



Where Life is Sweet

Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2024

Present were James Lafayette, Chris Hankel, Dan Mahon, and Dean Hackett. Also present was City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Member Terry Cummings and Council representatives Rod Hardin and Jackie Linton were not in attendance. The meeting was opened in prayer by Chris at 4:05pm.

Minutes

Chris moved and Dean seconded to approve the November minutes. Motion carried unanimously. No meeting was held in December.

Public Comment

Joe Gonzalez, Pastor at Grace Baptist Church, introduced himself stating he and his wife moved to the area in August and are excited to offer their services to the Committee and community as a whole.

Chaplain Update

James asked that this discussion be discussed at another meeting. The Committee agreed.

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 in December stating there was a clear understanding amongst these groups of what the community needs are and what the challenges are in providing these services, to include:

- Lack of communication and collaboration from churches/organizations/groups who are providing services and knowing what specific services they are providing
- Constantly changing locations and times when services are offered/provided
 - Finding permanent locations and time frames so it is easier for people to know/remember
- Transportation needs for the homeless -> getting them to where services are being offered/provided or bring those resources to them while building trust among this group
- Building trust among the growing Latino community, specifically the Guatemalan community, and offering services at locations where they frequent and have already built relationships, ie: Euvalcree

Dan and Chris stated the groups next meeting will have a Focus Plan moving forward and discuss:

- Providing services to those who are really in need and not just those who are needing companionship as some lonely community members participate in free lunch programs to converse with others and not because they are in need. Although companionship is important, the intent of this service is to provide meals to those who are actually in need.
- How to address the needs for homeless/couch surfing/struggling teens while being discreet and building trust
- Providing specific foods for specific groups of people: Homeless, Latinos, etc
- Finding permanent locations and hours to provide services throughout the City
- Finding volunteers as those who are primarily pushing out these efforts are “aging out”

There was some discussion regarding inviting Euvalcree, Dulas Latinas, and leaders from many other churches and organizations to attend the next scheduled meeting in February, and questioning the Committee on what they can do without completely taking on this effort like what happened with the Family Promise Initiative.



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Other

James gave information (attached) regarding the Grief Support offered by Good Shepherd Hospital.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 5th 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 Dean at 4:50pm.

DRAFT

Understanding Your Grief—Hope for Healing

Grief is a journey through a sometimes inhospitable wilderness. An understanding companion for the journey can help change the scene into a healing, hopeful, courageous walk where the spirit is honored in silence or remembered through sharing.

Understanding Your Grief - Hope for Healing: A safe place to process your grief journey because of loss (loved one, job, health, etc.). A 10-week series providing information and support to help integrate the loss into your life and move toward a place of peace and/or hope. Understanding Your Grief explores the necessity of mourning, common myths associated with grief and how grief is unique to the individual. Resources available for additional support.

Our team is made up of understanding companions who respect the pain of loss and are ready to walk this journey with you.

Jan 17 – March 20
Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00pm

Good Shepherd Conference Room
(by the Pharmacy)

Registration Required.

For more information, call 541-667-3509
or email healthinfo@gshealth.org

