



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025

Present were committee members Dan Mahon, Rafael Vargas, and Joe Sharon. Terry Cummings and James Lafolette were excused. Also present were Council Representative Allen Hayward and Planning Assistant Heather La Beau. Council Representative Jackie Linton was not in attendance. After Rafael opened the meeting in prayer at 4:06pm, everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes

Rafael moved and Joe seconded to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025, regular meeting. Motion passed with Dan, Rafael and Joe voting in favor.

Public Comment

Zaira Sanchez, Director of Community Organizing for Oregon Rural Action presented information on their organization and called for volunteers to help transport clients to appointments in Portland, Yakima, and Tri-Cities. The organization is a member of the Oregon for All Coalition and helps meet the needs of immigrant families. Their programs include fighting for safe drinking water, immigration justice, and providing resources through Raices y Alas. She seeks to build an ally base of people willing to accompany people to their immigration appointments when requested. Ideally the volunteer would be multi-lingual, but it is not required. Oregon Rural Action will train volunteers.

Dan shared how valuable having a connected network of resources is for serving the community. While Allen will report back to the city council, he suggested Zaira consider presenting at a city council meeting.

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) Updates: SSA Executive Director Jessalyn Cole delivered an update on Stepping Stones to include:

- No Address move showing had over 200 attendees and they continue to see fruit including increased awareness and monetary & supply donations
- Jessalyn continues to give quarterly updates to the city councils and other entities and enjoys sharing the success stories and progress
- Tickets are available to purchase for the Annual Gala fundraiser Oct 11 at EOTEC from 6 to 10pm
- The Sleep Center hosts 7-15 nightly guests
- There are two additional huts ready to be picked up, however the well and septic system is still a constraint to expansion

Made to Thrive Backpack Outreach Report

Rafael reported that 270 backpacks were handed out at the event, surpassing the goal of 200, and 44 more than the previous year. Allen attended and was grateful such a large number of people were able to be served. It was suggested that Made to Thrive consider doing additional outreach at parks in other neighborhoods. Joe stated it is a great opportunity for people to participate and it's wonderful to see churches working together.

Food Insecurity

Dan shared that there has been such an abundance of produce, they have been able to provide to various



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food banks and organizations as well as continue the distribution at Oasis Church on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30.

School Adoption support

This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

Rafael briefly mentioned a program involving adult volunteers playing sports with local youth during the school day at the schools. He will bring additional information to the next meeting.

Allen extended an invitation to the area youth to join the All-City Youth Bash being hosted by Zeal Church on September 10.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 7 at 4pm at the Oasis Vineyard Church located at 1255 S Hwy 395.

Adjournment

There was no other business, and Joe adjourned the meeting in prayer at 5:07pm.



SAVE THE DATE!

Stepping Stones ALLIANCE



ANNUAL

Gala

fundraiser

AN ENCHANTED GARDEN



Scan QR code for tickets and information.

Saturday, October 11th

6 - 10pm at EOTEC

Tickets are \$50



Zaira Sanchez

Director of Community Organizing

OREGON **rural**
ACTION

SOWING SEEDS OF **CHANGE**

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