



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2024

Present were Chris Hankel, Dan Mahon, James Lafolette, Terry Cummings, and Dean Hackett. Also present was City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong and Council representative Rod Hardin. Councilor Jackie Linton was not present. The meeting was opened in prayer by Terry at 4:04pm.

Minutes

Terry moved and Chris seconded to approve the June 4th meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. No meeting were held in July and August.

Harrison Park Outreach Collaboration

Dan and Terry spoke regarding the efforts of Zeal Church and Made to Thrive to host the 2nd Annual Back-to-School Night Resource Fair of sorts at the newly revamped Harrison Park. Similar to the I Love My City Annual Event, this outreach effort brought together Zeal Church, Made to Thrive, Campus Life, New Hope Spanish Church, and Oasis Church, to provide: made to order tacos, 50 backpacks filled with non-perishable food, 155 back packs, school supplies, haircuts, watermelon, and 100 bags of groceries and veggies from the Oasis garden. All of these items were free to the over 300 people who participated. Many Hermiston School District staff also came after the Open Houses to play with the kids, which was a real treat for them. There were many volunteers who attended this great event and these organizations are hopeful to continue this program in the future.

Harrison Park has been recently updated with new equipment, basketball and soccer areas, as well as lights to combat illegal activity in that area, to include: drugs, gangs, and shootings. Programs and events such as these will also help combat this illegal activity.

James stated it would be great to have this event during National Night Out (NNO) as it focuses on many of the same aspects of community, inclusivity, and togetherness. The Committee thought it would be great to have reminders about this event and NNO in April so there is more time to plan and push out information.

Stepping Stones Alliance Update

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) Executive Director Jesalyn Cole gave updates to include:

- There are a total of 21 huts and 16 of those are currently being used. Once guests move into huts, they are considered members and must sign a membership agreement, establish goals, follow rules, and volunteer or work at least 15 hours per week. Staff also helps members with finding employment, counseling, permanent/long-term housing, addiction services, and any other needs they may have to help them. There are some members who volunteer at the Oasis Community Garden which is great as Oasis donates many of the food grown to SSA.
- SSA is fully staffed and on-site 24/7 for tours, to answer questions, and help members and guests
- SSA will be hosting its 1st Annual Gala (poster attached)
- As always, SSA is struggling with getting and retaining volunteers.



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Faith and First Responders Event in October

Terry stated after discussions regarding the Faith and First Responders event the Eastern Oregon First-Responders Chaplains Association Board has decided to cancel this years event as it conflicts with the City of Umatilla's Rock the Locks weekend concert and too many area first responders will be working that event.

The Committee suggested that the event be held during I Love My City.

2024 Committee Service Goals – Food Insecurities Update

James stated this is still a work in progress with many organizations and churches providing services. From what he understands, Kathy Putnam received a grant and was going to put together a list and calendar on services available and who provides what so the community can see what the needs are and try not to duplicate services.

Dan stated he and Chris will be meeting with Euvalcree regarding being able to use their property to distribute "Mobile Meals", as well as Kris Dammeyer with Made to Thrive to distribute Mobile Meals at Harrison Park. The Board is also considering if it would be best to provide dinner as there are more lunch options provided than dinner. Dan stated another meeting with the larger group is being planned in October.

Other

Lilly stated Chair and Vice-Chair nominations will be placed on the next meeting.

James stated he will be speaking with Brandon regarding holding and advertising the Recycling Event with I Love My City.

James stated he and Dean will be meeting with Mayor Elect Doug Primmer in the following weeks.

The Committee spoke regarding School Adoptions, specifically Sunset Elementary and Zeal Church.

Public Comment

None given.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 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 Dan at 5:06pm.

Stepping Stones ALLIANCE



BOOTS

Bling

1ST ANNUAL
GALA
FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
5-10 PM AT EOTEC

No Host Bar by Midway + Dinner by CG Public House

Live Music by Dallin Puzey

FUNDRAISING GAMES AND DANCING!!!



TICKETS \$50 EACH
SCAN TO PURCHASE