

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, November 20, 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 October 16, 2024.

Unfinished Business:

1. Humanities Kansas Grant - Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy
2. Certified Welcoming Process - Report by Roxana Arjon
3. Engage Dodge Fall 2024 - Report by Darlin Rayo
4. New Americans Dinner – Report by Darlin Rayo
5. Welcoming America Interactive Conference Proposal – Report by Darlin Rayo

New Business:

1. Multicultural Committee’s Language Exchange project - Report by Karla Lees
2. Housing Update – Report by Mollea Wainscott

Board Program/Dates (keep in mind):

- December 2 – Parade of Lights
- December 10 – Human Rights Day
- January 17 – Certified Welcoming Internal Deadline for Evidence
- January 31 – Certified Welcoming Assessment Deadline

Board Member and Staff Comments:

Next Meeting Dates:

- No December Meeting
- January 15, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING MINUTES

CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, October 16, 2024 – 10:00 am
West Training Room Santa Fe Depot – 201 E Wyatt Earp Blvd.

Welcome and Call to Order

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

Introductions

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

Absent: Esmeralda Soto, Perla Lopez, and Jeff Hiers

Visitors: Megan Welsh and Hugo Hernandez

Staff: Melissa McCoy, Darlin Rayo, and Roxana Arjon

Consent Calendar

1. Approval of CRAB Minutes from September 18, 2024.
 - Susan Finley motioned to approve the minutes. Yari Sanchez seconded. The motion carried 8-0.

Unfinished Business

1. Humanities Kansas Grant

Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy:

- Melissa McCoy reported that the Five Flags video is now available on YouTube with the final project report completed. Hugo Hernandez will issue the check, and only one grant may be applied for at a time. The board brainstormed ideas for the next grant, with a preference toward creating a podcast series rather than another film. Potential podcast topics include veterans, water issues, art/music, and historical events. Roxana Arjon suggested interviews for deeper insights. Water rights were highlighted as a critical topic, including issues like the KS vs. CO lawsuit and the Arkansas River. Jose Ramos noted Cargill's water recycling efforts, which Karla Lees supported, sharing her experience in treating water at Cargill. Ideas will be emailed to Holly for further discussion.

2. Certified Welcoming Process

Report by Roxana Arjon:

- Roxana reported that additional evidence is needed for the certification. The Certified Welcoming Bootcamp is scheduled for October 22, 2024, with an option for in-person attendance at the MSB.

3. Guatemalan Consulate Mobile Services (October 19-20)

Report by Roxana Arjon:

- Roxana updated the board about the Consulate providing services in Arkansas instead of Dodge City. There was a miscommunication with the Consulate, which resulted in City staff and the library not knowing of this change. However, the planning and logistics will be used for their anticipated return next year.

4. **Engage Dodge Fall 2024**

Report by Darlin Rayo

- Darlin Rayo reported that the sessions for naturalization scholarship recipients have just concluded, and preparations are underway for the two-day session with ESOL and SLIFE students scheduled for the end of the month. The Engage Dodge team plans to revisit scheduling, as holding sessions twice a week proved to be a bit taxing on the team.

5. **New Americans Dinner**

Report by Darlin Rayo

- Darlin Rayo reported that the New Americans Dinner is scheduled for November 14, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Boot Hill Museum Mariah Gallery. Social media posts and flyers have been sent out. Melissa McCoy asked for assistance in spreading the word. Staff will reach out to UFCW and Greta Clark for additional support on recruiting people to attend.

6. **USCIS Community Engagement Sessions**

Report by Rojana Arjon

- Roxana Arjon shared that the USCIS offered a virtual engagement sessions focusing on their online tools and resources, but only the afternoon session had attendees. The board discussed strategies to improve event communication, including posting through HR newsletters, social media, school communications, and community health coalitions.

New Business

1. **Language Exchange Do-ologue**

Report by Hugo Hernandez and Megan Welsh

- Hugo Hernandez and Megan attended the Do-ologue workshop, which showcased ways Emporia connects diverse cultures through monthly events, like fishing and cooking, and basic Spanish training. The goal is to make people feel more comfortable practicing languages in a safe, inclusive environment. The board discussed potential language exchange and cultural events for Dodge City.

2. **Welcoming Interactive Proposal**

Report by Darlin Rayo

- Darlin Rayo, Roxana Arjon, and Collin Clark have submitted a proposal for the 2025 Welcoming Interactive Conference, focused on sustaining community partnerships. This proposal highlights key events, including the International Festival and Engage Dodge. Staff will be notified soon on whether they have been selected to present at the conference.

Board Program/Dates to Keep in Mind

- December 2 – Parade of Lights
- December 10 – Human Rights Day

Board Member and Staff Comments

1. Melissa McCoy shared the Final Friday book signing for local historian Tim Wetzl's new publication focusing on the history of the Depot and El Vaquero Harvey House scheduled for the last Friday of the month. Along with the Second Avenue Art Guild Auction.
2. Roxana Arjon provided an update on DACA and the Keeping Families Together process. A hearing was held on DACA, so a court decision should be made soon on whether the program will continue. The KFT program remains on hold; applications are still being accepted but will not be reviewed. A hearing will be held on November 5th.
3. Megan Welsh announced the Parade of Lights. It will be held December 2, 2024, and marks the 25th anniversary of the Parade of Lights celebration

Next Meeting Dates

- November 20, 2024 – 10:00 am, Santa Fe Depot, East Training Room
- No meeting scheduled for December.

Adjournment

Susan Finley motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Yari Sanchez. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.