

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, February 09, 2012 – 7:00 PM
Dodge City Public Library

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of January 12, 2012 meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Update on CDBG Grant

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Organizing a Diversity Leadership Program.

2. Discussion of Inviting Renaldo Mesa to Present on Fostering Cultural Diversity. (Need to change meeting day to facilitate presentation.)

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
Thursday, January 12, 2012 – 7:00 pm
Dodge City Public Library – 1001 First Ave.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Greta Clark.

Board Members present: Greta Clark, Debra Muylaert, Marilyn Treto, Oliver Bland, Elva Dominguez, Robert Vinton. Absent were representatives from United Way and Chamber. Guests were Victor Sosa, board applicant representing Cargill, Mohammad Abdurahman of SRS, Julie Vinton. Jane Longmeyer, staff representative from the City of Dodge City, was present.

Minutes of the November 10, 2011 were approved with the correction of Elva's attendance at the last meeting on a motion by Oliver, seconded by Marilyn.

New Business: Attorney Michael Feltman, immigration attorney in Dodge City, spoke of some of the issues he deals with such as victim visas, processing in-state waivers, etc. Periodically he has offered Saturday consultations from 9:30 am to noon. He has worked with local law enforcement in issues pertaining to racial profiling and building trust.

Elva mentioned that some of those issues were addressed when they used to host the Hispanic Leadership Program.

Old Business:

1. Faye Trent of Great Plains Development gave an update on the Community Development Block Grant. They are still looking for more homeowners in the selected area to sign up for the program. The Board will offer assistance where needed.
2. Cathy Reeves, Director of the Public Library, reviewed the programs that will take place as part of the "Building Common Ground" grant awarded in partnership with the Cultural Relations Advisory Board.
3. Board members thought the USCIS question and answer session at the Public Library December 6th was very beneficial.
4. Last year the Board hosted a luncheon for Kansas Day. The Board decided to focus on the Building Common Ground grant programs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Marilyn, seconded by Oliver.

Jane Longmeyer

From: Jennifer [jstull@csjkansas.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:54 AM
To: werchaps@cox.net; Kimberly_Nichols@cargill.com; Larry.Weaver@nationalbeef.com; ROBERT@usd443.org; Jane Longmeyer
Subject: Invitation from the Sisters of St. Joseph
Attachments: STATEMENT ON IMMIGRATION.docx



NEIGHBORHOOD

Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas

The Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia invite you to participate in a conversation to determine the following:

- A) What is being done for immigrants and by whom?
- B) What is not being done?
- C) How can we work more collaboratively and effectively to develop strategies that result in humane U.S. immigration policies?

The conversation will be held from 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. on March 1, 2012 in the Dodge City

Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe St. Augustine meeting room. Please confirm your participation

by replying to this invitation or by contacting Jennifer Stull at 785-243-2113, x 1215.

Also call Jennifer if there are others who should be invited.

Attached is a copy of an enactment statement unanimously approved by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia at their November Assembly.

We look forward to working with you to create a welcoming climate for our neighbors.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Lyn Higgins".

Cheryl Lyn Higgins, Coordinator
Neighborhood Initiatives, Inc.
www.csjkansas.org

Civic Engagement

Candidate Training &
Campaign Management
School
Grassroots Leadership
Development Program
Latino Vote

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The GLDP is a 10-week, interactive, bilateral government-oriented training for community community leaders and local public officials. The program is designed to bridge a widening gap in American society between citizens and the officials who have been elected or appointed to serve and/or represent them. A random survey that would ask respondents to name the 45 most influential elected and/or appointed officials in their community would find that few people could name more than 10. This GLDP will change that and enable community leaders to better understand how government works, who makes it work, and how to make it work more effectively and provide public officials the opportunity to understand how to better serve the Latino community. The 10-week curriculum includes three sessions on city government, three sessions on county government, three sessions on school government, and one session on financial literacy. Each session is for three hours, for a program total of 30 hours. A certificate of completion is presented to all community leaders who attended all 10 sessions at a social event held at the conclusion of the program.

Program Participants

Participating community leaders include white collar, blue collar, and no collar workers. Participating public officials include elected and appointed city, county, and school officials. This is not a lecture series nor does it have a lecture-type format. The program has a constructive dialogue format and is intended to be highly interactive, hence the recommended number of 20-25 participating community leaders. The total number of participating public officials may range from 30-45, depending on the curriculum and the size of the jurisdictions.

Program Benefits

The program is intended to benefit local officials just as much as community leaders. The program offers public officials the unique opportunity to make themselves better known to Hispanic community leaders, which is especially important for appointed officials who are more likely to work behind the scenes and be lesser known than elected officials who have to campaign for the position/office they hold. Hearing directly from community leaders about neglected issues and concerns or questionable policies and/or procedures important to the Hispanic community makes for better elected and appointed officials, enabling them to better serve all of their constituents. The program examines the qualifications and the roles the Mayor, the City Council, and department heads play in making local government work and

By knowing who is responsible for what in their city, county, and school governments and how the respective governmental entities work, and the qualifications required for each position, community leaders can become more involved as concerned citizens or even as candidates for elected or appointed office. When Hispanic community leaders learn more about how local government works, they will be more inclined to become the ones making local government work, as elected or appointed officials. That is why the first nine sessions are held in the chambers of the city council, the Board of Education, and the county board. Seeing themselves as public officials is essential to increasing the number of Hispanic elected and appointed officials. It is important for community leaders to begin seeing themselves as taxpayers to whom public officials are accountable just as much as it is important for public officials to see Hispanic community leaders as taxpayers and not as disinterested citizens. In order for Hispanic community leaders to be able to better serve the community, they need to know whom to hold accountable. Just as public officials can become better through this program by learning from Hispanic community leaders, Hispanic community leaders can become better citizens by learning from their public officials. In the end the Hispanic community is better served, as is the interest of local government.

Program Sessions

Sessions like these are important in any community, but they would be particularly important in any community where the misperception that Hispanics are not interested in what goes on in local government may exist. Nothing could be further from the truth. This program will improve the perception of public officials of the Hispanic community and improve the perception of Hispanic community leaders of local government and their elected and appointed officials.

The 10th session focuses on financial literacy, which can be offered on site or participants may opt to attend a financial literacy workshop conducted by Freddie Mac at the USHLI annual conference. USHLI has a partnership with Freddie Mac to offer the CreditSmart Espanol curriculum, which is designed to help participants develop life-long money management skills and understand the role of credit in achieving financial goals.

This program is highly recommended for communities in which the Hispanic community is under-served and under-represented, and its community leaders are under-utilized.