



# Hispanic Advisory Committee Minutes

## October 21, 2024

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City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong opened the Meeting at 7:00pm, and announced that according to the City Rules, when the Committee Chair and Vice Chair are absent, the City Recorder shall call the meeting to order and take roll call. If a quorum is present, the Committee will proceed to elect, by majority vote of those present, a Temporary Chairperson to act for the remainder of the meeting, or until either the Chair or Vice Chair appears. Finding a quorum exists, with the exception of Jose Garcia and Mark Gomolski, Jesse Roa moved and Jessica De La Cruz seconded to nominate Alberto Munoz as Temporary Chair. Motion carried unanimously. Also present were Council Representatives Maria Duron and Roy Barron, and Student Advisors Rebecca Godoy and Aviana Navejar. The pledge of allegiance was given.

### **Introduction of Student Representatives**

Rebecca Godoy stated she was a junior and Aviana Navejar stated she was senior at Hermiston High School.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Jessica moved and Alberto seconded to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Motion carried unanimously. No meetings were held in July, August, or September as the Committee was planning the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

### **AARP Presentation**

Representatives from AARP stated AARP is a free tax service for seniors and low-income individuals. AARP is in great need of volunteers to help provide this service. Training on basic tax preparation is free and is given to all volunteers. Volunteers do not need to be citizens or legal residents; bilingual or even just Spanish speaking volunteers are also highly needed as many persons receiving this tax service were non-English speakers.

The service is provided at New Hope Church from February through April and somewhere in Pendleton by appointment only as logistics are still being planned. The number of volunteer hours varies depending on volunteers, but services will be limited as there is a lack of volunteers.

Those interested in volunteering area asked to reach out to AARP online or social media for more information.

### **Community Events and Event Planning for: Dia de los Muertos, Ano Viejo, and others**

**Dia de los Muertos:** Jessica shared a flyer regarding the event (attached), the many organizations that help put on this event, and HAC's participation as individuals, not as a Committee, helping with the event, and encouraged the public to attend.

**Ano Viejo:** Lilly stated last year the Committee, with the help of EOTEC staff, organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ano Viejo event at EOTEC. The event had live entertainment, dancing, food, vendors, bounce houses, games for the entire family, fireworks, and a Viejo contest with a bon fire. The Ano Viejo tradition is celebrated in many Latin Cultures to symbolize burning the "Viejo" old and perhaps negative things that the previous year brought you and starting a new year fresh, and asked if the Committee wanted to help plan this event again.

Roy stated he had not heard of Ano Viejo until now and was more familiar with other Hispanic traditions such as Rosca de Reyes and Dia de los Muertos and felt that the Committee should not host this event as there is not



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enough time or resources to plan, especially after hosting the Hispanic Heritage Month event, which should be the focus of the Committee.

The Committee agreed and Alberto suggested that the Committee create an event calendar for the year so the Committee can more appropriately plan out the year's events that they will be helping with and attending so that it is not so overwhelming. The Committee agreed and Maria stated this event planning calendar would also help with timelines on pushing out information to the public as the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration was not very well attended, stating it is more important to host a successful event then just to host an event.

### **Review 2024 Committee Goal Tasks**

- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>) Celebration (Project Leads: Entire Committee)
  - Alberto stated this event took a lot of work and had great food, entertainment, and so much more, but it lacked attendance as previously mentioned. The Committee agreed stating they heard over and over again from community members that they did not know the event was taking place and would have liked to attend. The Committee agreed that it was a good learning lesson and suggested that the event be planned out by June or July so event advertisement can be pushed out throughout the summer. Alberto asked if the Committee could meet, outside of public meetings for planning purposes. Lilly stated yes, as long as the meetings were related to event planning only and no other Committee business was being discussed.
- Increase the Latino Vote- Women Voters of Oregon (Project Leads: Mark & Alberto)
  - Alberto stated Mark had taken lead on this Goal and does not have an update to share at this time.

### **Elect Chair and Vice Chair through July 2025**

Lilly stated each year each City Committee must elect a Chair and Vice Chair for their committees. Although the current Chair and Vice Chair are absent, because there is a quorum, the Committee can elect a Chair and/or a Vice Chair or choose to postpone this decision until the following meeting.

Roy stated he felt the Committee should continue to elect a Chair and Vice Chair at this meeting as the agenda has been set and all Committee members were given notice that this would be on the agenda.

