

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

Minutes

Jesus moved and Manuel seconded to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

CASA Dinner Fundraiser- Jesus stated there will be a fundraising dinner for children who are in foster care tomorrow, September 20th at Rafael's Sundown Grill in Pendleton.

Bottle Drop

Jose stated there is a new recycled bottle center located in Hermiston. It is a very easy process and encourages the community to recycle. There are three different ways to recycle: drop off, hand count, or do it yourself. Money is automatically transferred into a debit kind of card for the user to spend anywhere they choose.

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan stated Sanitary Disposal is looking in to placing additional recycling bins at the Bottle Drop area so all recycling needs can be located in one place.

Milton-Freewater Hispanic Advisory Committee

Eddie stated Milton-Freewater is very close to finalizing a Hispanic Advisory Committee. This is a very needed Committee in Milton-Freewater as the population is about 52% Hispanic. Eddie stated he is excited to see this committee form.

Public Transportation Development Committee

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan gave an overview of the Taxi Ticket Program, both past and present, and gave information on the current eligibility, operations, and expectations. The City has been working with KAYAK on a new transit service to have a fixed-route bus system throughout the City. The fixed route bus system would be free for all riders. The newly formed Public Transportation Development Committee recently met to discuss these items and what time of day and where the bus stops could be. Assistant City Manager Morgan encouraged the committee and public to answer these questions in a survey form on the City's website and at City Hall. The Survey will be available until September 30th.

Members of the public and the Committee asked if minors would be able to ride without adults, if the bus could run on weekends and later in the day to allow the Hispanic community who work in agriculture to utilize the bus system, and asked if a member of the HAC can be on the Committee to make sure Hispanic needs are heard.

Ryan Lehnert stated this is a very good system as it allows veterans to seek medical care as the bus system goes to Walla Walla.

Mark stated Hermiston will utilize the same rules as KAYAK regarding minors who ride the bus system, but does not know what that is specifically at this time. Mark stated he will email the members of HAC when future meetings will be so they can attend if they would like. Meetings are open to the public and are posted on the City's website.

Voting Statistics

Alex Thompson-Hall Oregon State University stated she is not trying to speak on behalf of Hispanics or trying to form a political agenda but she wants people, especially young people in Umatilla County, to know the importance of voting. Hermiston is a very diverse population that can make a difference by voting. Alex stated Greg Smith is the co-sponsor of an initiative to set up an E-Verify system. E-Verify would allow employers to more easily check the immigration status of potential employees. Thompson-Hall stated that Greg Smith is continuously re-elected as no one runs against him.

A member of the public stated E-Verify would affect the undocumented but would also affect employers who need to employ employees to get work done.

Members of the audience and the Committee thanked Alex for all the information.

Eddie invited Alex to speak on his radio show to share all the information she has presented.

A member of the audience stated Umatilla High School will have a National Voter Registration Day September 27th 4:00pm to 8:00pm and invites all to attend.

Manuel stated it would be beneficial to speak with the Hermiston School District to see what kind of information they give to students about voting.

Umatilla County Sheriff Candidate Ryan Lehnert

Umatilla County Sheriff Candidate Ryan Lehnert thanked Alex for her presentation and agreed that voting is very important, as well as making sure people have employment opportunities, stating when people don't have employment opportunities crime rates go up. Mr. Lehnert stated he wants to reiterate that he has been to HAC meetings throughout the year, not because it is an election year, but because he is committed to building a good relationship with the Hispanic population and community and making a difference throughout the County. Mr. Lehnert stated he spoke with the Secretary of Homeland Security and they are mainly concerned with undocumented residents who commit felonies and certain misdemeanors, not everyday people trying to better their lives.

Mr. Lehnert stated he does not want to be a career politician; he wants to work with and for the community.

Hermiston School District Updates

Maria Duron from the Hermiston School District stated there are 5,600 students enrolled in the school district and that number continues to grow. Maria stated Rogers Toyota will be donating a bicycle and helmet to all 6th grade students with perfect attendance this year. Maria stated Author Roland Smith will be at Armand Larive Middle School on October 5th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and encouraged the public to attend. Maria stated there will be a 2nd community survey the 1st week of October to gauge the community on how they feel about the School District Bond. Maria also gave information regarding: Breakfast of Champions, no school on Friday 09/23, Financial Aid Night on September 21, free FASFA help on October 1st, and asked HAC to volunteer to translate for high school conferences Monday and Wednesday November 7th and 9th.

Closing Comments**Community Prayer**

Hector stated he is a Chaplain for the Hermiston Police Department and invited the community to participate in the Community Prayer on Saturday October 8th at 2:00pm at Victory Square Park.

Cinco de Mayo

Clara invited the public to attend the Cinco de Mayo Committee meeting on September 28th.

Oregon Commission for Women

Clara stated she has been working with Oregon Commission for Woman to create and pass a bill of rights for children of parents that are incarcerated.

La Lay Radio Station

Gaudencio Felipe stated although the radio station is located in Kennewick Washington, they are very dedicated to Hermiston and will continue to help with radio communication for all community and special events and information.

Citizen Discussion

A citizen stated there is a street light out on the corner of Madrona and NW 5th street. The area is very dark and asked if the light could be replaced.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, October 17th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47pm