



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of June 4, 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 Chris at 4:06pm.

Minutes

Dean moved and Dan seconded to approve the March 5th and May 7th meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. No meeting was held in April.

Stepping Stones Alliance Update

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

- The Center is seeing a higher daily/nightly attendance rate than normal with an average number of about 15-18 guest per night, with a low of 10 guests per night. New guests are stating that they are being sent from the City of Pendleton. The maximum number of guests the Center is able to accommodate is 20.
- Showers are up and running
- There are a total of 21 huts and five guests have already moved in. 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.
- Staff is on site 24/7 for tours, to answer questions, and help members and guests
- Shuttle bus pick up and drop off continues to be at COPES
- Stepping Stones received many donations from the I Love My City event; however, the Center is struggling with getting and retaining volunteers.

Faith and First Responders Event in October

Terry stated conversations/planning of the Faith and First Responders event is starting. There may be some changes as the Board who puts on this event considers possibly combining this event with another event instead of Kiwanis Kids Day to make sure the Faith and First Responders are more of a focus. More information will be shared in the future.

Dan and James stated it is important to share this information with all area congregations once event details have been established.

Plan to reach out to New Mayor

James stated he would like to meet with Mayor Elect Doug Primmer to offer the Committee's services and get ideas from him about what the Committee can do to better serve the community and give information on what the Committee has done in the past and is currently working on.

The Committee agreed and asked that Lilly reach out to Mayor Elect Primmer to schedule time to meet with James and Chris.



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I Love My City Update

Chris stated the I Love My City event scheduled for May 18th and 19th were great successes. Over 500 people showed up for about 3 hours of community service on Saturday, May 18th. There were great community partnerships that provided free haircuts, free diapers, and free recycling drive as in years past. There was also a great turn out for the Sunday, May 19th City-Wide Worship Service at EOTEC.

Committee member stated they would not have known about the free recycling drive at New Hope Church if they were not part of this Committee as no one saw advertisements of this service of any kind. Committee members asked that Chris or James reach out to Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz to push out advertisement of this specific item in the future, if it had not done so, and if they did push out information, if it could be done in different formats, ie: online, social media, paper format of some sort, etc.

The Committee also thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for all their efforts for this event.

2024 Committee Service Goals – Food Insecurities Update

Dan stated no additional progress has been made/needs to be reported; however, Oasis Church continues to repackage food and drop it off at Agape House and Stepping Stones. Efforts are also being made to seek younger generations of people to volunteer as volunteers are aging out and becoming more scarce.

The Committee spoke regarding how thankful they are for all the new resources available for those in need and all those who have provided services, like Jason Estle and many more. Committee members spoke regarding acts of kindness and the ripple effects that causes in people's hearts.

Other

Chris stated TruCare has moved locations, has a new Director, and is providing additional services. TruCare will be hosting a fundraiser on 06/13 at New Hope Church. Chris will be inviting the new Director to the September meeting.

Public Comment

None given.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3rd 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 4:59pm.