The Committee agreed and Jessica moved and Jesse seconded to elect Alberto as Chair. Motion carried unanimously. Alberto moved and Jesse seconded to elect Jessica as Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Closing Comments**

#### **Public Comments**

Virginia Rome-Garcia, Hermiston- Thanked the Committee for their new leadership and stated there was great community attendance today and people should feel free to contact the Committee about issues within the community.

Yesenia Rangel- asked that the City consider building or opening a Community Kitchen, somewhere where the community can go to make or bake goods in a commercial kitchen that is free or more affordable for the public



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to use so those items can eventually be sold to the general public, stating she must travel to Tri-Cities Washington to use their facilities to make and sell her award winning salsa but would prefer to stay in her community to do this.

Rocio Hansen from Fiesta Dogs shared a video of her business and the food she offers at: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1td-ELC9EoBAje8ATU1\\_xV\\_v\\_k1h2XiVH/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1td-ELC9EoBAje8ATU1_xV_v_k1h2XiVH/view?usp=drivesdk) stating she does not sell the stereotypical hotdog. Her hotdog creations are original with inspiration from Mexico that offers unique flavors. She has a food vendor truck and is able to attend special events and hopes the community will reach out to her for their special events. Rocio spoke regarding the many grants she received in the community and opportunities she took advantage of, stating it was difficult and took a lot of work to get her to this point but it was all worth it, and encouraged Yesenia not to give up.

### Committee Comments

Alberto and Jessica thanked Virginia Rome-Garcia for inviting everyone to attend the meeting stating -Hermiston Unidos-, and spoke regarding how inspiring it is to see so many people at the meeting to speak about issues and questions and encouraged the community to continue to be and get involved in their community.

### Youth Representatives

Rebecca thanked Rocio and Yesenia for sharing their inspiring stories about women entrepreneurs and stated as a National Honor Society student, her club is always looking for volunteer opportunities so they would be willing to help with events the Committee plans.

### City Representatives

Maria and Roy spoke on the following:

- Thanked Student Advisors
- City Council Goal Setting
- AWS and how they are contributing to the community by giving donations for HEROS at EOTEC, Pickleball Courts, and more
- Library/Multicultural Center construction updates
- What the City is doing to try to have businesses come to Hermiston
- Election

### Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm.

ACOMPÁÑANOS A  
CELEBRAR EL

# DÍA DE MUERTOS

Transportacion gratis de la  
High School a EOTEC  
1705 E. Airport Rd  
Hermiston, OR

**PREGUNTAS?  
LLAME A  
541-970-4427**

**VENDEDORES DE COMIDA**

**PREGUNTAS?  
LLAME A  
541-970-4427**

**01** Noviembre  
6:00-8:00pm

PINTURA DE CARAS ∩ MÚSICA EN VIVO ∩ DANZAS TRADICIONALES  
PAN DE MUERTO Y CHAMPURRADO ∩ CONCURSO DE CATRINAS Y CATRINES

**TRAJE UNA FOTO DE UN SER  
QUERIDO PARA NUESTRO ALTAR  
COMUNITARIO**



**Juntos**  
FOR A BETTER EDUCATION | PARA UNA MEJOR EDUCACION



**Mirasol Family  
Health Center**



Oregon  
Child Development  
Coalition  
Cultivating our children's future



JOIN US AS WE  
CELEBRATE



# DÍA DE MUERTOS

Free Transportation from  
Hermiston High School to EOTEC  
1705 E. Airport Rd  
Hermiston, OR

FOOD VENDORS

QUESTIONS?  
CALL OR  
TEXT  
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QUESTIONS?  
CALL OR  
TEXT  
541-970-4427

**01** November  
6:00-8:00pm

FACE PAINTING ∩ LIVE MUSIC ∩ COSTUME CONTEST  
PAN DE MUERTO & CHAMPURRADO ∩ TRADITIONAL MEXICAN DANCES

**BRING A PICTURE OF A LOVED ONE  
WHO HAS PASSED FOR OUR  
COMMUNITY ALTAR**



**Juntos**  
FOR A BETTER EDUCATION | PARA UNA MEJOR EDUCACIÓN



**Mirasol Family  
Health Center**



Oregon  
Child Development  
Coalition  
Cultivating our children's future



**OHDC**  
OREGON  
HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

**OREGON rural  
ACTION**  
SOWING SEEDS OF CHANGE