

Chair Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Committee members Mark Gomolski and Abby Reyes-Munoz. Council Representatives Maria Duron and Roy Barron were present, as well as City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong and Library Director Mark Rose. Youth Advisors Fernando Morales Garay and Jayson Gutierrez were also present. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Jose thanked the City for their sponsorship of the Independencia con Salud event held yesterday on Festival Street. The event was well attended.

Minutes

Lilly asked that Committee consider adopting both the April and May minutes. The April minutes were not added to the agenda in error; they were however added to the May agenda but were unable to be approved due to a lack of quorum.

Mark moved and Abby seconded to approve the April and May meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Hispanic Resource Center

Lilly introduced Library Director Mark Rose who will be presenting and stated City Manager Byron Smith and County Commissioner George Murdock send their apologies as they were both out of the area and unable to attend but wanted to relay their enthusiastic support for this project.

Mark Rose presented information (attached) regarding the Development of a Hispanic Cultural Resource Center and asked that the Committee and audience give their thoughts about the proposed Center.

Ideas were shared regarding:

- Having classes on how to use smart phones and tablets, not just basic commuter classes
- Incorporating cultural murals around the city that represent the different cultures that live in the community
- Make sure that other cultures are being represented, not just Mexicans, as there is a growing number of families migrating to this community from Guatemala and other areas that don't speak Spanish
- Spanish Story Time available during the day and evening so Hispanic and Anglo families can attend
- Voter education information
- Immigration classes
- Hosting after-hour (Library hours) and weekend activities, including event rental space
- Hosting a Homework Help Club for students. Jason mentioned that he currently attends three classes where most all students do not speak or understand English and the teachers don't speak or understand another language so students are in class but unable to engage. Not to mention that assignments are given and need to be completed using Google Classroom and those same students are unable to understand how to use the software as it's all in English
 - Maria stated she works directly under the School Superintendent and will mention these concerns to her as well
- Partnering with IMESD, Work Source, Head Start, Amazon, and many other organizations
 - Maria stated she will send Mark Rose a list
- Hosting events that specifically involve/invite the Police and Sheriff's Departments. It is important to educate people that police and immigration/ICE are not the same thing, especially in this community. Working to gather these two groups will allow people to feel comfortable with police

Mark Rose spoke and answered questions regarding:

- The difficulty it will be to select books that engage readers in Spanish
- The Center would be located in the current Library not the Carnegie Building
- The Committee felt placing the Spanish book collection downstairs with the children section would be the most comfortable space instead of upstairs in the adult section

- There is currently no set timeframe for the Center to be open/operational, but the City would like to start as soon as possible
- The Library and Library Board would manage the Center. Library programs and events would have priority for scheduling
 - There were concerns that Hispanic voices, recommendations, and complaints would go unheard if not managed by the most appropriate group
 - Roy and Maria stated they do not believe this would be an issue as the Library has held events/given resources to/for the Hispanic community for years and strong partnerships with community organizations would help avoid possible issues
- Volunteers are needed to help make this Center work. All volunteers must pass a criminal background check. SS#'s or immigration status is not asked or needed to volunteer

The Committee and audience spoke about their excitement and positivity surrounding the creation of this Center as this is something the Committee has spoken about for a few years that they believe will really help the Hispanic community.

Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Mark moved and Abby seconded to reelect Jose as Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Abby moved and Mark seconded to reelect Mark as Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Jose encouraged the Committee and Community to seek out individuals interested in being involved in their community and this Committee specifically as there are two Committee member vacancies.

Closing Comments

Public Comments

Valerie Bell, from Hermiston Republican Party, stated they are seeking Spanish speaking volunteers to help with voter information, education, and registration. Although their official organizations name is the Hermiston Republican Party, their goal is to get more people in Hermiston and Umatilla registered to vote with accurate information regardless of their political views. They will be at two locations this coming week in Umatilla and are working to set up at the Umatilla County Commissioners Candidate Forum on October 12 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Armand Larive Middle School.

