

**Advisory Board Project PATH
Minutes August 24, 2023**

A. Meeting called to order- City Manager Smith called the meeting to order at 9:08am.

Roll Call- Present - City Managers; Smith, Slaght and Burgener, Commissioner Dorrان. Absent – City Manager Stockdale. Others: Stepping Stones Alliance Members; Jesalyn Cole and Cathy Lloyd.

B. Approval of Minutes- City Manager Smith requested motion to approve minutes. County Commissioner Dorrان moved for approval of minutes. Motion seconded by City Manager Slaght. Motion carried.

C. Project PATH Updates - Jesalyn Cole, updated the group on recent outreach that has included Hermiston Melon Fest, Hispanic Advisory Council, and a presentation at the 7th Day Adventist Church in Hermiston. Navigation Director, Carolina, has been visiting area encampments with lunches, water, and information about the Sleep Center and individual shelter units. A recent update on HB 5019 and the shelter addendum from PATH for \$896,000; request came to decrease the budget by 30% and resubmit. Esmeralda has already completed the request. HUD funding application is being worked on and will be submitted on Tuesday. AWS donated \$100,000. The 21 individual shelter units are ready to be moved onto site; there are small items that will be completed once moved. A fundraising committee has been established and 2 large (annual) events are being slated for spring of 2024 and fall of 2024. Cathy mentioned the Think Big Space collaboration between AWS and Umatilla High School; class will be making several items for use on site with the shelter units.

D. Site Updates- City Mgr Stockdale shared via email: We've got the septic contractor, well driller/contractor, and wall/fence contractor all lined up. They will all start arriving on-site toward the end of next week. We're lining up pipe and other utility work, but expect them to be there about 3 weeks from now. Paving will be about 5 weeks from now (we haven't been given a final date yet). But, we're expecting to have the facility ready in October. We don't have an exact date yet, but mid-to-late October (probably the week of the 23d) is the most likely date. The Navigation Center will still need to be refurbished/refreshed, but it will be able to be operational on day-one, we'll just have to coordinate that work to have the lowest impacts on operations as we can. But the Sleep Center and the ISUs should be up and running in about 70 days from today (if not a little sooner).

E. Public Comment – No public comment.

F. Open Table Discussion – Byron shared that he has had recent meetings with a representative from HUD as well as USDA and conversations around housing. Cathy shared recent discussions with organization in Texas and keeping any goals set reasonable; specific to hygiene, food, housing. Talk about cottage clusters, pallet shelters, ideas around next steps of transitional housing. Jesalyn shared printed copies of the Stepping Stones annual report that was presented to Umatilla City Council on August 15th. Cathy also requested that as cities surplus items, Stepping Stones be kept in the loop so as to have the opportunity to bid/purchase.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35am.