

Citizen Participation Committee (CPC)

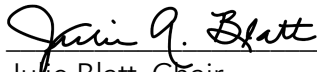
The Citizen Participation Committee held a meeting on January 8, 2026, at 5:00 pm. The following committee members were in attendance: Julie Blatt, Kim Swyden, Jenni Duncan, Christina Huff, Cody Boyd, Verbus Counts, and Jenny Landes. Staff members Christy Batterson and Emily Mashburn were present. One citizen was in attendance.

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Julie Blatt.
- Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes 11/13/2025.
 - Motion to approve by Kim Swyden, seconded by Christina Huff. Approved at 5:00 p.m.
- Discussion of current status of programming for FFY25 – update provided by Director of Housing and Community Resources
 - Quarterly report presented to committee members. To date, we have spent about \$160,000. We are over halfway through our rehab budget but only about 3 months into the FFY. The high expenses are due to major rehabs happening.
 - Julie Blatt asked about projects with EdmondBuilds. Christy Batterson stated that EdmondBuilds have come into previous discussions, however all of their projects exceed the current budget.
 - Community resource coalition update and discussion of Project 66 food drive by Emily Mashburn. Staff is working on branding the coalition as “Edmond Connect.” Julie Blatt suggested a future topic for the coalition to be childcare in consideration of funding concerns with OKDHS.
- Discussion and Consideration for request for assistance for the rehabilitation of the St. John’s Samaritan House Project.
 - Julie Blatt recused herself from the discussion due to conflict of interest and handed over the discussion to Cody Boyd.
 - Christy Batterson presented a request for assistance from St. John Samaritan House, which provides food and rental assistance out of a house and warehouse next to their church located at 9th and Littler. The proposal involves demolishing the existing Samaritan House, which no longer meets their needs, and remodeling the warehouse to expand and enhance services. Staff noted this type of request is not unusual, as similar projects have been funded for EMM and Project 66. After consulting with the purchasing agent, staff determined an MOU would be required, with the Samaritan House reimbursed for payments made directly to the contractor and client forms completed for CDBG reporting. Kim Swyden asked about their other funding sources. Jenni Duncan asked how many individuals are served, whether services are open to all residents, and how many additional people could be served with the improvement. Staff stated the rehab would provide 1,600 sq. ft. of space. Currently, the organization distributes approximately 3,100 food bags (serving about 250 people per month) and assists 719 households with utilities. Cody Boyd asked about referrals, which typically come from other community resources and City staff. Verbus Counts asked if a new building had recently been constructed; staff confirmed it had although the new building has no relation to the project request. Jenni Duncan asked how much funding Project 66 received for shelving. Staff explained that project was funded with CARES money and totaled \$50,000. Jenny Landes asked which bid items would qualify under CDBG; staff noted code-related improvements such as HVAC and paving for ADA access would be eligible and requested itemized bids. Verbus Counts and Jenni Duncan expressed support for electrical work, with Jenni also supporting HVAC. Funding caps were discussed: Jenni Duncan recommended \$25,000, while Verbus Counts and Christina Huff recommended \$15,000. Funds would come from rehab or infrastructure allocations. Kim Swyden expressed interest in nonprofits attending coalition meetings and including non-monetary stipulations such as reporting. Jenni Duncan emphasized the importance of partnerships. Christina Huff noted the city’s beautification goals could support the project but agreed the organization should be present. Jenni Duncan requested an update identifying which itemized expenses were funded.

- Verbus Counts motioned to approve funding of \$15,000, seconded by Kim Swyden. All in attendance approved. Motion passed unanimously.
- Citizen Comments
 - Taylor Wilson stated he appreciated the interesting discussion. He recommended all the stipulations mentioned during the non-monetary discussion, considering the outsider's perspective. He recommended using the reporting from The Samaritan House to continue discussions.
- Comments by the committee:
 - Verbus Counts asked for status update on renaming CPC to housing committee. There is nothing needed from the committee at this time. Staff need to re-draft the language of the ordinance and take it through formal processes.
- Next meeting scheduled for February 12, 2026 was cancelled. The following scheduled meeting will be held on March 12, 2026.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cody Boyd and seconded by Verbus Counts. The motion was passed by all in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 5:48pm.

For more information, please contact Christy Batterson at 405-359-4694



Julie Blatt, Chair

March 18, 2026

Date