

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – 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 November 20, 2024.

Unfinished Business:

1. Certified Welcoming Process - Report by Roxana Arjon and Darlin Rayo
2. Welcoming America Interactive Conference Proposal – Report by Darlin Rayo
3. Kansas Department of Commerce, Global Cuisines and Cultures Week – Report by Darlin Rayo
4. Multicultural Committee’s Language Exchange project - Report by Karla Lees
5. Humanities Kansas Grant - Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy

New Business:

1. CRAB 15th Anniversary – Report by Roxana Arjon and Melissa McCoy
2. Naturalization Scholarships 2025 – Report by Darlin Rayo

Board Program/Dates (keep in mind):

- March 16-23 – Kansas Department of Commerce, Global Cuisines and Cultures Week
- June 16, 7:00pm – Proclamation related to CRAB 15 Anniversary
- June 20 (tentative) - CRAB 15th Anniversary activities
- September 2, 6:00pm – Cultural Relations City Commission Update
- September 2, 7:00pm – Welcoming Week Proclamation
- September 7, 2:00pm-6:00pm – Dodge City International Festival

Board Member and Staff Comments:

Next Meeting Dates:

- February 19 *CRAB Retreat 9:00am-12:00pm*
- March 19
- April 16
- May 21
- June 18
- July 16
- August 20
- September 17
- October 15
- November 19

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING MINUTES

CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, November 20, 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, Debbie Snapp and Susan Finley.

Absent: Esmeralda Soto, Perla Lopez, Jose Ramos, 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 October 16, 2024.
 - Correction noted: Kristin Hines was absent.
 - Susan Finley motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Yari Sanchez seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

Visitors Section

Mollea Wainscott provided an overview of ongoing and upcoming housing projects in Dodge City:

- **United Village Development:**
 - 327 units, including 206 single-family homes, barndominiums, tiny homes, and duplexes.
 - Funded partially by \$650,000 in grants and Rural Housing Incentive funds.
 - Homes priced at \$205,000–\$240,000.
- **Sundance 3:**
 - Additions are being made on the east side of the properties with 48 units, 12 designated as moderate-income rentals for 5 years.
- **Rodeo Hills:**
 - Phase 1 is almost complete and includes 123 units, starting with 40 single-family rental homes.
- **Besson Court:**
 - Added 24 more units last year.
- **Iron Flats:**
 - 100 are being constructed with units priced at \$265,000–\$350,000.
- **Casa del Rio:**
 - Currently developing 6–7 vacant lots for custom homes through Rural Housing Incentive funding.
- **CHAD and DC3 Partnership:**

- Currently building one house south of Comanche, this program is aimed at training the workforce.
- **Weatherization Programs:**
 - Promoted by CHAD, these programs address home upgrades, with an average wait time of 6–8 months.

Housing Needs Assessment:

- Mollea Wainscott shared that ongoing assessments and studies highlight a need for housing across all income levels. Resources and updates can be found on the Economic Development website under the housing tab.

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 has issued the check, and only one grant may be applied for at a time. Holly Mercer has just wrapped up the Humanities grant and would regroup with the committee with the first of the year to develop the project ideas that were discussed at the October CRAB meeting.

2. Certified Welcoming Process

Report by Roxana Arjon:

- Roxana Arjon shared that progress is ongoing with 1/4th of the evidence collected. A meeting with key partners is scheduled to finalize sections on economic development.

3. Engage Dodge Fall 2024

Report by Darlin Rayo

- Darlin Rayo reported that the sessions for ESOL/SLIFE students have concluded. Members of the Engage Dodge team attended the USD 443 Board of Education meeting to provide an update and share insights into the program. Additionally, an inquiry has been made by Arrowhead West to host a session for their clients. The team plans to meet with the facility manager to discuss logistics and schedule a date for the program.

4. New Americans Dinner

Report by Darlin Rayo

- Darlin Rayo reported that six newly naturalized citizens registered for the New Americans Dinner, along with 12 staff and board members. Melissa McCoy noted that of the six registered citizens, only three attended, and a total of seven staff, Board Members, and City Commissioners were present. She emphasized the importance of attendance at such events, as the cost is based on the headcount provided, regardless of the actual turnout. Members were asked to be mindful when signing up for events to ensure accurate participation.

5. Welcoming America Interactive Proposal

Report by Darlin Rayo

- Darlin Rayo shared that the results of the proposal submitted for consideration at the Welcoming Interactive 2025 Conference have been

delayed to allow for a thorough review of all submissions. The announcement of the results is expected in the coming week.

New Business

1. Multicultural Committee's Language Exchange Project

Report by Hugo Hernandez and Karla Lees

- Hugo Hernandez shared plans for a language exchange booklet. A meeting was held with members from CRAB, the Dodge City Area Chamber Multicultural Committee, and City staff to explore options for implementing the booklet. Discussions included the feasibility of physical booklets, digital media, and other methods to support and promote cultural exchange.

Board Program/Dates to Keep in Mind

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

Board Member and Staff Comments

- **Holiday Posada:** Scheduled for 6:00–8:00 PM at the Boot Hill Museum Mariah Gallery on December 10th. The event will feature food, entertainment, a wine pool, and a family-friendly atmosphere.
- **Final Friday Event:** Hugo Hernandez will oversee Final Friday and focus on encouraging language access starting in 2025.

Next Meeting Dates

- No meeting scheduled for December.
- January 15, 2025

Adjournment

Kristen Hines motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brenda Carmona. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.



NATURALIZATION SCHOLARSHIP

The City of Dodge City is proud to offer fifteen \$400 scholarships to help community members pay for fees related to the citizenship/naturalization process.

Recipients will have the opportunity to attend citizenship classes provided by Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas.

The deadline to apply is Wednesday, April 16th.

Scholarship Requirements:

- Eligible for naturalization
- Resident of Ford County
- Demonstrate financial need
- Commit to attending the Engage Dodge program

Apply at www.dodgecity.org/663 or pick up an application at City Hall (806 N. 2nd Ave)

*For more information, contact
Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org) or
Roxana Arjon (roxanaa@dodgecity.org)
via phone at 620-225-8100 opt. 6.*





BECA DE NATURALIZACIÓN

La Ciudad de Dodge City tiene el honor de ofrecer quince becas de \$400 para ayudar a los miembros de la comunidad a pagar las tarifas relacionadas con el proceso de ciudadanía / naturalización. Los beneficiarios tendrán la oportunidad de asistir a clases de ciudadanía proporcionadas por Caridades Católicas del Suroeste de Kansas.

La fecha límite para aplicar es el miércoles, 16 de abril.

Requisitos de la Beca:

- Elegible para la naturalización
- Residente del Condado de Ford
- Demostrar necesidad financiera
- Comprométase a asistir al programa Engage Dodge

Puede aplicar en www.dodgecity.org/663 o recoger una solicitud en el Ayuntamiento (806 N. 2nd Ave)

*Para obtener más información, comuníquese con
Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org) o
Roxana Arjon (roxanaa@dodgecity.org)
por teléfono al 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).*

