

Vice Chairperson Bryan Medelez called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Committee members present were Hector Ramirez, Manuel Gutierrez, Clara Beas-Fitzgerald and Jesus (Chuy) Rome. Chairperson Eddie De La Cruz was excused and committee member Alejandra Meza was absent. City representatives present were Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Officer Erica Sandoval and Executive Assistant Lilly Alarcon-Strong. News media present was David Cortinas from La Voz. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes

Manuel moved and Clara seconded approval for March minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments and Presentations from Public

National Day of Prayer - Committee member Hector invited all to attend the National Day of Prayer on May 7th, 2015 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Hermiston High School. The service will be Bi-lingual and will include all churches from all denominations. Their message is, united we can make a difference in our community.

Highway 207 - Vice Chairperson Bryan apologized to Ken May stating Mr. May had been to the February Hispanic Advisory Meeting asking for help to address the speed limit issue along Highway 207. At that time, Mr. May had asked for help to reduce the speed limit from 55 mph to 40 mph as there are more than 20 bus stops from Mid-Columbia, Head Start and Oregon Child Development Program. Bryan stated he would be looking into this issue as soon as possible.

Old Business

Milagro Theater Group - Clara stated she and Manuel Gutierrez attended the Milagro Theater Group performance on Friday April 17. The play was somewhat politically in nature and very well executed.

Cinco de Mayo – Virginia Rome stated the Cinco de Mayo parade will start at 11:30 am, those participating in the parade will need to meet at 10:00 am. Clara stated there will be a carnival on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the weekend of Cinco de Mayo, across from City Hall.

New Business

Cinco de Mayo Court – Clara stated there are five Cinco de Mayo court contestants, one will be chosen as queen and four will be princess's. They were all interviewed yesterday on the radio station and all did very well. These young ladies will be role models to their peers and younger generations. Clara announced the contestants and asked them to introduce themselves. Jennifer Garcia, 16, attends Stanfield High School; parents are Ismael and Guadalupe Garcia. In her spare time Jennifer like to spend time with her friends, volunteer in the community and run. Maribel Marin, 16, attends Hermiston High School; parents are Maria and Aurelio Marin. In her spare time Maribel enjoys spending time with her friends. Brisa Gutierrez, 18, Hermiston High School come from Chihuahua Mexico, parents are Guerrero and Angeles Gutierrez. In her spare time Brisa likes to cook, translate for those who do not speak English and volunteer in the community. Hillary Fernandez, 16, is a resident of Stanfield but attends Hermiston High School; parents are Rogelio and Maribel Fernandez. In her spare time Hillary enjoys spending time with her friends. Sara Lomas, 16, Hermiston High School; has two sisters and a brother, mother is Estella Doness and step-father is Thereso Covarrubia. In her spare time Sara enjoys volunteering at school and watching movies with her friends. Clara stated the contestant will be judged this Sunday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Armand Larive Middle School. The winner will be chosen based on her speech, radio interview, dress appearance, composure, a written essay composed by each of the contestants and answers to questions they will be asked on Sundays event. There are five judges scoring each category with a total of 100 possible points and the winner will be chosen based on the highest points earned. The Queen will receive a \$500.00 scholarship.

Closing Comments

Public

Smarter Balance Testing - Cathy Keeney from the Hermiston School District stated the Smarter Balance Testing is going on now through May and it is very important that kids not miss any days of school.

Reporting Fraud & Sheriff's Department – Clara Santana stated she had been contacted by phone several times from a person claiming to know her family's location in the states as well as in Mexico and if she did not send a certain amount of money to him he would hurt her family. It was recommended to her to report the incident to the Sheriff's Department. While she was telling the Deputy, Mike Smith, the situation he asked her for information that she did not feel was necessary in regards to her situation. After furnishing Deputy Mike Smith with her License the deputy began to ask questions such as: if her and her husband were legally able to work in the United States, if they were US citizens or what the residency status was and asked her for her United States Passport. She left the Sheriff's department feeling the deputy was more interested in her and her husband's legal residency status than the telephonic harassment issue. She also noticed when she left the Sheriff's department the deputy was driving behind her for some time and she felt intimidated. Officer Sandoval stated these types of cases are becoming more frequent and unfortunately some people are falling victim to these crimes and suggested to the public that they take action against these types of crimes, contacting the police department and not giving these people any kind of personal information or money. She suggested Mrs. Santana contact the Credit Bureau. Officer Sandoval stated police officers have the right to ask for different types of identification in order to identify someone if they do not have a picture ID or License. It was clarified to Officer Sandoval that the deputy had asked for her and her husband's citizenship status and Passport after she had furnished him with her Driver's License. Officer Sandoval recommended Mrs. Santana contact the deputies direct supervisor or the Sheriff himself and let them know what the deputy was asking of her as the Hermiston Police Department would never ask questions regarding citizenship status when dealing with a victim of a crime. When someone is a victim, the objective of the police department is to gain enough information from the individual to help them, it differs when dealing with someone who has committed a crime or is a suspect of a crime.

