



*Where Life is Sweet*

# Faith-Based Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2023

Present were James Lajolette, Terry Cummings, and Chris Hankel (arrived at 4:13pm) Member Dean Hackett was excused. Also present was Council representative Rod Hardin, as well as City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The meeting was opened in prayer at 4:10pm.

### **National Faith and First-Responders Event- October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Terry gave information regarding the National Faith and First-Responders Event being held on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm at Butte Park. The event is in conjunction with the Kiwanis Kids Day event. Last year the event was called National Faith and Blue as it represented Police Officers only; however, Hermiston's Police and Fire Departments, as well as medical personnel are so encircled and supported with each other that the event was renamed to include them. The Parks and Recreation Department is heading the logistics of the combined events with the Eastern Oregon First-Responders Chaplains Association leading the event details specific to Faith and First-Responders. The Chaplains Association is asking the Faith-Based community to attend and support the First-Responders in prayer and recognition of the work they do to keep us and our community safe.

There was some discussion regarding specific details of the event including the Prayer Board that will be displayed. The intent is to have people of all ages write notes, prayers, children can draw pictures with the intent to give support and encouragement to first-responders. The event intent is to show that Church's support law enforcement officers/first-responders, break down barriers, open communication to build relationships, and partner with God to protect those who serve with right and true intentions.

The Committee asked that event information be given with as much notice as possible, upto a year, so that churches can place these items in their calendars and plan accordingly to support community events, as well as ask someone who has heart for this event to take the lead and champion the event knowing that it may take three to four years for the event to build up.

### **Hispanic Advisory Committee Contact**

James stated he reached out to all HAC members and received communication back from the Vice Chair thanking him for reaching out to them but that he would refer communication be through the Chair. Unfortunately, the Chair has yet to respond to his email.

Lilly suggested that James forward the email to her as the HAC Chair has mentioned to her that he receives many spam emails and does not open or read mail from unknown sources. Once she has the email she can forward it on to him as a trusted source.

### **Potential New Member Review**

James stated the Committee has received two applications to fill the remaining vacancy from Sherry Aubray and Dan Mahon and asked that the Committee consider these applicants. James moved and Terry seconded to support the recommendation to appoint Dan to the Committee as he has attended FBAC meetings for years. Motion carried unanimously. Lilly stated she will forward this information to the Vacancy Review Board for their consideration.

### **School Adoption Updates**

James stated all schools have been adopted.



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### Projects/Initiatives for the Committee

Terry spoke regarding yardwork service that Dan organized for someone who was physically unable to perform work and thanked those who were involved in this effort. Terry stated Code Enforcement officials were called to this person's home for overgrown weeds in her yard, etc. and Terry reached out to Dan for help.

Chris asked the Committee if there were other things they could do to help people and what came of the meeting with the Mayor and City Manager.

James stated they had a very productive meeting with the Mayor and City Manager and discussed very thoughtful suggestions that the Committee could consider to work/focus on that were included in the meeting minutes, to include:

- How the I Love My City initiative is one of the finest events of the City
- Someone from FBAC attend the Hispanic Advisory Committee meetings to support this demographic
- What we can do to support young couples
- Spanish Library "Book Shower"- Purchase books to expand the Spanish book collection
- How to help Parents of youth going through CAB (Community Accountability Board)/It's Just Dinner Programs
- Marriage and parent Trainings
  - It was suggested that the Committee reach out to Made to Thrive and True Care as both organizations have offered these types of services in the past
- PATH (Practical Assistance Through Transitional Housing) Project AKA Stepping Stones Alliance - asking congregations to help gather volunteers and provide worship services once their facility has been completed

The Committee spoke regarding other items they could focus on to include bringing back the Recycled Day Event at UEC with Sanitary Disposal and asked that Lilly reach out to Parks and Recreation as they used to spearhead this event in the past and see if FBAC can help bring it back to life as they would provide most, if not all of the volunteers. Asked that the Committee brainstorm ideas for them to spearhead to help the community and present them at the next meeting, including giving information like the Nazarene Church did with Dementia.

### Other

NA

### Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the April and June meetings were moved by Terry and seconded by Chris. Motion carried unanimously. There were no meetings in May, July, and August.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> 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 at 5:11pm.