

Chairperson Eddie De La Cruz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Committee members present were Hector Ramirez, Manuel Gutierrez, Claudia Jimenez, Jesus Rome (arrived at 7:01 pm), and Clara Beas-Fitzgerald. Claudia was excused, and Bryan Medelez was absent. City representatives present were Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan and Executive Assistant Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Media Present was Michael Kane from NE Oregon Now. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes

Manuel moved and Clara seconded to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Motion carried unanimously. (Jesus Rome arrived 7:01 pm)

New Business

Milton-Freewater's Hispanic Advisory Committee

Eddie stated he has been working with County Commissioner Bill Elfering to form a Hispanic Advisory Committee in Milton-Freewater.

Virginia Rome stated the City of Hermiston really supported HAC, and is wondering if Milton-Freewater is also supporting this or is it just the County.

Eddie stated the City of Milton-Freewater is also in support of forming this committee.

Manuel stated Milton-Freewater has a big population of Hispanics and forming this committee will be good for the community.

Farm Labor Housing

Eddie congratulated RDO for purchasing property in Morrow County for farm labor housing and would like to see if Umatilla County can also do something similar.

Manuel stated he knows there is farm labor housing in Hermiston called Hacienda West, but believes Eddie would like to see something on a greater scale like the RDO project.

Clara stated Boardman's population is about 70% Hispanic, with most recent arrivals from Guatemala and El Salvador, this farm worker housing will do a great service for that community and the area.

An audience member recommended soil tests be done, if they haven't done so already, to make sure the area is a safe place for the agricultural workers and families to live.

Vice Chair Nomination

Eddie stated Claudia will be moving to Tri-Cities for a new employment opportunity and Bryan has stepped down from the Committee. Eddie and the Committee thanked Claudia and Bryan for all the work they have done for the Committee and the community.

Manuel asked the City to route thank you cards to both members.

Eddie stated community members have applied for the vacant positions and will be joining the Committee in July. Nominations for Vice Chair and Chair will be postponed until the July HAC meeting.

Closing Comments**Public**

A representative from Head Start stated she has been trying to help families set up electric service at UEC but has had difficulties in doing so. The current family has passports and consulate cards but the representatives at UEC will not accept these forms of ID.

Maria Duron from UEC stated those signing up for services must have valid US identification but will check into the issue and have a better explanation as to why at the next HAC meeting.

Luis Correa stated he is a contractor working with La Palma owner Jesus Avila to expand his restaurant. When he originally spoke with the Building Official and showed him the preliminary plans, the Building official told him he would not need to add sprinklers to the building. When Mr. Correa returned to for the building permit the Building Official then changed his mind and stated sprinklers would need to be added, adding sprinklers to the building will increase the budget by at least \$100,000. Mr. Correa and Mr. Avila are confused as to why the change is being required with the Building Official when the code does not require is based on the size of the building.

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated he has spoken with the Fire Marshal and the Building Official regarding this matter and they are trying to resolve the issue. Mark will speak with Mr. Correa and Mr. Avila after the meeting.

Maria Duron from UEC stated UEC is recognizing students with academic greatness in their June Ruralite Magazine. These kids are from the entire community not just customers from UEC. Please congratulate these students if you see the in the community.

Maria stated HES and UEC customers can request a free energy audit to help with energy efficiency and cost savings. There are also many rebates homeowners can qualify for if energy improvements are made. Homeowners must check with UEC prior to making the improvements to see if rebates can be given.

Committee

Manuel stated Catholic Charities and other agencies came together in Hermiston on May 17 to discuss immigration issues.

Hector stated the Highway 395 project was completed well and asked when Holiday Inn would be finished.

Mark stated by August 30th.

Manuel stated the Good Shepard Medical Foundation awarded 17 scholarships worth over \$30,000 to students furthering their education in the medical field. And Manuel is proud to say many of those grants were received by Hispanics.

Maria Duron thanked the Good Shepard Medical Foundation as her daughter received a scholarship.

Manuel asked when grass would be planted at Newport Park.

Mark stated he will check and get back with him.

Jesus stated he has been out to the new Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center and it is a great facility.

City Representative

Assistant City Manager Morgan invited the public to participate in the Fiesta de Salud Health Fair on July 31st, from 1pm to 5pm at Marisol Family Health Center. Specific information will be available for the Hermiston Taxi Ticket Program for seniors and those with disabilities. Mark stated the City would like to specifically reach out to the Hispanic population regarding this program, and if possible, would like participation from HAC.

Maria Duron stated it was a great service but would like to have bilingual staff for better communication. Participants are also being told they need to call 24 hours in advance to schedule a ride, which is not always a possibility.

Mark stated the City is also working with the Tribes to form a Dial-A-Ride Program to help alleviate waiting restraints with the Taxi Ticket Program. Hopefully, the Dial-A-Ride Program will be approved by January 2017.

Jesus asked for more information regarding these programs to share with community partners.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, July 18th, at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:09pm