David Cortinas from La Voz stated the police, any police, has no right to ask any sort of immigration status questions for any reason. If they do, you do not have to answer those questions. Officer Sandoval reaffirmed that no officer should be asking questions of that nature, with the exception, if for example, you are pulled over for a driving violation and you do not have a driver's license then you must supply another form of ID which can be a Mexican Consulate card, an employment card with Picture ID, Passport or any type of picture identification. If you do not have any of these items you must answer questions in order to identify who you are and because you are committing a crime by driving without a license, you can also be arrested. Officer Sandoval stated we, as officers, as individuals and as a community must be held accountable for our actions and if that means contacting a supervisor to find out why these types of questions were asked then that's what needs to be done.

Virginia Rome suggested that the committee request the presence of the Sheriff's department at one of the next meetings to answer questions the public may have. Virginia stated the committee had previously reached out to the Sheriff's department asking them to attend one of the meetings but for one reason or another, the Sheriff's department never attended a meeting.

David Cortinas from La Voz stated based on what he understood, he was going to publish an article stating the Hermiston Police Department is now asking for Passports to establish identity; and from what he understands, this is illegal. Officer Sandoval stated this was not true and she never said this specifically. Officer Sandoval

clarified she had said a passport is a form of Identification, not that the police department was specifically asking for passports. David Cortinas suggested the committee contact the Hermiston Police Department and the Sheriff's department to clarify what specific documents they require to identify a person and in this case a victim.

Virginia Rome stated she felt that Officer Sandoval's explanation was either not understood correctly or not communicated well and wanted to clarify what Officer Sandoval stated. Mrs. Rome explained Officer Sandoval stated that a police officer would only ask for a passport or another form of ID if a person did not have a Driver's License while operating a vehicle, etc. Hector and Clara agreed.

Bryan stated he would speak with George Anderson and Eddie De La Cruz regarding this issue and see if they could pull their resources to try to get a member of the Sheriff's office to a meeting. Bryan stated with the media, at times, magnifying everything that happens it's important to know that this is why this committee and Officer Sandoval is here, to boost confidence and build trust in our community.

Cinco de Mayo Contestants - Roque Medrano stated he heard all five Cinco de Mayo contestants on the radio and thinks they all did very well.

Committee

Diana Quesada - Bryan introduced Diana Quesada who is interested in joining the Hispanic Advisory Committee. Bryan stated she has spoken with him, George Anderson and Eddie De La Cruz and they have decided to welcome her into a volunteer role for the committee until it is established this is what she would like to do. Mrs. Quesada stated she is from Pendleton and is a Research Developer and representative for the Oregon Food Bank in Umatilla, Morrow, Wheeler and Gilliam County. Her role is to bring awareness that poverty is an issue and help bring food to those in need within the community. Mrs. Quesada works with individual and corporate donors, as well as, grants to obtain food for the National Food Bank. The goal they work towards is to end child hunger.

Bryan stated he has worked with Mrs. Quesada before; driving to Portland and donating 170,000 pounds of potatoes from OSU Agriculture Research. Mrs. Quesada stated with this donation, Oregon Food Bank was able to serve 5-lb bags over the entire state of Oregon.

Cinco de Mayo – Clara stated next meeting will be at City Hall on Wednesday April 22, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

City Representatives

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan announced the City is having a recycling event in the parking lot of Umatilla Electric on Saturday April 25th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. City Council and Community Enhancement Committee is also having a Landscape Ordinance Open House on May 7th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting

Next scheduled meeting will be Monday May 18th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm