
2. **MINUTES- No meeting was scheduled in April**
 - A. Minutes of the March 5th Meeting
 - B. Minutes of the May 7th Meeting
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Stepping Stones Alliance
 - B. Faith and First Responder event in October
 - C. Plan to reach out to new Mayor
5. **CHECK-INS / UPDATES / REPORTS**
 - A. I Love My City Update
 - B. Food Insecurity Update
6. **OTHER**
7. **NEXT MEETING**
 - A. Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024 at 4pm in the Large Conference Room on the Second Floor of City Hall. Meetings are not held in July or August.
8. **BENEDICTION**

**** AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE****

Please contact Hermiston City Hall, 180 NE 2nd St, Hermiston, OR 97838 (Phone No. 541-567-5521) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time if you need an

accommodation. TTY and TDD users please call Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900 or 711.



Where Life is Sweet

Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2024

Present were James Lafolette, Chris Hankel, and Dan Mahon. Members Terry Cummings and Dean Hackett were not present. Also present was City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong and Council representatives Rod Hardin and Jackie Linton. The meeting was opened in prayer by Rod at 4:07pm.

Minutes

Dan moved and Chris seconded to approve the January minutes. Motion carried unanimously. No meeting was held in February.

Community Musical Unity Celebration

Jackie stated Julie Puzey was unable to attend the meeting to give information regarding the event.

Lilly stated event information has been posted to the City's website under the Hermiston Live Calendar at: <https://www.hermiston.or.us/hermiston-live#event=77296210;instance=20240413190000?popup=1>

Which includes details of the Community Musical Unity Celebration, held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the Hermiston High School Auditorium. The event is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and free to the public; those with questions are encouraged to call 808-561-1496.

The Community Musical Unity Celebration is a collaborative event in the Hermiston area with the goal of nurturing UNITY, RESPECT, and UNDERSTANDING. Join us for an evening of outstanding music and inspirational messages presented by community members representing various ethnic, cultural, racial, social and religious backgrounds.

Stepping Stones Alliance Update

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) Executive Director Jesalyn Cole gave updates to include:

- A wonderful amount of donations and support that is regularly receive from the community, including food, and financial gifts to purchase necessities
- Volunteers have dropped by about 50%, from about 40 individuals to about 20 individuals and SSA is very much in need of volunteers and nightly meals to continue to remain open every night and serve those in need. SSA is grateful for all the support received that allows them to remain open
- Average number of guests has increased and SSA is seeing closer to 16 people each night. In January and February SSA had close to 400 stays by 41 and 51 (respectfully) unduplicated individuals
- SSA received a grant to purchase a shuttle bus to transport guests to and from the Sleep Center to Hermiston City Hall. The shuttle bus will also be used to for transportation needs to/from appointments and other guest needs
- SSA is hiring a shuttle bus driver and receptionist. Those interested are encouraged to apply
- Permanent location is getting closer to being ready. There are electric and water issues still being worked on
- There will be a volunteer workday to complete final punch list items on the individual shelter units in the near future
- A security company has been hired to stay at the shelter each night and help with the daily guest intake and check out process
- Addressed concerns and rumors regarding the facility and homeless population



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2024

Chris offered and gave a prayer for SSA, those in need, and all volunteers.

I Love My City Update

Chris stated the I Love My City event is scheduled to take place May 18th and 19th. Saturday, May 18th will be community service activities and Sunday, May 19th will be the City-Wide Worship Service at EOTEC. More planning and information to come.

2024 Committee Service Goals – Food Insecurities Update

Dan and Chris gave information regarding the Food Insecurity Meeting held with community organizations and the faith community the week prior, stating the group narrowed down priorities to be focused on, to include:

- Communication and collaboration from churches/organizations/groups partnering together
- Building trust among those in need to let them know this service is about providing meals and not a reporting agency
- How to provide at least one meal per day from the faith community
- Providing specific foods for specific groups of people including already prepared and prepackaged food

Dan stated he will be having a Zoom meeting with a California group who distributes/delivers food throughout specific areas and hopes to gain ideas and insight on how their process works. More information to come on these efforts.

