

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, October 16, 2024 – 10:00 am
East Training Room Santa Fe Depot (201 E. Wyatt Earp)

Call to Order: Chair Brenda Carmona

Visitors:

Consent Calendar:

1. Approve CRAB Minutes from September 18, 2024.

Unfinished Business:

1. Humanities Kansas Grant - Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy
2. Certified Welcoming Process - Report by Roxana Arjon
3. Guatemalan Consulate Mobile Services Report by Roxana Arjon
4. Engage Dodge Fall 2024- Report by Darlin Rayo
5. New Americans Dinner- Report by Darlin Rayo
6. USCIS Community Engagement Sessions – Report by Roxana Arjon

New Business:

1. Language Exchange Dialogue - Report by Hugo Hernandez
2. Welcoming Interactive Proposal – Report by Roxana Arjon

Board Program/Dates (keep in mind):

- October 22 – Certified Welcoming Bootcamp (Online + MSB)
- October 31 – New Americans Dinner Deadline
- November 14 – New Americans Dinner
- December 10 – Human Rights Day

Board Member and Staff Comments:

Next Meeting Dates:

- 10:00am, Wednesday, November 20- East Training Room, Santa Fe Depot
- No December Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING MINUTES

CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 – 10:00 am
City Hall Commission Chambers – 806 N Second Ave.

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Brenda Carmona called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Introductions

Present: Karla Lees, Brenda Carmona, Holly Mercer, Kristin Hines, Yari Sanchez, and Susan Finley.

Absent: Esmeralda Soto, Perla Lopez, Jeff Hiers, Jose Ramos, and Debbie Snapp

Visitors: Isabel Garcia and Hugo Hernandez

Staff: Melissa McCoy, Darlin Rayo, and Roxana Arjon

Consent Calendar

1. **Approval of CRAB Minutes** from August 21, 2024.
2. **Approval of International Festival Planning Minutes** from August 28, 2024.

Holly Mercer made a motion to approve, Yari Sanchez seconded. The motion carried 6-0

Unfinished Business

1. Five Flags Update

Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy:

- The documentary has been shared on Dodge City's YouTube channel with Spanish subtitles. The board discussed sharing it across social media to reach a broader audience. One more event is scheduled for September 24 at 3:00 pm at the DC3 Library, with Tim Wenzl presenting. Melissa McCoy reported the need to complete the final report on the project.

2. Welcoming Week Committee Update

International Festival 2024

Report by Darlin Rayo:

- The festival went well, with City staff set to meet with Parks and Recreation for potential improvements. Feedback from food trucks was positive. It was discussed that volunteers should sign up in advance to ensure they receive shirts. The board decided to set the date for next year's Welcoming Week to September 7, 2025, avoiding a conflict with the Cabalgata. Yari Sanchez suggested booking venues years in advance.

Financial report by Hugo Hernandez:

- There were some discrepancies with sponsors; ICT Great Plains and Landmark National Bank are both expected to send checks, Darlin Rayo and Melissa McCoy will follow up. A motion to approve a \$300 stipend for the emcees was made by Karla Lees, Holly Mercer seconded. All approved 6-0. The board discussed donating to Dodge City High School for their assistance with filming, and Melissa McCoy will follow up with Keisha Batman for clarification on the process.

3. **Certified Welcoming Process**

Report by Roxana Arjon:

- The process has kicked off with an overview and an intake interview. Roxana Arjon has begun reaching out to groups such as Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas, USD 443, Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce, and DC3 to gather evidence. They also encouraged participation in the Welcoming Bootcamp on October 15. The meeting will be both virtual and in-person, with a link to be provided for virtual attendance.

4. **Guatemalan Consulate Mobile Services (October 19-20)**

Report by Roxana Arjon:

- A meeting is scheduled with Vicky Ortiz at the Dodge City Public Library on October 3rd to review logistics. Orientation will be held on October 3rd at 11:30 am at DCPL for volunteers to learn about the process. Bilingual volunteers are still needed, and appointments will open on October 4th at 10:00 am.

New Business

1. **Engage Dodge Fall 2024**

Report by Darlin Rayo:

- Sessions are being planned for the Naturalization Scholarship recipients and the ESOL and Diversity group from USD443. Naturalization Scholarship recipients will have their sessions October 8, 10, 15, and 17. ESOL Students will have their sessions October 30 and November 6.

2. **New Americans Dinner**

Report by Darlin Rayo:

- Dates are still pending for the dinner, and the board will be informed once confirmed.

Board Program/Dates to Keep in Mind

- October 1 @ 10:30 am/5:15 pm – USCIS Local Engagement @ DCPL
- October 4 @ 10 am – Guatemalan Consulate Appointments Open
- October 22 – Certified Welcoming Bootcamp
- October 19-20 – Guatemalan Consulate
- December 10 – Human Rights Day

Board Member and Staff Comments

- Holly Mercer shared details about the upcoming Kaufman Race exhibit, which will be displayed in October and November in the Library at Dodge City Community College.

- The University of Kansas is hosting a program on November 15, focusing on international job opportunities along with Garden Community College and, and Seward County Community College.
- Roxana Arjon provided an update from USCIS, noting that their last event was postponed to October 1. Flyers have been distributed to local businesses.

Next Meeting Dates

- October 16, 2024 – 10:00 am, City Hall Commission Chambers
- November 20, 2024 – 10:00 am, City Hall Commission Chambers
- No meeting scheduled for December.

Adjournment

Yari Sanchez motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Susan Finley. the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.