



# Hispanic Advisory Committee Minutes

## January 21, 2025

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Chair Alberto Munoz opened the Meeting at 7:00pm and wished all present a Happy New Year. Present were Jesse Roa and Jessica De La Cruz. Also present were Council representatives Maria Duron and Jeff Kelso, as well as staff representative City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

### **Introduction of New Council Representative Councilor Jeff Kelso**

Councilor Jeff Kelso stated he is thrilled to be a representative assigned to the Hispanic Advisory Committee. He moved to Hermiston in 2017 from the Portland area and is the IT Director for the Hermiston School District. He feels blessed to be in this City that he loves and serve the community.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Jesse moved and Jessica seconded to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Motion carried unanimously. There was no meeting in December.

### **Municipal Court Presentation**

Hermiston Municipal Court Administrator Jillian Viles spoke regarding their increased misdemeanor case load of criminal and traffic citations and asked if Committee members had ideas of community service work that could be completed, as many times the Judge sentences defendants to community service work instead of fines or incarceration. Community service must be for non-profit organizations and cannot include City agencies due to insurance requirements. Jillian stated the Court is specifically looking for community service projects where there are Spanish speaking staff who are willing to document the community service work that is being completed as there are many Spanish speaking only defendants who are having difficulty finding service work where people speak Spanish.

Committee members gave ideas to include: area churches including churches who specifically run food programs, Cinco de Mayo, Euvalcree, Agape House, Stepping Stones Alliance, and stated they would continue to ponder the question and reach out to Jillian with further recommendations.

### **2025 Committee Goal Setting Session**

Alberto stated this topic is reserved for the Committee to establish goals to work on for the 2025 calendar year and established community events the Committee will participate in or plan in 2025. No public comment will be taken going forward in this meeting.

The Committee reviewed the 2024 Goals which included: increasing the Latino vote, plan a Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, provide rural engagement for water nitrate outreach efforts, and provide local secondary education information and outreach efforts for students/BMCC/EOU.

The Committee agreed that their participation in events and goals that they establish should focus on the needs of those residing inside of the City limits of Hermiston.



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---

Committee members discussed possible events to include:

- ASAP: Immigration/Know Your Rights (organizers)
  - Maria spoke regarding the similar event that Nuestro Futuro is organizing on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Hermiston High School
- May 2-4: Cinco de Mayo (booth/volunteers)
- August: Back to School Event at Harrison Park with Made to Thrive (volunteer)
- Sept 15 - Oct 15: Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration (organizers)
  - The Committee spoke regarding dedicating additional time to plan this event and work with other community partners to make this event more successful
- Oct 31 – Nov 1: Dia de Los Muertos (booth)
- No dates discussed:
  - Leadership Training Conference (co-organizers with other partners)
    - Maria spoke regarding the Leadership Academy that the City and UEC already sponsors
  - Building Relationship, Networking, and Advocacy with Community Partners Event (booth at Adelante Network event, through Oregon Human Development Corporation)

Committee members discussed possible goals to include:

- Increase the Latino Vote efforts as this was last year's goal but was never completed
- Marketing HAC and their meetings to attain:
  - More public meeting attendance
  - Additional outreach, engagement, and increased visibility in the community with information about HAC "to build trust about who we are and what we do"
    - Jeff spoke regarding the Juntos Club at the High School and suggested that perhaps a HAC member could be a liaison or mentor in this group to help with HAC outreach efforts
  - Seek community surveys asking community members what is important to them so HAC has a better understanding of items HAC could focus on.
    - It was discussed that short in-person surveys taken during community events would yield the best results.
  - Have HAC information, including meeting days/times, already printed in a convenient way that can be easily given out to the public at community and other events

Jeff spoke regarding doing specific outreach efforts in the Guatemalan community as this population continues to grow in the community and inviting them to participate in HAC events and promote specific events from their culture, which could be obtained with the help of Euvalcree. The Committee spoke regarding Hispanic Heritage Month which includes the Guatemalan culture.

The Committee spoke regarding the large number of community events that they are invited to participate in, with or without sufficient notice, and how it can become overwhelming for committee members to take part in them all. The Committee agreed that a calendar of events would be created/included with the Committee Goals and only those events, that were agreed upon by the Committee, would be participated in. Events and Goals, as discussed at tonight's meeting, would be reviewed and voted on at the next HAC meeting.



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### Closing Comments

#### Committee Comments

Jesse asked if the City could provide a Hispanic Advisory Committee table cloth that can be used when the Committee attends community events so the general public knows who is specifically at the table/event and consider providing business cards for the Committee as well as “red cards” (attached).

Lilly stated she would look into providing these items for the Committee, as well as update committee members pictures on the website and prepare updated HAC information flyers.

Alberto thanked Lilly for the HAC polos committee members are now able to wear during events they are participating in stating it is a good way for the public to know who they are and be able to feel more comfortable to approach them with questions and concerns they may have.

#### Youth Representatives

None present.

#### City Representatives

Jeff spoke on the following:

- Thanked Mayor Primmer for giving him this opportunity
- Commented on the great potential he see’s within members of the Committee
- He is willing to volunteer at any event the Committee participates in

Maria spoke on the following:

- Her appreciation for the previous committee leadership and stated she is excited about the change in leadership in the committee and is looking forward to what will be
- Encouraged the public to apply for committee openings and attend City Council meetings if able
- Gave updates regarding the Health, Aquatic, and Wellness Center discussions with area partnerships
- City Council Goal Setting Session
- New Council members and their transition into their new roles

Alberto thanked Jeff for the great feedback, guidance, and insight he gave during the meeting, thanked Maria for the experience and wealth of knowledge she brings to the meeting, and encouraged the public to apply for the two open HAC positions.

### Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers, as Monday is President’s Day Holiday. The Committee also discussed hosting the immigration event in place of the February Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:51pm.

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- **NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA** de un agente de inmigración si el trata de hablar con usted. Usted tiene el derecho de mantenerse callado.
- **NO FIRME NADA** sin antes hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.
- Si usted está afuera de su casa, pregunte al agente si es libre para irse y si dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad.
- **ENTREGUE ESTA TARJETA AL AGENTE.** Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.

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