

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – 10:00 am
City Hall Commission Chambers – 806 N Second Ave.

CALL TO ORDER

Introductions:

Consent Calendar:

1. Approve Minutes from April 17, 2024

NEW BUSINESS:

National Partnership for New Americans, Report by Magaly Arteaga, Program & Training Manager

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Welcoming Week Committee Update
 - a. International Festival 2024
2. Engage Dodge Spring Session and Reception Invitation
3. Naturalization Scholarship
 - a. Awardee Letter and Rejection Letter
4. Immigration Attorney Informative Session Update

BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES (keep in mind):

- May 5, 2024, Cinco de Mayo
- 6:00pm, May 16, 2024, Engage Dodge Reception, Dodge City Municipal Services Building, 100 Chaffin Road
- June 17-23, 2024, Refugee Week
- June 25-27, 2024, USCIS MSI & June 25, 2024-Projected Naturalization Ceremony
- National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15- October 15, 2024
- September 8, 2024, Dodge City International Festival, Wright Park
- September 13-22, 2024, Welcoming Week
- Human Rights Day – Tuesday, December 10, 2024

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF
ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 – 9:00 am
City Hall Commission Chambers – 806 N Second Ave

CALL TO ORDER

Attendees: Holly Mercer, Cecilia Holguin, Debbie Snapp, Yarisel Sanchez, Jeff Heirs, Susan Finley, Vicky Ortiz, Isabel Garcia,

Absent: Esmeralda Soto, Brenda Carmona, Karla Lees, Coral Lopez

Staff: Melissa McCoy, Darlin Rayo

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve Minutes from March 20, 2024, Meeting: Yari Sanchez motioned to approve the minutes, and Debbie Snapp seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Immigration Attorney Informative Session Update
 - a. Dodge City Public Library –Mike Feltman said he was available May 30th in the evening. Vicky Ortiz said he is flexible. Concern about having during a holiday weekend possibly June 4-6 are options for meeting. Melissa McCoy will reach out to Denise Ramos and Debbie Snapp will check with Catholic Charities Immigration attorneys.
 - b. Immigrant Connections, Inc.- no follow up from them so we will not consider this at this time.
2. Welcoming Week Committee Update
 - a. International Festival 2024: Cultural Fashion Show was considered as an addition to the entertainment lineup. Crossroads Kitchen plans to feature framed cards with recipes, and Susan Finley has suggested having a dedicated emcee, with a contact already in mind. Isabel Garcia mentioned that Brenda Carmona has begun reaching out to past participants. The Art program will make a return and have displays around the park. Today a letter was sent out requesting meat sponsorship to Cargill. Additionally, the marketing team will meet with City staff to plan out the marketing strategy.
3. Engage Dodge Spring Session: Darlin Rayon reported that they are almost halfway through the Engage Dodge spring session. She mentioned a large class of 101 participants, mainly comprising Adult Learning Center students and USD 443 ESOL students.
4. Welcoming Interactive with Welcoming America Update: Darlin Rayo and Roxana Arjon, attended the Welcoming Interactive conference, where

Darlin focused on language access and community partnerships. Roxana Arjon joined her at the conference.

5. ICMA Award Application Update: The application for the Community Partnership award for the Cultural Relations Advisory Board was submitted after the last CRAB meeting. Staff expects to hear back by mid-June regarding the outcome.
6. Naturalization Scholarship
 - a. Application Review: Today is the deadline, and one of the applicants is not a resident of Ford County. The board recommends exploring whether the Community Foundation can assist in this matter.
 - b. Awardee Letter and Rejection Letter: no action was taken on these documents at this time.
7. Five Flags Video: Holly Mercer reported that the video project documenting the history of Ford County over the last 500 years is progressing well, although finding specific and rare pictures has been a challenge. One of the main difficulties has been locating maps. Additionally, there will be a shorter component of the video exhibited at Boot Hill Museum, focusing on migration and governmental influences. Plans are underway for a screening event upon the premiere of the video.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES (keep in mind):

- April-Celebrate Diversity Month
- May 5, 2024, Cinco de Mayo
- June 1, 2024 Main Street Festival
- June 17-23, 2024 Refugee Week
- June 27, 2024 USCIS Naturalization Ceremony in Dodge City
- June 29, 2024 Latino Summit
- July 25 – August 4, 2024 Dodge City Days
- National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15- October 15, 2024
- September 3, 2023 Welcoming Week Proclamation
- September 8, 2024, Dodge City International Festival, Wright Park
- September 13-22, 2024, Welcoming Week
- Human Rights Day – Tuesday, December 10, 2024

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF

Yarisel Sanchez mentioned that the Multicultural Committee will be hosting an estate planning informative session on May 2nd at Hennessy Hall at 5:30pm. Jeff Hiers also shared that the Nazarene Church is hosting English classes Fridays at 6:30 free and open to anyone who wants to learn English.

ADJOURNMENT

Debbie Snapp made a motion to adjourn, Yarisel Sanchez seconded.



April 17, 2023

First Last
Email

Congratulations, Name. On behalf of the City of Dodge City and our partners at Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas and UFCW Local 2, I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected as one of nineteen (19) recipients for the Naturalization Scholarship.

