

Prairie Village Diversity Committee Meeting

November 10, 2025 Minutes

Attendees: David Magariel, Joe Pachman, Anitha Patterson, Ron Nelson, Karen Heath, Chi Nguyen, Chief McCullough, Tim Schwartzkopf

1. Approval of Agenda and Land Acknowledgement

- Chi Nguen called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the agenda.
- A motion is made by David and seconded to approve the minutes for the last meeting. The committee unanimously approves the minutes as presented. Minutes from the October 14 meeting are approved
- Land acknowledgment is made, recognizing the ancestral land of the Kickapoo, Osage, and Kansas tribes.

Introduction of Guests and Committee Member's Departure

- Ron Nelson introduced Fred Sherman from the Johnson County Election Office and members from the ACLU who are in attendance.
- Ron Nelson announced that this is Chi's last committee meeting as a councilmember and thanked her for her service.

Discussion on Voter Access Resolution

- Chi Nguen introduced the new business topic: voter access discussion with the Johnson County Election Office.
- Ron Nelson explained the purpose of the meeting and the non-binding voter access resolution.
- Fred Sherman from the Johnson County Election Office began to address concerns but does not have a formal presentation.
- Fred Sherman explained the structure of election administration in Kansas, including the role of the Secretary of State and the four counties with appointed Election Commissioners. He discussed the federal guidelines for providing election materials in alternative languages and the threshold for counties to meet. The Secretary of State provides materials in Spanish for the six counties that meet the federal threshold.

Concerns and Clarifications on Resolution Language

- Fred Sherman questioned the specifics of the proposed non-binding resolution, particularly the requirement to provide materials in Spanish to all voters.

- David Magariel clarified that the resolution only requires materials to be available upon request at in-person polling places and through the advanced voting process.
- Fred Sherman expressed concerns about the potential legal and policy implications of providing materials in only one language.
- David Magariel and Fred Sherman then discussed the importance of educating voters about their rights and the existing legal framework for language access.

- The Committee discussed the logistics of implementing the resolution, including the role of the Secretary of State and the Johnson County Election Office. The Committee emphasized the importance of the resolution in empowering voters and ensuring accessibility. The committee discusses the timing of the resolution's presentation to the city council and the potential impact of new council members.

- Logan DeMond from the ACLU of Kansas spoke in support of the resolution, emphasizing the importance of taking further action to make elections more accessible.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to send the resolution to the city council for consideration on a date to be determined in consultation with staff.

Future Planning

- The committee discussed the logistics of the December meeting and the possibility of having a planning meeting in January.
- The committee discussed the importance of the MLK service day and the need to plan it early to ensure sufficient participation and donations.
- The meeting concluded with a discussion on the upcoming city council meeting and the importance of community engagement and inclusivity.