Other

The Committee gave an update regarding Lead Chaplain and Committee Member Terry Cummings health.

Dan reminded the Committee regarding the National Day of Prayer. The event will be held at New Hope Church on May 2nd from 6pm-8pm.

Lilly stated Mayor Drotzmann will be reading a National Day of Prayer Proclamation at an upcoming City Council Meeting as well.

Public Comment

Joe Gonzalez, Pastor at Grace Baptist Church, asked if the Committee would be interested in pushing out faith and city information through his contacts in radio in Tri-Cities and Walla Walla as the Hermiston area should be covered by their licensing agreements. Members stated KOHU already pushes out community information, however the more news/radio stations sharing information the better.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 7th at 4:00pm in the Large Board Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall.

Adjournment

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



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2024

Present were Chris Hankel, and Dan Mahon. Members James Lafolette, Terry Cummings, and Dean Hackett were not present. Also present was City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong, Code Enforcement Official Daniel Taylor, and Council representatives Rod Hardin and Jackie Linton. The meeting was opened in prayer by Dan at 4:04pm.

Minutes

March 5th minutes were unable to be voted on as there was not a quorum present. No meeting was held in April.

Stepping Stones Alliance Update

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) Executive Director Jesalyn Cole gave updates to include:

- Average number of guests stays is about 14 people per night, with an unusual high of 23 for spring weather. Guest stays continue to increase with about 500 stays in April and about 50 new guests who say they are just passing through the area
- SSA is hiring various positions and have received many applications. They hope to have new staff hired soon
- SSA moved to its permanent location last week. There are a few issues that still need to be addressed and inspections completed before guests are able to be issued individual units
- Shuttle bus pick up/drop off will change from City Hall to COPES starting 05/13/2024
- Spoke about outreach efforts for homeless individuals who do not necessarily want/seek assistance from SSA and/or other organizations, ie: those in encampments in the area of Oxbow trail and the River
- Spoke regarding security measures at SSA now and when the individual shelter units come online
- Will be presenting SSA's Quarterly Report to the City Council at Monday's meeting

Potential Community Beautification Projects from Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Official Daniel Taylor introduced himself stating he has been with the City of Hermiston for about 7 months and would like to work with the FBAC on beautification projects throughout the City, to include: graffiti coverup, weeds control, and helping the elderly and disabled who are unable to care for the outside of their properties.

Daniel was asked to build a list of properties where services were needed and share those with Lilly on a reoccurring schedule so she can forward them on to FBAC for possible church service projects.

May 12-18 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week

Chris stated Terry was scheduled to speak about this but was unable to attend. Magnets and ribbons in support of Law Enforcement are available in the lobby at City Hall.



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2024

I Love My City Update

Chris stated the I Love My City event is scheduled to take place May 18th and 19th. Saturday, May 18th will be community service activities with the Recycling Day Event at New Hope Church, and Sunday, May 19th will be the City-Wide Worship Service at EOTEC. Currently, 18 churches are participating with Kiwanis, Wal-Mart, and others. Free haircuts will be offered to children and the homeless in the parking lot of Sherwin Williams, and a diaper drive will also be held at Agape House on Saturday.

Chris stated he has recently been approached by the Bureau of Reclamation in an effort to clean up land by Oxbow Trail with I Love My City support.

2024 Committee Service Goals – Food Insecurities Update

Dan stated no additional progress has been made/needs to be reported; however, his church purchased and re-bagged over 350lbs of rice and beans last month as Agape House had ran out of food and would not have their normal food shipment come in for another two weeks. Dan stated after hearing this, his church has decided to continue with this effort each month.

Public Comment

None given.

Next Meeting

Chris and Dan felt the Committee should meet in June as a quorum was not present today. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4th at 4:00pm in the Large Board Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall.

Adjournment

There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned in prayer by Rod at 4:42pm.