

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

Minutes

Manuel moved and Hector seconded to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Livable Hermiston Presentation

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated the Future Task Force and Livability Oversight Committee have been working on getting ideas and input from Hermiston residents and those who work and visit Hermiston, but do not live in Hermiston, to make Hermiston more livable within the next 10 to 15 years. This idea was developed as the EOTEC site will be coming online soon, and the City was looking for long term ideas for Conference Center. Two surveys were given to the community with over 1,000 participants each time. Out of those two surveys, participants indicated they felt the most important things for Hermiston to have would be: 91% Year-Round Aquatic Center, 90% Revitalize Downtown, 86% more outdoor open spaces, 85% YMCA/Boys and Girls Club, and 67% Arts and Cultural Facility/ Museum.

The Committee and audience participated in a survey administered by Mark where they specified what negative and positive impact the above facilities might have in the community, as well as their preferred priority, which was an indoor aquatic center.

Violence Prevention

Violence Prevention Coordinator Danny Bane stated his main job is to help smaller organizations build infrastructure, gain funding, and help with the kids in their programs. Danny was previously with Lost and Found Outreach in Pendleton for over 13 years, which partners with other entities in the community to provide programs for kids 12-18 to lower their risk factors and give them the support they need to thrive in their life. Danny stated Ace's (Adverse Child Experience) is a science conducted by medical professionals who researched over 17,000 individuals. In their research, it was discovered that those who grew up with an alcoholic parent or suffered physical, sexual, or mental abuse were more likely to have health and mental problems later in life. Danny stated with these new Ace studies, more program dollars are being funded to help children in these situations, and he will be helping the community group with this process. Danny stated children are very important to him and the groups he works with and they spend an average of 16 hours per week with each child. Danny presented the Committee with a video regarding Resiliency, and explained giving children unconditional love and support will directly impact their health and wellness now and well into their future. Danny stated he is very happy to work with HAC and is pleased the City has formed this Committee.

Manuel stated he works with Domestic Violence and stated studies show 1 in every 3 girls and 1 in every 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18; Manuel feels that these numbers are inaccurate and are actually higher based on the shame that children feel coming forward. Manuel stated it is important that the community educates themselves on these very real risks for children and encourages children to come forward if they are being abused.

Danny agreed with Manuel stating studies also show that domestic violence is rated #1, and child abuse is rated #2 and their main priority is teaching prevention so the cycle does not continue.

Latino Business Network and Farm Worker Resource Fair

Alicia Aguilar invited the public to participate in the Latino Business Network that meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Community Center at 9:00am and the Farm Worker Resource Fair Expo on March 9th from 5:00pm to 7:30pm at the Community Center.

UEC Scholarship Programs and Rate Changes

Maria Duron from UEC stated UEC is offering 12 academic scholarships to UEC customers. Applicants must apply before March 1st, 2016 to be considered for the scholarships at Oregonstudentaid.com; when filling out the application, applicants will have the option of applying for 20 different scholarship opportunities. The process is lengthy, so please do not wait until the last minute to apply. Another 2 scholarships are available directly at UEC.

Maria stated Bonneville Power raised their electric rates in October 2015, and therefore UEC base rates will increase from \$14.00 to \$18.00. Cost analysis report results show UEC rates are still one of the lowest in Eastern Oregon, as the average base rate is \$28.00 to \$30.00. Maria stated UEC does have an Energy Audit Program where customers from UEC and HES can have free inspections showing them how they can save on their electric consumption, as well as a program to help UEC low income families pay their electric bill.

Cinco de Mayo

Eddie stated this topic will be postponed for the following meeting.

Closing Comments**Public**

Roger Burger thanked HAC for their translating services in November for Conferences and would like ask for this partnership again at the next scheduled conference in March. The High School received a lot of very positive feedback from the conferences related to the translating services.

Hector stated the volunteer group that helped with conferences felt honored and privileged to help and will be glad to participate again.

Committee

Manuel stated Ken May has not heard back regarding the requested speed limit change on HWY 207 and would like to know if this is something the Committee is going to pursue.

Eddie stated Bryan was in charge of this issue and he will make sure the topic is placed on the next agenda.

Hector stated the MLK walk had a great turn out, with the number of participants growing each year.

Clara stated there was a great number of families with small children that attended, as well as a good number of high school students.

Virgina Rome stated she attended the MLK event in Pendleton as well, and it was a very well put together event.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 16th, at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 pm