



Where Life is Sweet

Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2026

Present were committee members Dan Mahon, James Lafolette, Rafael Vargas, and Terry Cummings. Joe Sharon was excused. Planning Assistant Heather La Beau was in attendance as was Council Representative Allen Hayward. Council Representative Jackie Linton was absent. No Youth Advisors attended the meeting. Rafael opened the meeting in prayer at 4:03pm.

Minutes

Terry moved and James seconded to approve the December 2, 2025 minutes. Motion carried unanimously with Dan, James, Rafael, and Terry all voting in favor.

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

- Path Quarterly Report available
- Sleep Center guests for 4th quarter months totaled 580, 496, and 513
- 23 Shelter units housing 26 people
- Day Center remained open for Thanksgiving & Christmas days utilizing the Community Meal to deliver lunches and the facility providing breakfast and dinner for guests
- Remain hopeful the funded outdoor kitchen project can be installed
- Covered area for outdoor space project is proceeding and estimated to be completed prior to summer
- Upgrading electrical components and keypads at several gates & storage sheds at facility
- Churches have been contacted to reach out if want to be involved with Stepping Stones
- Open Dates available to sign up to bring meals to the Sleep Center, Monday & Tuesday are tough dates to fill
- Kayak Hopper bus service now stops at the facility multiple times a day

First Responder Updates

Terry shared the Christmas Express program completed 500 boxes, with the majority of them being picked up. The Chaplains contributed over 1200 hours and 1900 miles on personal vehicles for the year.

I Love My City

Dan shared this year the workday will be held May 16. A planning dinner is scheduled for Feb 19 at 6:30pm at Living Faith Church. There was discussion regarding involving the code enforcement official to coordinate some areas of focus for cleaning up.

Terry exited at 4:36pm.

Food Insecurity Updates

Dan passed around a flyer advertising the Friday lunch program at the Catholic Church (attached). This is a collaboration between several churches and other groups using the church kitchen to prepare the food. Free meals are available throughout the week apart from Tuesday at various locations throughout the city.



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A suggestion was made to allow organizations to utilize the Senior Center kitchen to prepare meals for those facing food insecurities.

The Food Insecurity Quarterly Lunch Gathering is Tuesday, Feb 24th from noon to 1pm at Oasis Vineyard Church. There has been an increase in attendance at the quarterly lunches.

Katelynn (Youth Advisor) and students from the high school continue to help pack rice and beans for food distribution at Oasis Church. It's encouraging to see young people volunteering their time.

School Adoption Updates

James shared a picture of Super Bowl themed snack tables that were recently set up by First Christian Church to staff at Desert View Elementary. Several other ideas were shared for ways in which a church might encourage their adopted school.

Next Meeting

A tour is scheduled for March 3, 2026, at 4pm at Stepping Stones Alliance Navigation Center located at 81535 Lind Rd. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2026, at 4pm at City Hall.

There was no further business and James closed the meeting in prayer at 4:58pm.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
SHEPHERD'S KITCHEN



COMIDA COMUNITARIA GRATUITA

FRIDAYS • VIERNES
11 AM TO 1 PM

OUR LADY OF ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH
PARISH HALL

BUILDING BEHIND THE CHURCH

EDIFICIO DETRÁS DE LA IGLESIA

565 W HERMISTON AVE. HERMISTON, OR

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WELCOME**

**TODOS SON
BIENVENIDOS**

HOSTED BY:

ORGANIZADO POR:



**OUR LADY OF ANGELS
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**FAITH PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



CHRISTIANSON REALTY GROUP

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