

Citizen Participation Committee (CPC)

The Citizen Participation Committee held a meeting on May 14, 2026, at 5:00 pm. The following committee members were in attendance: Julie Blatt, Christina Huff, Cody Boyd, Verbus Counts, Kim Swyden, and Jenny Landes. Staff members Christy Batterson, Emily Mashburn, and Jessica Sell were present. No citizens were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Julie Blatt.

Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes 04/09/2026.

- o Motion to approve meeting minutes by Kim Swyden, seconded by Jenny Landes. Approved unanimously at 5:01 p.m.

Discussion and Consideration of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Agencies Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Requests from: Edmond Mobile Meals, Edmond Public Schools Foundation, HOPE Center of Edmond, and Project 66 Food and Resource Center

- o Cristi Twenter with Edmond Mobile Meals provided a proposal summary request.
- o Verbus Counts asked if the kitchen was updated with previous years' funds and how the remainder was utilized. Cristi Twenter advised that this is the second year back in their building and the kitchen was doubled; creating triple capacity. It was also stated that they have no wait list even considering the growth they have had. Previous funds were also utilized to update the HVAC and wiring.
- o Kim Swyden asked if there was a discrepancy for "in kind goods and services" that were listed as a cost if the proposal showed no cost. Cristi Twenter advised it is how the paperwork was required to be filled out.
- o A question was asked by Julie Blatt whether the amount requested this year was the same as the previous year. Cristi Twenter stated it was the same and stated they are looking for additional grants they were recently awarded CARC funds for the upcoming year.
- o Cody Boyd asked if services were projected to decrease or stop due to area wide aging. Cristi Twenter spoke on how they also provide meals for the Edmond Senior Center and only growth has been seen.
- o Edmond Mobile Meals Presentation was completed at 5:12 p.m.
- o Anita Nash with the Edmond Public School Foundation voiced thanks for the previous year's funding and presented a proposal summary. It was also stated that the ask is for funding for additional food and personal hygiene items based on needs.
- o Kim Swyden inquired about how distribution of items works. Anita Nash stated that the foundation works closely with Edmond Public Schools (EPS) who have provided information showing they are aware of 400 EPS students that are unhoused. Larger distribution boxes are provided 4 times throughout the year.
- o Verbus Counts inquired about where the food is purchased. Anita Nash advised that items are purchased from Sam's and EPS students assisting in loading and unloading items.
- o Jenny Landes asked if items were picked up by participants at individual schools to which Anita Nash advised pick up is provided at Edmond Public Schools Administration Center (EPSAC).
- o It was asked if EPS employees also have access to items and if so, how many by Kim Swyden. The answer to the exact numbers of employees was unknown, advised by Anita Nash.
- o Cody Boyd inquired about the outlook for the program for additional funding needs. Anita Nash provided that they are looking to fulfill a new position whose duties would also include looking for and applying for additional grants and funding.
- o Edmond Public Schools Foundation completed their presentation at 5:20 p.m.
- o Chris Sperry with the HOPE Center presented a proposal summary request. In the summary provided it was stated that the request was for an additional \$20,000.00 because they have received less funds from grant funding and have no extra funds for rental assistance. The commission inquired about how many citizens are assisted each year. Chris Sperry did not have

a yearly number but stated that 48 people/families received rental assistance in April, and due to budget reasons 2 were assisted in May. Chris Speery made mention they typically assist 50-75 people/families a month with rental assistance.

- Verbus Counts asked if they have connections with other service providers in the city. Chris Speery advised that they do work together with several so that services are not duplicated.
- Cody Boyd inquired about additional income and if it is recurring and if church contributions are steady. Chris Speery stated that they do receive CDBG as well as now receiving CARC funds and their resale shop assists a lot with additional funding.
- Verbus Counts questioned how many faith-based organizations provide additional resources or funding and was answered as approximately 15 by Chris Speery.
- HOPE Center completed their presentation at 5:27 p.m.
- Neil Tate with Project 66 provided a proposal summary request. During the summary it was stated that half of the food available is provided by 8 local grocery stores. They are requesting additional funding to assist in supplementing food costs.
- Verbus Counts inquired about their hours of operation, the demand, and how many visits are allowable for people/families. Neil Tate provided operational hours and stated they are busy but not turning people away at this time. The average number of people assisted per month is 862, and they can come to shop once a month. Cody Boyd volunteered appreciation for the dignity and the ability for people to shop for themselves.
- Cody Boyd inquired about additional funds. Neil Tate stated that churches are a big help.
- It was asked if shopping is provided for only Edmond residents. Neil Tate provided that they serve Edmond's 12 zip codes which also include portions of Guthrie, Luther, Jones and Arcadia.
- A question was asked by Verbus Counts about what the biggest need is for the program. Neil Tate answered food, staff and vehicle maintenance for two box trucks. Also stating that they paid off their building last year, however, the utility bill is vast.
- Cody Boyd inquired if the City of Guthrie participates with any funding. Neil Tate stated they do have 2 small food pantries available to their residents, but they have very limited hours.
- Project 66 completed their presentation. Julie Blatt thanked all for their time and participants left at 5:35 p.m.
- Commissioners had discussions and voiced concern over some programs relying on CDBG and CARC and not applying to additional funding or grants for sustainability.
- Cody Boyd brought up concerns about utilizing funds for Edmond residents for people outside of Edmond.

Discussion and Consideration of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programming, Activities, and Budget Related to the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Action Plan

- Emily Mashburn provided two scenarios, HCR Homebuyer or Public Services. Discussions were had between commissioners about shifting funds.
- Julie Blatt asked between scenario A and B which is preferred by the commission and pending additional information B was selected.
- Motion to approve as amended by Verbus Counts, seconded by Cody Boyd. Approved unanimously at 6:01 p.m. with Julie Blatt advising finalization will be made in June.

Discussion and Consideration of possible Rental Rehabilitation Programming utilizing \$47,000 Revolving Loan

- Discussions were had on how to utilize funds with many voicing a pro renter stance but only wanting to utilize local landlords. During talks Julie Blatt brought up the possibility of needing to recuse herself due to knowing developer through her spouse. Discussion had and commission decided that she can be involved in conversations but with recuse herself from any voting on this issue.

Discussion and Consideration of Section 108 Loan Application

- o Emily Mashburn provided memo draft inspired by OKC when they applied in 2021. And the commissioners asked questions and a request to meet HUD or developers for additional questions.

Discussion and Consideration of rescheduling June's meeting date

- o The meeting on June 11th is being moved to June 18th to meet quorum.
- o Motion to approve as amended by Kim Swyden, seconded by Christina Huff. Approved unanimously at 6:17 p.m.

Citizen Comments.

- o No citizens in attendance for comments.

Comments by the committee:

- o Julie discussed conversations with developer doing Gardenia Apartments and UCO.

Next meeting is June 18th, 2026.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Verbus Counts and seconded by Christina Huff. The motion was passed by all in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

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



Julie Blatt, Chair



Date