

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
FRIDAY, July 11, 2014 – 12:00 Noon
Dodge City Public Library – 1001 N. Second Ave.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

OLD BUSINESS

1. Continued Planning of National Welcoming Week activities September 13-21, 2014.

*Walk With Your Neighbor” event

Date:

Time:

Location: YMCA and City’s Walking Path

Other suggestions: It has been suggested that along the path various cultures have a booth with a food/drink native to their culture. Who would be people to approach?

* Cultural Presentations through Public Library - Suggestions for speakers

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD PROGRAMS

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF –

Webinar - send in our ideas for welcoming week

Save the Date – 2014 Cultural Diversity Dinner & Multicultural Summit in Garden City – September 18-20

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
Friday, June 20, 2014 – 12:00 Noon
Dodge City Public Library – 1001 N. Second Ave.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Greta Clark.

Members present: Greta Clark, Oliver Bland, Mary Marquez, Robert Vinton, and Debra Muylaert. Staff, Ernestor De La Rosa. Reported absent: Opie Astorga, Sergio Holguin, Elva Dominguez, and Lawrence Romero.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The discussion continued on the two volunteers needed to fill positions on the Dodge City Police Department Fair and Impartial Policing Advisory Board. Debra Muylaert asked about the specific roles within the board. If there isn't a lot of requirements she would be willing to serve on the board.
2. After reviewing of Simply Dodge City document by National Beef, members did not have any concerns regarding the document. Greta Clark presented the United Way 2-1-1 of Kansas, a telephone number that connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities. Greta believes that the Simply Dodge City Community Guide and the 2-1-1 telephone service is enough, but need to help the community know about these resources. Members agreed that teaching about services already present should be the focus of the CRAB rather than reinventing the wheel. It was suggested through the Dodge City/Ford County Economic Development constant contact we inform citizens about these resources.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Greta reported on a partnership opportunity with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce Multicultural Committee on the Dodge City Days Party in the Park. This is a three session event which consists of entertainment, food wagons and talent shows. This will take place on July 27th from 12:00 to 6:00 P.M. If you have any interest in participating in any of these activities contact Abby at the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce.
2. Representative Bud Estes and Representative Ron Ryckman have hosted two African meetings at City Hall. The idea of these meetings is for African refugees to improve assimilation. These meetings were also used to assess their needs and concerns. Ernestor De La Rosa reported that the last meeting started with a small Somalian PowerPoint presentation about their culture and religion. They also expressed their needs for education accessibility, interpreters, immigration services and prayer time in the workplace.

3. Mary Marquez reported about Dodge City citizens and the way they are communicating with visitors/tourists. Mary expressed a couple concerns. She went out for lunch to Ban Lao Garden Restaurant with a couple of visitors from Fort Scott, Kansas. The waitress expressed her discontent with Dodge City and seemed unhappy living here. The second incident happened at a Quick Shop where a couple of visitors from Arizona expressed their interest in spending a couple of days in Dodge City to the store attendant. The store employee acted unhappy questioning why they would spend two days in Dodge City because there was nothing to do in the City. Mary asked ways in how we can educate our community to better promote the City.

BOARD PROGRAMS

1. Greta Clark tabled the Community Engagement Partnership Program for another meeting later on the calendar for further and constructive discussion. Greta asked if it was better to have multilingual people at one time or divide Spanish and English speakers. All board members agreed on keeping all speakers integrated.
2. Greta reported on the Welcoming Cities and Counties quarterly webinar to be held on Monday, June 23, 1:00-2:30 pm. Language Access Policy and Practices was the topic of the Webinar by Margie McHugh of the Migration Policy Institute. Greta and Ernestor agreed to sit in the Webinar.
3. Greta opened the discussion for the National Welcoming Week activities in September 13-21, 2014. Three activities were suggested:
 - a. Walk With Your Neighbor Event
 - b. Cultural Diverse Art with Carnegie
 - c. Cultural Presentations through Public Library

Members suggested doing the Walk With Your Neighbor Event and the Cultural Presentations through Public Library. Ernestor De La Rosa suggested to invite Representative Ponka-Wee Victors (Native American) to the Cultural Presentations event. Debra Muylaert suggested we also invite someone from the Mexican Village to participate. Greta also suggested the Cultural Presentations be interactive sessions instead of lectures. Oliver Bland agreed to that idea. They will continue the discussion for dates for the Welcoming Week in the following meeting.

4. All members present are interested in going to the Cultural Diversity Dinner and Multicultural Summit in Garden City. They would like to attend the breakfast session only and ride all together in one vehicle.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF-

1. Robert Vinton reported that Bill Hammond is working with other community leaders in trying to bring exhibitions to Dodge City and making it a children's kind of museum. The African and Mexican Consulate exhibitions have showed interest to come to Dodge City. They are also looking to bring other activities such as concerts. Bill is currently working on putting together a committee to be able to begin this process. They are looking for individuals to serve on the committee. Greta Clark and Oliver Bland are interested in serving on this committee.