This \$400 scholarship is funded by a grant from Gateways for Growth and a grant from the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas. The scholarship can be applied to USCIS application fees and/or towards receiving legal assistance (\$240) from Catholic Charities of SWKS.

As a reminder, your scholarship is contingent on your attendance at Engage Dodge. This program will introduce you to City of Dodge City staff and to the various services and activities we provide. The exact dates for Engage Dodge are still tentative; however, we expect that the program will be held from September to October. We will work with you and the other recipients to find a time that does not conflict with school or work obligations.

The scholarship will be made out to you via check before the end of this month. If you decide to utilize the legal assistance, the \$240 cost will be sent directly to Catholic Charities of SKWS while the remaining portion of \$160 will be made out to you via check.

To receive the scholarship, we require that you fill out the attached W-9 form. You may send the completed form via email to Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) or Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org). You may also fill out a paper copy of the W-9 form at City Hall (806 N. 2nd Avenue) and leave the completed form with City staff.

We thank you for taking the time to apply for this scholarship to continue your path to becoming a U.S. Citizen. If you have any questions, you may contact Melissa McCoy or Darlin Rayo at 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nickolas J. Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Nick Hernandez
City Manager



159 de abril de 2024

First Last
Email

Felicidades, Teresa. En nombre de la Ciudad de Dodge City y nuestros socios de Caridades Católicas del Suroeste de Kansas y **UFCW Local 2**, me complace informarle que ha sido seleccionado como uno de los diecinueve (19) beneficiarios de la Beca de Naturalización.

Esta beca de \$400 está financiada por una subvención de Gateways for Growth y una subvención de la Fundación Comunitaria del Suroeste de Kansas. La beca se puede aplicar a las tarifas de USCIS y / o para recibir asistencia legal de Caridades Católicas de SWKS.

Como recordatorio, su beca depende de su asistencia a Engage Dodge. Este programa le presentará al personal de City of Dodge City y a los diversos servicios y actividades que ofrecemos. Las fechas exactas para Engage Dodge aún son tentativas; sin embargo, esperamos que el programa se lleve a cabo de septiembre a octubre. Trabajaremos con usted y los otros beneficiarios para encontrar un momento que no entre en conflicto con sus obligaciones escolares o laborales.

La beca se le hará a través de un cheque antes de finales de este mes. Si decide utilizar la asistencia legal, el costo de \$240 será enviado directamente a Caridades Católicas de SKWS. La porción restante de \$160 se le hará a su nombre a través de un cheque.

Para recibir la beca, requerimos que complete el formulario W-9 adjunto. Puede enviar el formulario completo por correo electrónico a Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) o Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org). También puede completar el formulario W-9 en el Ayuntamiento (806 N. 2nd Avenue) y dejar el formulario completo con el personal de la Ciudad.

Le agradecemos por tomarse el tiempo para solicitar esta beca para continuar su camino para convertirse en ciudadano estadounidense. Si tiene alguna pregunta, puede comunicarse con Melissa McCoy o Darlin Rayo al 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).

Sinceramente,

Nick Hernandez
Gerente de la Ciudad



April 17, 2024

Recipient Name
Recipient Email

Thank you for taking the time to apply for the Naturalization Scholarship offered by the City of Dodge City in partnership with Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas and UFCW Local 2 and funded through a grant from Gateways for Growth and a grant from the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas. We had many applicants for the scholarship, and we regret to inform you that you were not selected as a recipient due to not meeting the eligibility criteria.

Although we wish we could assist with every community member's request, funds for this scholarship are limited. However, you may be eligible to receive a [fee waiver](#) or a [reduced fee](#) from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). If you believe you are eligible for the fee waiver or a reduced fee, you may visit the USCIS website (www.uscis.gov) to learn more.

We wish you luck on your pathway to citizenship. If you have any questions, you may contact Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) or Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org) at 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).

Sincerely,



Nick Hernandez
City Manager



178 de abril de 2024

Recipient Name
Recipient Email

Gracias por tomarse el tiempo para solicitar la Beca de Naturalización ofrecido por la Ciudad de Dodge City en asociación con Caridades Católicas del Suroeste de Kansas y UFCW Local 2 y financiado a través de una subvención de Gateways for Growth y una subvención de la Fundación Comunitaria del Suroeste de Kansas. Tuvimos muchos solicitantes para la beca, y lamentamos informarle que no fue seleccionado como beneficiario debido a que no cumplió con los criterios de elegibilidad.

Aunque deseáramos poder ayudar con la solicitud de cada miembro de la comunidad, los fondos para esta beca son limitados. Sin embargo, puede ser elegible para recibir una [exención de tarifas](#) o una [tarifa reducida](#) de los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los Estados Unidos (USCIS). Si cree que es elegible para la exención de tarifas o una tarifa reducida, puede visitar el sitio web de USCIS (www.uscis.gov) para obtener más información.

Le deseamos suerte en su camino hacia la ciudadanía. Si tiene alguna pregunta, puede comunicarse con Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) o Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org) al 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).

Sinceramente,

Nick Hernandez
Gerente de la Ciudad