

Chair Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Present were Committee member Mark Gomolski, Council Representative Maria Duron, City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong, and Youth Advisor Jayson Gutierrez. Committee member Abby Reyes-Munoz and Council Representative Roy Barron were absent. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Minutes

Mark moved and Jose seconded to approve the minutes of September and October. Motion carried.

Christmas Express

Maria and Mark gave information regarding the Christmas Express Program that helps give families in need food, and gifts to children 0-11 each Christmas. Boxes of food and gifts are given to about 500 families each year; however, the need is so great this year that 700 boxes are expected to be assembled and given to families. Donations are needed of food, toys and money and can be accepted at the police department. Hermiston School District staff and students also participate in an annual can food drive competition to help this cause.

City staff work to assemble these food boxes and wrap gifts; the Agape House helps distribute these items. ID's are required to pick up food and gift baskets to make sure items are being given to the correct family as some last names are common, ie: Smith, Garcia, etc. Pick up days and times are: December 15th, 16th, and 19th from 10am to 5pm at Agape House. Bilingual volunteers will also be on site.

Families receiving food and gift boxes must be Hermiston residents and must be referred to the police department using a submission form (attached) by a third party, ie: school personnel, churches, civic organizations, etc. Families cannot sign themselves up. If a family is not on the Christmas Express Program list, they will not be given these items.

Public Comment

Kelly Moralez from Eualcree stated there are many Guatemalan and Columbian families that are coming into the area that are very needy and could greatly benefit from this program that she could refer.

Mark G. agreed saying there has been a large influx of homeless families from Guatemala and Columbia that are staying at Martha's House. Currently, 14 out of 18 rooms are filled. He is grateful that Eualcree referred these families to Martha's House who are helping them find jobs and permanent housing, as well as parenting, cooking, and other classes.

Eualcree Presentation

Kelly Moralez, Eualcree representative- Stated she focuses on helping people, specifically undocumented people, with resources they may need. She also has a passion to showcase and teach Hispanic folklore dances to the Hispanic population so people know and remember their roots and the potential they have to display these talents to others. Kelly stated she has traveled the world proudly showcasing multicultural dances. Asked that people who are interested in learning folklore dances reach out to her.

MLK Peace Walk

Virginia Rome-Garcia, Invited the public to participate in the Marin Luther King Peace Walk from 11am to 1pm at City Hall on Monday January 16th, 2023. The itinerary is not quite ready but the Cultural Coalition will be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships at the March as well. Those who are interested in volunteering are asked to please reach out to Jesus Rome.

Jose thanked Virginia for the information and stated that the Committee is a great supporter of this event and will help with what they can.

Closing Comments

Public Comments

Brenda Flores, Legal Aid Services of Oregon- Stated she is a Community Outreach Worker and Paralegal who help farm workers that need assistance and asked that the Committee direct people to Legal Aid if they need assistance.

City Representatives

Maria and Lilly spoke on the following:

- IGA with City of Pendleton to provide IT Services
- Festival of Lights
- Tree Lighting Parade, Ceremony, and Festivities
- Stepping Stones/Warming Station needing volunteers to man the Warming Station, help build huts for the homeless shelter, and donations

Youth Representatives

Jayson spoke on the following:

- New Youth Committee Assignments for the upcoming year
- Youth Committee Members will be participating/volunteering in more community events

Jose stated he hopes Jayson returns to HAC as he has been a great asset to the Committee and thanked him for his insights and participation.

Committee Comments

Jose thanked Mark, the Agape House, Martha's House for providing shelter and necessities to the family who recently lost their home in a fire. Jose stated he does a lot of outreach in the community and has heard from homeless individuals living in parks that City employees are throwing away their personal belongings, blankets, and tents without warning and asked if City representatives could give information about this complaint.

Lilly stated the City has asked homeless individuals who are staying in parks to please make sure all of their belonging, including blankets and tents, are picked up and packed out each morning by a certain time. Individuals are given ample opportunity to do this daily before items are picked up by City staff. Unfortunately, due to vandalism and other crimes, some park areas, gazebos, and cook shakes are now fenced off and are unable to be used.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers. Monday, January 16th is MLK Holiday. No meeting will be held in December.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47pm.

54th Annual
Hermiston Police Department
Christmas Express Program

1. We are requesting names of families in need of assistance this holiday season. There is no limit to the number of families that can be submitted however as this is a program sponsored by the citizens of Hermiston, **we are only able to accommodate families living in the Hermiston area.**
2. We are requesting people not be allowed to sign themselves up, rather they are to be identified by their case worker, church, school counselor, etc.
3. We desperately need the telephone number of the family as they will be contacted by program volunteers to notify them of the day/time when they can pick up the food and/or presents. Contacted persons will not be informed how we receive their information.
4. Food baskets will be provided to all families referred living within the Hermiston area. Christmas presents will be given to boys and girls ages 0-11.
5. Food baskets will consist of turkey or ham, potatoes, onions, canned food, boxed food, etc. Approximately 100 lbs. in all.
6. Any questions can be answered by Training Officer Tim Mears @ 541-667-5112, or tmiears@hermiston.or.us. Completed applications can be emailed to tmiears@hermiston.or.us or dropped off at the Hermiston Police Department.

DEADLINE FOR NAME SUBMISSION IS: December 7, 2022

SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY

NAME OF FAMILY: _____ PHONE: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

PICK-UP NAME: _____

(List the contact person for notification purposes)

HERMISTON ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD (Children 11 years old or less)

Boy Age 0-2	Girl Age 0-2	Boy Age 3-5	Girl Age 3-5	Boy Age 6-8	Girl Age 6-8	Boy Age 9-11	Girl Age 9-11

SUBMITTED BY: _____