Representatives from the City

Maria, Roy, and Lilly spoke regarding:

- Stepping Stones has been approved to provide Homeless Shelter Services to the area. They expect to be open prior to winter. There will be a work party to build Huts this Saturday in Umatilla starting at 9am.
- New Agenda Management Software by Municode Meetings has been acquired making it easier for the public and staff to access meetings, minutes and videos
- Primary Election Results: Councilors Elected into Office include: Jackie Linton, Jackie Myers, David McCarthy and Roy Barron, and Municipal Judge Cameron Bendixsen.
- City Has created an IT Department. This IT team of four is providing IT services to many municipalities in Umatilla and Morrow County.
- The Parks and Recreation Department was awarded an Oregon Community Foundations Grant this summer, which allowed the department to give a discount to many swim lessons participants.
- The City has been gifting water from eh regional water system to Morrow County due to their high level of nitrates in their water. This allows Morrow County resident clean usable water for free until a time established by the City.

- Psilocybin Measure 109 which passed in 2021 that legalizes manufacturing, selling and administering psilocybin in the City. This measure, whether to not allow Psilocybin in the City, will be placed before the voters at this year's General Election.
- EOTEC:
 - Sports Field Development also known as HEROS
 - Fair & Rodeo Updates
 - Fall Festival and Faith & Blue Events on October 7-9
- Prairie Meadows Development and Southwest Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency Development
- Future discussion to allow Uber to operate in the City
- City Hall to open to the public on October 5th at 1pm. Open House will be October 10th starting at 5pm with Ribbon Cutting at 6:30pm.

Committee Comments

Abby stated the Mexican Consulate will be at the Umatilla Junior High/High School this weekend. They are scheduling appointments now.

- Lilly stated Abby is working with the Community Center and EOTEC to host the Mexican Consulate in the near future if dates coincide.
- Roy suggested that Abby also try working with the Hermiston School District if City facilities are unavailable.

Mark invited the Community to participate in the Polish Dinner at the Catholic Church. The event is October 22 from 6-8pm.

Mark asked that the Committee consider volunteering to give out gifts and food baskets to those in need at the Agape House for the Christmas Express Program that is put on by the Police Department, City, Agape House, and all the donations received by the community. Volunteer days are tentatively scheduled for December 16, 17 & 19 from 10am to 6:30pm.

Next Meeting

Monday, October 17th at 7:00pm in the New City Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:23pm.

Strategic Plan for the Hermiston Public Library

2022-2025

1. Early Childhood Literacy

- a. Offer programs for pre-k children as demand indicates
- b. Expand the Children's collection
- c. Create a welcoming place for children in the basement renovation

2. Develop a Maker Space

- a. Develop list of resources for the space
 - i. Conduct a space assessment to determine what types of equipment and tools can be accommodated.
 - ii. Survey the community to identify the items they would most like to access.
- b. Develop a plan for changes that will enhance physical space within the library.

3. Develop an Hispanic Cultural Center

- a. Expand Spanish Language Collections
 - i. Participate in Libros for Oregon
 - ii. Use expansion space to increase collections
- b. Resource Center to facilitate access to community services
 - i. Staff with Spanish language skills will continue as a priority
 - ii. Displays related to the history and culture Spanish speakers in Hermiston and Oregon
 - iii. Develop partnerships with (ie. CARE, OHDC & Euvalcree) organizations serving the Hispanic community.
 - iv. Develop a resource list online and in print for all services in the community
- c. Serve as a gathering space
 - i. Identify staff with liaison responsibilities to community groups representing and serving the Spanish speaking community
 - ii. Offer basic computer classes in Spanish
 - iii. Explore financial literacy and tax filing assistance for Spanish Speakers
 - iv. Host City of Hermiston Hispanic Advisory Committee and other similar meetings in the library