

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
10:00 am Wednesday, October 25, 2023
City Hall – City Commission Chambers/City
Court, 806 N. 2nd Ave.

CALL TO ORDER

CONSENT Calendar

1. September 20, 2023, Minutes

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Strategic Plan for Welcoming and Integration
 - a. Engage Dodge Program Update and Plans for Spring 24
 - b. Civic Engagement
Voter Videos Partnership Update
 - c. Language Access
 - d. Youth Council Project
 - e. USCIS Mobile Services Update
 - f. Community Foundation Grant
2. New Americans Dinner (proposed dates)
3. Welcoming Week Committee
 - g. Five Flags Video Update
 - h. Approval of Date for 2024 International Festival- Sunday, September 8, 2024
4. Vacant At-Large Board Position

NEW BUSINESS

1. Immigration Attorney Clinic Planning Discussion
2. Kansas Food Action Network

BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES (keep in mind):

1. Engage Dodge en Español– 9am-11am or 6pm-8pm, September 27-November 6, 2023
2. USCIS Mobile Services, December 6 & 7, 2023, Hennessey Hall
3. Human Rights Day – Saturday, December 10, 2023

MINUTES

CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 – 10:00 am City Commission Chambers – 806 N. 2nd Ave.

CALL TO ORDER

Attendees: Brenda Carmona, Holly Mercer, Karim Schneider, Karla Lees, Coral Lopez, Debbie Snapp, Isabel Garcia, Esmeralda Soto, Elizabeth Reazola

Absent: Esmeralda Ruiz, Sandra Rodriguez, Kurt Lampe, Francisco Talamantes

Staff: Melissa McCoy, Darlin Rayo,

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Welcoming Week Committee
 - a. International Festival 2023 Wrap-Up
 - i. Overall, it was a fantastic festival with incredibly positive feedback. Coral will receive feedback regarding the number of attendees. We are deeply grateful and appreciative of all those who supported and sponsored the event. We are planning to organize the festival again due to downtown construction. Although closing the park was a consideration, we discussed the logistical aspects and found ways to ensure better flow and space for participants. Timelines were adjusted, resulting in an overall successful event. Surveys will be distributed to both vendors and Crossroads Kitchen participants.
 - b. Five Flags Video Update
 - i. A documentary was being filmed during the week of the festival, featuring several interviews. The focus of this documentary is to highlight the history of Ford County prior to 1850, spanning the eras of Spanish, Texan, and Mexican influence, and the five different government flags that have flown over the region. This is a great collaborative effort involving the museum and various partners. Once completed, we will schedule a viewing and make it accessible to everyone. Notable figures like historian Tim Wenzl as well as Melissa McCoy were interviewed, providing valuable insights. Rancho Nopalito and the Dodge City Regional Airport kindly invited them on site, where they had the opportunity to capture footage of cattle. Monica has informed us that we will have access to all the photography and film footage including pictures taken at the International Festival.
2. Engage Dodge Program
 - i. Engage Dodge will be held every Wednesday between September 27th and November 1st. Committee members were also asked if they knew of anyone who might be interested in the scholarship and encouraged them to refer potential candidates. However, there was a situation where only two scholarship recipients were available in the morning session. Unfortunately, one of them had

Minutes Submitted by Darlin Rayo
Approved 00/00/0000

moved away, and the scholarship requirement was to attend. This was no longer possible due to their change of residency. After careful consideration, the decision was made to request that the individual who is no longer a resident repay the scholarship amount in full.

- b. Civic Engagement
 - i. Filming will be done next week with the Ford County Election Officer, and we are also gearing up for videos on the upcoming election on November 7th. In addition, the Election Office is looking for workers for the upcoming election. Information on how to contact the office will be provided to the board.
 - c. Language Access
 - i. There were no updates on the Language Access program at this time.
 - d. New American Dinner (proposed dates)
 - i. We will confirm with Boot Hill Museum about potential dates for the New Americans Diner. This will be an event celebrating Dodge City residents who became U.S. citizens since our last dinner in June 2022. This is open to Dodge City residents only.
3. Vacant At-Large Board Position
- a. There is currently a vacant at-large position that require filling: for Lisa Klassen's position. Additionally, we need someone to fill the Ministerial Fellowship position. Please contact Melissa and Darlin with recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. USCIS Stakeholders Meeting – September 19, 2023 at Wichita Field Office
 - a. Melissa and Darlin plan to attend.
- 2. USCIS Mobil Services
 - a. They will be here September 27th – 29th at Hennessey Hall to offer biometrics and naturalization interviews.
- 3. USCIS Naturalization Outreach 5:00pm-6:30pm, September 27, Santa Fe depot
- 4. Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas Grant Application
 - a. This application will be submitted for the 2024 Crossroads Kitchen event and naturalization scholarships also for 2024.

BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES (keep in mind):

- 1. DCCC Constitution Day, 3pm, -September 17, 2023, DC3 Library
- 2. USCIS Mobile Services- September 27-29, 2023
- 3. USCIS Naturalization Outreach, 5:00pm-6:30pm. September 27
- 4. National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15- October 15, 2023
- 5. Engage Dodge en Español- 9am-11am or 6pm-8pm, September 27-November 6, 2023
- 6. Human Rights Day – Saturday, December 10, 2023

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by Darlin Rayo
Approved 00/00/0000